



Checklist

CLOUD MIGRATION | STRATEGIC BUSINESS CONSIDERATIONS

Form a cross functional team

Assemble members from IT (or IT consultants), management, finance, marketing, HR and so on. This team sets the guidelines for planning, executing, and monitoring migration project activities. They also establish the migration's timeline and goals plus quantifiable success metrics.

Define the migration project scope

Another task of the cross functional team: Prioritize business requirements and determine the cloud solution's correlating impacts. To avoid "scope creep," team members should focus relentlessly on the project guidelines they've established and weigh any adds or changes carefully.

Is virtualization part of the equation?

If so, adopt cloud-based virtualization in servers, storage devices and applications since cloud computing resource utilization will be higher. For remote and at-home users, further consider a follow-the-sun configuration for 24/7 service should an outage ever occur.

Establish an IT governance plan

Developed and enforced by cross functional team members, this plan should establish IT service management practices for the new cloud platform. It should align IT services with user needs, including remote users, and map out and support IT services delivery methods accordingly.

Start with a low-risk pilot phase

If possible, configure the new cloud solution before migrating from existing systems. Then, migrate business apps via a hybrid private-public cloud model to test them quickly and expand functionality as needed. (Visual Edge IT provides a hybrid cloud environment with Microsoft Azure.)

Migrate applications by business need and priority

Once the pilot phase is completed successfully, deploy functionality incrementally by need and priority. In many businesses, this sequence puts finance/accounting first, followed by marketing, sales, customer service (a CRM app), HR, and then any "tier 2" operations.

Monitor success metrics

Monitoring is critical. It ensures migration efforts stay on course and deliver all cloud-based functionality required for business operations. Measure your new cloud services against your project scope and implement any changes your organization justifies based on business needs.

Execute cutover for users and support, first day

For day 1 of using the new cloud solution, ensure sufficient on-floor IT and pre-trained personnel to assist users and report service issues. Interfaces in cloud-based applications are often different than those in on-premise systems and can require a learning curve.

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