

Cloud Migration Considerations Checklist

Assess your existing situation: infrastructure, licensing, staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Where are you near end of life on existing hardware, leases, warranty, or support agreements?<input type="checkbox"/> Is it time to renew software enterprise agreements? Can you take advantage of more flexible subscription or service provider licensing models?<input type="checkbox"/> Where the automation and management of the cloud free up IT staff?
Which back-office apps could leverage unique cloud capabilities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Look at apps that require fault-tolerance such as CRM and ERP to tap into built-in DR<input type="checkbox"/> Inherently distributed apps like mail have inherent cloud capabilities; Look at full Exchange environment or hosted exchange based on your needs to customize (full Exchange in the cloud is customizable)<input type="checkbox"/> Easily migrate terminal server or browser based apps—SharePoint, Drupal, Joomla
Can you use the cloud to open new markets?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Where can you reduce cost of sales, cost of support or create new markets with legacy apps?<input type="checkbox"/> Which customer facing apps could you serve online (SaaS) to reach new customers or serve internal customers better?<input type="checkbox"/> Can you leverage the cloud as a fast path to multi-tenancy? Single tenant c/s app can be served multi-tenant in the cloud without costly re-architecting.
Assess your security requirements to understand implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Understand what data and apps need to be held via SAS 70 Type II audited, HIPAA and PCI compliant systems<input type="checkbox"/> Can you access data over the public internet or do you require a secure connection?<input type="checkbox"/> For a secure connection, asses your need for persistent VPNs, private VLANs, extending AD or LDAP<input type="checkbox"/> Extending Active Directory or LDAP authentication for your apps necessitates a secure vLAN or secure point to point connection

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Plan migration to minimize impact/downtime—practice good change management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Think about frictionless processes that leverage the flexibility of the cloud<input type="checkbox"/> Develop internal awareness plan to enable internal business customers to easily provision the services that they need (self-service intranet portal?)<input type="checkbox"/> Consider internal bill-back. Make sure your cloud provider has sub-account processes that automate charge backs for you<input type="checkbox"/> Plan for a new customer support model with your new solution; Make sure you can focus on your competencies, not managing the infrastructure; Look for a complete enterprise cloud platform<input type="checkbox"/> Easily test the waters—transfer just one application to the cloud, or move your whole back office quickly and easily
Find an enterprise grade cloud provider that meets security and performance requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> See the detailed Enterprise Cloud Provider Checklist