The Decision Card

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DECISION CARD · BLANK

Decision id Date Status: Proposed | Accepted | Rejected | Superseded | Reversed | Retired Owner (a job title)

Supersedes

1 Decision One sentence.	
2 Outcome and binding constraint What it serves; what is running out.	
3 Boundaries and doors What crosses where, and the contract on each door.	
4 Options rejected And why.	
5 Quality · Security · Visibility · Cost One line each.	
6 How it fails, and how we would see it The silent failure named; the evidence that shows it.	
7 Run Who operates it, how it recovers, the shape of its run cost.	
8 Reversal cost What undoing it takes.	
9 Assumptions and Revisit when What must stay true, and the trigger to reopen it.	
10 Change guide What any changer, person or agent, must not break.	

The six questions

1. What outcome does it serve?
2. Where are its boundaries?
3. Who can change it?
4. How does it fail, and what would show us?
5. What does it cost to run and to change?
6. What assumption, if it changed, would make it wrong?

FIGURE D.1

Platform mapping as of November 2026: the capabilities clouds offer as services, by provider

As of November 2026. Product names change: check each vendor's documentation. No prices; cost shapes only.

Capability	Semantics to compare	Azure	AWS	Google Cloud	Kubernetes (portable)
Durable queue	At-least-once delivery; acknowledgement per message; dead-letter path	Azure Service Bus (queues)	Amazon SQS	Cloud Tasks; Pub/Sub	NATS JetStream (CNCF graduated)
Ordered, replayable log	Order per partition key; replay from an offset; retention by time or size	Azure Event Hubs	Amazon Kinesis Data Streams; Amazon MSK	Google Cloud Managed Service for Apache Kafka	Strimzi (CNCF incubating)
Event routing	Route by event type or content; push to subscribers; retry policy	Azure Event Grid	Amazon EventBridge	Eventarc	Knative Eventing (CNCF graduated)
Durable workflow	State kept between steps; retries and timeouts per step; history of each run	Durable Functions; Azure Logic Apps	AWS Step Functions	Workflows	Argo Workflows (CNCF graduated)
Function on demand	Runs per event; scales to zero; limits on run time	Azure Functions	AWS Lambda	Cloud Run functions	Knative Serving (CNCF graduated)
Container platform	OCI images; scale by replicas; rollout and rollback per deployable	Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS)	Amazon EKS	Google Kubernetes Engine (GKE)	Deployment API
API gateway	Authentication, rate limits and routing by version at the edge	Azure API Management	Amazon API Gateway	Apigee; API Gateway	Gateway API
Service-to-service traffic	Mutual TLS, retries and timeouts outside the code; policy per route	Istio-based service mesh add-on for AKS	Amazon VPC Lattice; Amazon ECS Service Connect	Cloud Service Mesh	Istio; Linkerd (both CNCF graduated)
Change data capture	Committed changes in commit order; covers only the stores it can read	Azure Data Factory change data capture (preview)	AWS Database Migration Service (ongoing replication)	Datastream	Strimzi KafkaConnect and KafkaConnector resources (the connector itself is not a CNCF project)
Event schema registry	Versioned schemas; compatibility checks before a producer changes	Schema Registry in Azure Event Hubs	AWS Glue Schema Registry	Pub/Sub schemas	Apicurio Registry (CNCF sandbox)
Tracing and metrics	One trace across hops; sampling; OpenTelemetry (OTLP) intake	Azure Monitor Application Insights	Amazon CloudWatch; AWS X-Ray	Cloud Trace (Google Cloud Observability)	OpenTelemetry Collector, Jaeger, Prometheus (CNCF graduated)
Secrets	Central store; rotation; access audited per read	Azure Key Vault	AWS Secrets Manager	Secret Manager	Secret API; External Secrets Operator (CNCF sandbox)
Application policy decision	Allow or deny each action against policy held outside the code	No managed equivalent found (Azure Policy governs cloud resources only)	Amazon Verified Permissions	No managed equivalent found (IAM governs cloud resources; load balancer authorization policies can call an external decision point)	Open Policy Agent (CNCF graduated)
Agent runtime with tool calls	Hosts agents; tool calls through declared interfaces; identity and logs per call	Microsoft Foundry Agent Service	Amazon Bedrock AgentCore	Agent Runtime (Gemini Enterprise Agent Platform)	kagent (CNCF sandbox)

A dated map, not a recommendation: compare the semantics column first, and recheck every name against the vendor's documentation before you use it.

Vendor and project documentation (Microsoft Learn, AWS documentation, Google Cloud documentation, kubernetes.io, cncf.io), every row checked on 20 November 2026; the pages are listed in Appendix E.