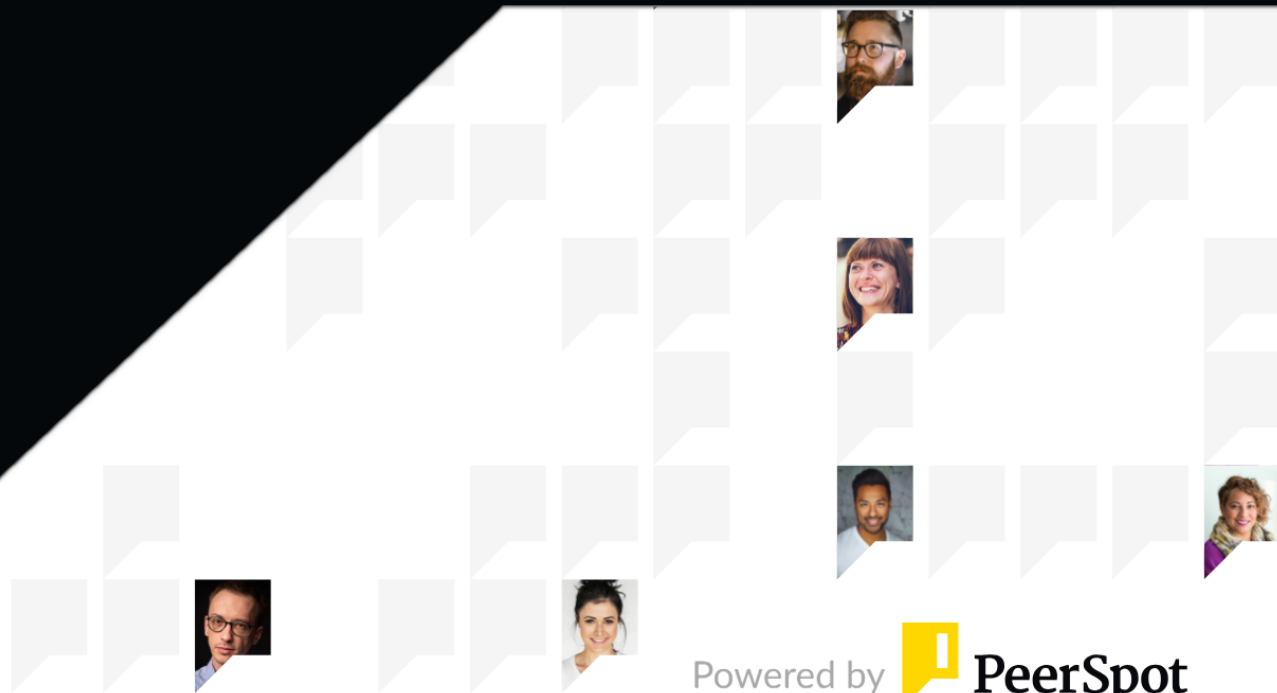




Calico Cloud

Reviews, tips, and advice from real users



Powered by  PeerSpot

Contents

Product Recap..... 3 - 5

Valuable Features..... 6 - 12

Other Solutions Considered..... 13 - 14

ROI..... 15 - 16

Use Case..... 17 - 21

Setup..... 22

Customer Service and Support..... 23

Other Advice..... 24 - 28

About PeerSpot..... 29 - 30

Product Recap



Calico Cloud

Calico Cloud Recap

Calico Cloud is a solution for network security and micro-segmentation in Kubernetes environments, appreciated for secure networking features, deployment streamlining, and enhanced cluster visibility.

Calico Cloud simplifies the complexity of network policies and integrates with diverse cloud platforms, aiding in achieving security and compliance standards. It enhances network performance and efficiently manages workloads in cloud-native applications. With its robust network security and seamless Kubernetes integration, the platform offers advanced observability, efficient microservices management, and scalable architecture. Users often mention the ease of deployment and comprehensive documentation as highlights, while real-time monitoring and detailed analytics are invaluable for maintaining high-performance environments. However, areas for improvement include better documentation, customer support, a more intuitive setup process, and addressing concerns about performance speed and troubleshooting complexities.

What are the key features of Calico Cloud?

- **Robust Network Security:** Ensures secure connections within Kubernetes environments.
- **Seamless Kubernetes Integration:** Easily integrates with Kubernetes for streamlined operations.
- **Advanced Observability:** Provides detailed insights into network performance and issues.
- **Efficient Microservices Management:** Supports efficient handling of microservices architecture.
- **Scalable Architecture:** Adapts to varying workloads and scaling needs.
- **Ease of Deployment:** Simplifies the initial setup process for quick implementation.
- **Comprehensive Documentation:** Offers extensive resources for user guidance.
- **Real-Time Monitoring:** Continuously observes network conditions and performance.
- **Detailed Analytics:** Delivers in-depth analytical data for informed decision-making.

What benefits should users expect from Calico Cloud?

- **Enhanced Security:** Protects sensitive data and network communications.
- **Improved Compliance:** Assists in meeting regulatory and compliance standards.
- **Streamlined Deployment:** Reduces deployment times and complexities.
- **Increased Visibility:** Provides clear insights into network operations.
- **High Performance:** Maintains optimal network performance even under heavy loads.
- **Efficient Workload Management:** Facilitates effective handling of cloud-native workloads.

Calico Cloud is implemented in sectors requiring robust network security and efficient

workload management, such as finance, healthcare, and technology. Financial institutions use it to secure sensitive transactions, while healthcare providers rely on it for compliance and data protection. Technology firms benefit from its scalability and performance in managing large volumes of microservices.

Valuable Features

Excerpts from real customer reviews on PeerSpot:



“The impact of Calico Cloud is that we were able to achieve a more secure understanding of our security posture, access our containers knowing full well that all policies set were followed through, and see visually how everything was interconnected, which has impacted our business positively.”



Olakunle Obasoro

DevOps Engineer at Exponential Craft



“The number one standout feature is the multi-cloud hybrid workload support, as the fact that Calico Cloud is not strictly bound to Kubernetes pods but can also utilize bare metal or virtual machines means it offers a unified control plane and allows for a single security policy to be applied and for traffic flow to be observed between VM-based databases and containerized applications running in Kubernetes, which is amazing for increasingly popular hybrid workloads.”



Fabrizio Dicarlo

Managing Director at a consultancy with 11-50 employees



“Calico Cloud has had a positive impact on our organization by improving both our Kubernetes security posture and operational efficiency.”



Dilipkumar Bondugula

Senior Systems Engineer at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees



“Calico Cloud has positively impacted my organization, especially on the security front, as it helped us anticipate security threats.”



Oghenekaro Uzezi

DevOps Engineer at Heckerbella



“Calico Cloud has positively impacted my organization by improving the security of deployed applications while having greater control and visibility over communication between the different microservices.”



Verified user

Cloud architect at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

What users had to say about valuable features:

“In my opinion, the best features Calico Cloud offers are micro-segmentation, particularly the zero-trust micro-segmentation, which stands out the most for me. Being able for them to look at my traffic and recommend the best network policy for me means I do not have to think about it. That is what I value about Calico Cloud.

Micro-segmentation has helped my team greatly. Some use cases we never thought of with Calico Cloud help increase the security of our application. Micro-segmentation has assisted us with observability as well.

Calico Cloud has positively impacted my organization, especially on the security front, as it helped us anticipate security threats. It aids in making sense of what is happening in the cluster in terms of the logs, the DNS logs, and the other various logs that occur in the system..”

Oghenekaro Uzezi

DevOps Engineer at Heckerbella

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“Calico Cloud is cloud-native. The moment you log in to the console, you have different applications to check for vulnerabilities. You have knowledge of different vulnerabilities from standards such as NIST that you could check against. By setting the policies, you are ensuring that no one has access to your app and that it is well protected. You create policies to prevent someone from logging into a particular container, and since it has its native container security interface, this helps protect against unauthorized access or damage in the cloud.

“The best features Calico Cloud offers include the CSI itself and the ease of integration with your CSI. The interface has also improved; when I started using it, I noticed the landing page from the left-hand side of your console was user-friendly. Through Calico Academy, you can learn quickly how to use Calico.

“The UI/UX is fantastic, and I believe companies continue improving it..”

Olakunle Obasoro

DevOps Engineer at Exponential Craft

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“I consider the best features offered by Calico Cloud to be portability and its graphical interface.

“Since Calico Cloud is a portable tool that can work with different types of Kubernetes clusters, it greatly facilitates deployment in different projects, having people trained on that tool and not having to train them on different tools. In addition, since it has a simple graphical interface, it is very easy for new technicians to learn.

“Calico Cloud has positively impacted my organization by improving the security of deployed applications while having greater control and visibility over communication between the different microservices.

“I have improved in audits after implementing Calico Cloud, reaching the optimal state in less time..”

Verified user

Cloud architect at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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“The best features for us with Calico Cloud are a combination of Kubernetes network policy management with deep traffic visibility. Other features include real-time flow visualization for troubleshooting connectivity issues, policy recommendations and previews before enhancements, and rich flow logs that help quickly identify blocked or unexpected traffic.

“Real-time flow visualization has been one of the most valuable features for our team when dealing with real-time scenarios. During application deployments or network policy changes, we use it to observe live communication between Kubernetes workloads and quickly identify whether traffic is being allowed or blocked. For example, when a newly deployed microservice was unable to communicate with the backend API, the flow visualization immediately showed where the communication was being denied. This allowed us to identify the specific network policy and restore connectivity within minutes instead of spending significant time analyzing logs or packet captures.

“Calico Cloud has had a positive impact on our organization by improving both our Kubernetes security posture and operational efficiency. Overall, it has helped our platform and DevOps team deploy changes with greater confidence, respond to incidents more quickly, and maintain a more secure and reliable Kubernetes environment..”

Dilipkumar Bondugula

Senior Systems Engineer at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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“One standout feature of Calico Cloud is definitely the eBPF, or extended Berkeley packet filter, which is exceptionally fast. Additionally, there is an industry-leading network security engine that is fairly adaptable and encapsulates very well. Calico Cloud also incorporates wildcard encryption by default and multi-cloud hybrid workload support. These features make Calico Cloud a great product.

“Regarding the specific features of Calico Cloud, the eBPF is exceptionally fast, resulting in a massive performance gain. The integration that directly replaces the proxy also significantly reduces memory and CPU footprint on the node. When it comes to WireGuard encryption, one usual requirement in the environments I work in is to secure data in transit across cluster nodes, even for internal traffic. Therefore, because Calico Cloud delivers integration at the internal level, this encryption is already offered by default, which means less effort in implementation and is a great win for project delivery.

“The number one standout feature is the multi-cloud hybrid workload support. The fact that Calico Cloud is not strictly bound to Kubernetes pods but can also utilize bare metal or virtual machines means it offers a unified control plane. This allows for a single security policy to be applied and for traffic flow to be observed between VM-based databases and containerized applications running in Kubernetes. This capability is amazing, especially for hybrid workloads that are becoming more popular.

“Although I do not use Calico Cloud nowadays, so it is not impacting my organization directly, in the organization where I previously used Calico Cloud, the ability to be hybrid and allow advanced networking security was a huge positive. This was especially important at the beginning of Kubernetes implementation, which was a significant topic to tackle for more inexperienced engineers new to Kubernetes.

“Feedback was overwhelmingly positive. For example, with the policy and hybrid capabilities, there was a single source of proof for enterprise security, which meant global policy security teams did not need to duplicate rules across hundreds of namespaces. Network engineers provided feedback indicating that they were able to replace heavy service mesh setups with Calico Cloud for achieving transit security, a huge win..”

Other Solutions Considered

“I used several other proxies for service mesh topics before Calico Cloud, and I decided to switch because of the ease and portability between different solutions..”

Verified user

Cloud architect at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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“I joined the company and started using Calico Cloud from the beginning, so I cannot comment on previous solutions. The decision for solutions often depends on an organization's needs and industry requirements, leading to a cloud-native approach without dependency on a single vendor..”

Olakunle Obasoro

DevOps Engineer at Exponential Craft

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“With Calico Cloud, it was our first product; I never used it previously. However, I have tried Cilium and Istio on my private cluster. That is why I can make this informed decision. Calico Cloud are the first ones that work with network policies, so that is the default when trying to work with Kubernetes clusters..”

Oghenekaro Uzezi

DevOps Engineer at Heckerbella

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ROI

Real user quotes about their ROI:

“The return on investment from using Calico Cloud is evident, as the company has effectively been using it for years. Calico Cloud not only secures our network infrastructure but also assures that we are not incurring costs due to breaches, which is a significant factor in the ROI..”

Olakunle Obasoro

DevOps Engineer at Exponential Craft

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“We have seen a positive return on investment. While the licensing cost is higher than using basic open-source networking alone, the operational benefits have outweighed the investment. It has reduced the time spent troubleshooting network connectivity issues, improved visibility into Kubernetes traffic, and helped us enforce consistent security policies across clusters. The biggest value has come from faster incident resolution..”

Dilipkumar Bondugula

Senior Systems Engineer at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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“I have seen a return on investment with time saved and fewer employees needed. We are able to reduce the number of times needed for debugging through the service graph and the recommendations for the micro-segmentation of their security tool, helping us identify necessary network policies. We also observe our traffic with the recommendations provided by Calico Cloud, which results in good savings in return on investment, which includes time saved and fewer troubleshooting and debugging times..”

Oghenekaro Uzezi

DevOps Engineer at Heckerbella

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Use Case

“My main use case for Calico Cloud is network and security management in EKS.

“I set up a service mesh on EKS while using Calico Cloud, which provides all the observability and graphical interface needed to manage communication between the different services and to the outside.

“It greatly facilitates management and allows in the future to connect it with other Kubernetes clusters that are not EKS without having to use proprietary tools from each cloud..”

Verified user

Cloud architect at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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“My main use case for Calico Cloud was primarily cloud network security. An unfortunate aspect of cloud architecture is that many cloud architects believe networking is somehow already handled or that they do not need to address it. However, networking is a significant part of cloud architecture, and therefore, it was my primary use case for Calico Cloud. Specifically, Calico Cloud extends basic Kubernetes networking and offers advanced network policy, allowing deny rules, policy ordering, global policy, layer seven rules, and decos, thereby expanding the use cases for Calico Cloud.

“One example of an advanced Calico Cloud network policy is to isolate a backend database, allowing incoming connections only from a pod that serves as the backend server. This is a clear example of utilizing advanced networking policy capabilities from Calico Cloud that were not available in Kubernetes at that time..”

Fabrizio Dicarlo

Managing Director at a consultancy with 11-50 employees

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“Our primary use case for Calico Cloud is securing and monitoring Kubernetes workloads across multiple clusters, where we use it to enforce network policies, control pod-to-pod communication, gain visibility into network traffic, and detect security issues. It also helps with micro-segmentation, compliance, and troubleshooting connectivity problems in our containerized applications, which maintains a zero-trust networking model.

“We use Calico Cloud to implement micro-segmentation across our Kubernetes clusters by defining fine-grained network policies for different namespaces and workloads. Instead of allowing unrestricted pod-to-pod communication, we enforce least privilege access so that only approved services can communicate with each other. This has helped us isolate applications, reduce the attack surface, and meet our internal security requirements. From a connectivity perspective, Calico Cloud has been particularly useful for troubleshooting network policy issues. When an application cannot reach another service, we use flow logs and policy visualization to quickly determine whether traffic is being allowed or denied, identify which policy is responsible, and resolve the issue without spending hours manually tracing Kubernetes networking..”

Dilipkumar Bondugula

Senior Systems Engineer at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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“I have been using Calico Cloud between 2022 to 2024. I worked on a project focused on security and vulnerability scanning within our containers. Calico Cloud was implemented because the company wanted to understand their security architecture within our orchestration environment, as we were using Kubernetes and running on AWS. We were also using AWS Inspector, but Calico Cloud was injected within the system to help with security, particularly within the containers.

“My main use case for Calico Cloud is security. Calico Cloud has developed a cloud-native solution for the security of containers. You are able to have insights into your cloud security posture management (CSPM), gaining an understanding of your security posture within your containers and how to design your security system. Within Kubernetes, you have your container security interface (CSI), which Calico Cloud is able to build something native for and is able to secure your containers, ensuring they are well secured within their ecosystem.

“When you log in to the console, everything was mostly click-based. You see different options on the console where you can check your posture or scan your containers for vulnerabilities. You can see whether vulnerabilities are high or low, and you are able to apply the best security posture to protect your containers so that no one is open and vulnerable to attack. Everything was connected, and you could see the different policies in place..”

Olakunle Obasoro

DevOps Engineer at Exponential Craft

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“My main use case for Calico Cloud is traffic management, which is the primary feature that I primarily use in my organization. We appreciate their recommendation system for security, and the service graph they provide gives us accessibility to our service graph, which is what we use it for.

A specific example of how I use Calico Cloud for traffic management and the service graph is that they provide us visibility, which is one of the things I appreciate about Calico Cloud. A similar product is Jaeger when you are using Istio, so they essentially do the same thing. You look at the service graph and you will see how, for example, we have several microservices. For me to communicate with another, normally you would not know how the full communication works. However, with Calico Cloud, you are able to see that this service communicates with these services and how they communicate. You can see the latency that is occurring at a particular junction. You can basically see all your services that make up your application that were developed for different vendors in our company, and you can see how each and every one of them communicates for this product. All the services that make up that microservice are what we use the service graph for. Their micro-segmentation helps to provide functionality similar to AWS Security Hub or a security advisor. You are able to be told that for a particular product and particular communication, these are the communications that occur on a day-to-day basis, and therefore, they recommend that you put in this kind of policy. If you agree with them, then you go and enforce the policy, and they provide a place to test it so that it does not affect your real-life traffic, allowing you to confirm that the feature really helps you.

Regarding my main use case and how Calico Cloud fits into my workflow, they have observability. I am able to combine all the different logs, DNS logs, so that I can see what actually happens from flow logs, DNS logs, and the other logs. That way I can make sense of what is going on in my cluster. For observability, they are doing good work. They provide insights that I have used with Istio, which is another product that also takes care of observability, not necessarily network policies in the way Calico Cloud supports. It is a good job overall..”

Oghenekaro Uzezi

DevOps Engineer at Heckerbella

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Setup

The setup process involves configuring and preparing the product or service for use, which may include tasks such as installation, account creation, initial configuration, and troubleshooting any issues that may arise. Below you can find real user quotes about the setup process.

“My experience with pricing, setup cost, and licensing is that the pricing is moderate. The setup cost was basic because there are many helpful resources available that I could reference. The licensing was payable with the best pricing based on what they are offering..”

Oghenekaro Uzezi

DevOps Engineer at Heckerbella

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“The integration process of Calico Cloud with existing systems has its challenges. When integrating, especially with AWS, navigating through various providers is necessary. With the rise of generative AI, embedding guidance into the integration process could help users troubleshoot effectively..”

Olakunle Obasoro

DevOps Engineer at Exponential Craft

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Customer Service and Support

“Customer support is good. I mainly relied on documentation, but I believe the relationship between vendors and our management team was effective, and I did not hear complaints about support..”

Olakunle Obasoro

DevOps Engineer at Exponential Craft

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Other Advice

“I would advise other professionals who are considering Calico Cloud to evaluate it because it is a very powerful solution. I give this review a rating of 8..”

Verified user

Cloud architect at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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“My advice for those looking into using Calico Cloud is to read the documentation, understand if their use case fits what Calico Cloud offers, and to start small before expanding. I would rate this product an eight out of ten..”

Fabrizio Dicarlo

Managing Director at a consultancy with 11-50 employees

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“My advice to others looking into using Calico Cloud is that it is worth the fee. I give Calico Cloud a rating of seven because there are places for improvement, as I recommended. For what they do, they do it well, especially with zero-trust micro-segmentation and their security plus observability tools. They may not have all the features that their competitor Cilium has, and they are doing a portion of what Cilium does and a portion of what Istio does. For what they do, they do it well, and that is why I give them a seven..”

Oghenekaro Uzezi

DevOps Engineer at Heckerbella

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“Calico Cloud has been very useful in our project, and I am very positive about it. I would rate Calico Cloud an eight overall because it has more requirements to be fulfilled.

“Regarding Calico Cloud's AI capabilities, I have not used them much. When it comes to governance and security, Calico Cloud is useful for strengthening governance and security, particularly when identifying potential policy misconfigurations and unusual network recommendations. Our team validates network policies, detects expected traffic flows, and reduces the likelihood of human error during configuration changes. This serves as a helpful decision support tool rather than replacing manual governance and security controls.

“The platform has been accurate and reliable in our experience. Calico Cloud has AI-assisted features, and we treat its recommendations as guidance rather than automatic decisions. We validate suggested changes through our normal review and testing process before applying them to production. This approach has made the insights dependable and has helped reduce troubleshooting time while improving the accuracy of network policy management.

“I would suggest using Calico Cloud for the exact use case that I am using it for, as that is the best advice I can give. The benefits I have mentioned are real benefits. I assign a rating of eight to Calico Cloud based on my experience with the product..”

Dilipkumar Bondugula

Senior Systems Engineer at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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“The impact of Calico Cloud is that we were able to achieve a more secure understanding of our security posture. We could access our containers, knowing full well that all policies set were followed through. We could see visually how everything was interconnected. That visual representation Calico Cloud has embedded into their design system is wonderful, and it has impacted our business positively.

“Having access to vulnerabilities is essential. For example, when the Log4j issue occurred in December 2021, I joined the company in 2022. The company had a lot of internal and external facing applications that needed to be scanned by Calico Cloud. We ensured each application's vulnerabilities were addressed by reaching out to developers to upgrade Java versions. By scanning, we identified vulnerabilities, and we communicated with developers to fix urgent issues, demonstrating how Calico Cloud provided critical insights.

“Calico Cloud helps me meet compliance requirements. You set your cloud security posture, and when you scan and see that it is failing, it indicates areas where Calico Cloud delivers security effectively.

“My advice to others looking into using Calico Cloud is this: if it fits your needs, go for it without hesitation. Security is a priority in today's world, especially as industries scale globally.

“I found the interview to be smooth and thorough, allowing exploration of my knowledge regarding Calico Cloud. Although it took longer than the stated time, the process was engaging. I would be glad if you could summarize my review in a short poem or haiku. My overall review rating for Calico Cloud is 8 out of 10..”

Olakunle Obasoro

DevOps Engineer at Exponential Craft

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