

Seamlessly execute your next cloud migration

Expert tips to support your
cloud migration planning

cutover

This guide will cover:

1

The advantages of moving to the cloud

2

The risks involved in moving to the cloud

3

Tips for ensuring cloud migration success

4

How Cutover can help

Operating in the cloud is becoming an essential business requirement and 80% of companies worldwide are increasing their use of cloud services. This is likely driven by the great cost, productivity, and user experience benefits operating in the cloud offers. However, cloud migration is not without its risks. Done poorly, migration to the cloud can be a long, costly, and risky process that touches on every area of the business.





Advantages of Moving to the Cloud

Easy scalability

Great scalability means you can easily upscale (or downscale) your IT requirements as needed, allowing you to increase or decrease resources in line with business needs. This saves you money on maintaining large data centers that are rarely used to their full potential.

Cutting costs

Moving to the cloud can help you reduce operational costs while improving IT processes. According to Rackspace, [88% of companies save money when running services in the cloud](#) rather than on premises. You also avoid upfront costs by only paying for the capacity you use, as well as saving on ongoing maintenance and support costs.

Increased security

Many cloud providers handle security issues via inbuilt security capabilities and automatic updates, meaning that resilience processes become more efficient and easier to maintain. Additionally, because your data is in the cloud, it can be accessed no matter what happens to your physical machinery.

Remote collaboration

Cloud computing allows organizations to provide collaboration and communication tools, software, apps, and access to documents and databases from anywhere, making it easier for employees to work and collaborate remotely. The 'work from anywhere' model increases productivity and responsiveness, especially across teams that span different geographies and time zones.

Integration with other services

Many cloud services often feature integrations with other services, meaning that connecting systems together is seamless and much more cost effective. This has led to a huge increase in Software-as-a-Service offerings, hosted in the cloud, offering a continuous delivery cycle for more value and better cross-tool collaboration.





The risks of moving to the cloud

Though there are many benefits of cloud migration, the process itself can be both expensive and risky. According to recent data, [one out of every three migrations fails](#), without bringing any benefit to the organization. Historically, companies had looked at migrating infrastructure to the cloud but later realized the focus should just be on moving applications. And yet, some applications just aren't cloud ready. This means you have to make decisions about whether to update or replace these applications, do without them, or have a hybrid cloud and on-premises model. Making these changes can lead to a further increase in change across the organization.

Legacy infrastructure is a major issue for most large enterprises and one that can be eased by data center consolidation and/or cloud migration. However, it can also be an obstacle to achieving a smooth transition. Many legacy applications won't be compatible with the cloud, and you'll have to decide whether to keep these in physical data centers or replace them with newer applications, which will add further to the cost of the migration.

And there's more to cloud migration than just migrating individual apps. Enterprise technology infrastructures are highly connected and making changes to any one application could have massive unforeseen consequences if you don't have an accurate picture of how they're all linked together.

When it comes to running the migration itself, keeping track of status and how reality is measuring up to your plan can be a challenge, but is essential to staying within time limits and budget. Keeping everyone informed, from practitioners to stakeholders, is also a major challenge with any large project.

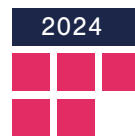


Moving to the cloud also carries a lot of security risks, including compliance violations, contractual breaches, insecure APIs, issues on the provider's side, misconfigured servers, malware, external attacks, accidental errors, insider threats, and more.



1 out of 3
cloud migration
projects fail

80%
of incidents are
caused by the rapid
increase in change



60%
of leaders will
have encountered
overruns by 2024



Seamlessly execute your next cloud migration

Tips for Ensuring Cloud Migration Success

1

Establish your baselines and KPIs

It's important before you start the migration to understand what migration success looks like and then to measure this as you go along. This starts with having a clear picture of what your current performance is like as a baseline to validate cloud migration improvements. You can then use KPIs around user experience, application and component performance, infrastructure, and business engagement to measure the success of your move to the cloud.

2

Get executive buy-in

Possibly the most essential step before initiating a cloud migration project is getting executive buy-in. You'll need high-level support to secure the resources and cooperation to overcome cloud migration challenges. Working closely with the business will help them to better understand the challenges of migrating to the cloud. Executives who are far removed from the process may become frustrated with the use of time and resources.

3

Understand business requirements

While understanding the technology is important, it's also essential to understand what end users want to get out of using it. This starts with understanding which applications are currently in use and how people use them. You don't want to waste time migrating and managing applications that nobody uses. It's important to understand which applications are worth migrating, which are best left where they are and which you should scrap altogether.



Fostering collaboration between technology and the business helps to ensure that technology deliveries meet the right business requirements. Give end users visibility of what is being delivered (and why) to improve adoption. You shouldn't just measure the success of a move to the cloud on the migration, but also adoption and benefits compared to on-premises systems.

4

Focus on applications, not infrastructure

Business leaders don't care if infrastructure is unavailable. However, take away any customer-facing system and everyone cares - business leaders, customers, regulators. So, the emphasis has to be on the smooth movement of applications to the cloud, with minimal impact on the end user.

To achieve this, you have to be able to plan change better, manage change capacity better, rehearse change events, and execute them better with the efficient orchestration of humans and technology. Plus you need a comprehensive audit trail based on real data to satisfy the auditors.

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Decide which applications to migrate and in what order

The cloud is not the optimal environment for everything, so it's important to think carefully about what you want to migrate and how to manage this. Applications running on proprietary or custom hardware or operating systems, for example, may not be suitable if they cannot be virtualized. It's also important to consider the order in which you want to migrate services. It makes the most sense to start with services with the fewest dependencies, so you will likely migrate internal services first and then move towards the services that are most likely to impact customers. Beginning with non-critical data or applications gives you a chance to perfect your migration method while reducing risk. audit trail based on real data to satisfy the auditors.





Thoroughly plan and test

Pre- and post-migration testing are extremely important in avoiding cloud migration failure. Tests and migration and implementation plans that outline the steps of the actual data migration in detail allow you to identify potential problems early in the project.



Align people and processes with technology

Migrating to the cloud is about more than a simple change in systems. The cloud offers different opportunities to an on-premises system and people and processes will need to adapt accordingly. This can often be more difficult than the migration itself but is key to getting the full value out of cloud technology. Moving to the cloud isn't just about saving money on data centers; it creates new capabilities such as the ability to quickly upscale or create new environments. The business may need to update corporate policies to reflect this.



Manage the data migration

Data migration is possibly the most important step in the Cloud migration process, but it also contains the most risk. Where the data is located can impact Cloud performance, so you need to decide carefully whether to keep data on or off-premise. The success of a cloud migration can hinge on data, so take extra care when planning this step. You must have a clear understanding of the purpose of all the data you hold to ensure that relevant information is captured and irrelevant data is not transferred to the new system. Cleaning data and keeping it clean will simplify the migration process and help you get the most out of your applications at the other end.



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Consider downtime

Most cloud migrations require at least some downtime, although the number of organizations opting for a zero-downtime window is growing. You need to know how much system downtime you can afford, plan for when it is likely to cause the least issues and optimize the migration process as much as possible to reduce the level of downtime required. Having an intelligent end-to-end process can reduce the size of the final data sync and therefore reduce outage time.

10

Monitor and optimize

The work doesn't stop when all your applications and data are safely migrated to the cloud. You need to continually monitor and optimize your cloud services to get the most out of them. For example, if you continue to allocate resources statically, you're not getting one of the main benefits of the cloud - which is the ability to scale up and down as needed.

11

Change the way you do change

If you continue to manage change the way you do today, your number of incidents is going to increase. You need a platform that will allow you to execute change better and a way to keep stakeholders informed of progress on critical applications. You need access to real-time data to allow you to make key decisions such as when it's necessary to roll back, as well as the ability to satisfy auditors and improve upon your execution capabilities and level of resiliency.

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Choose your supporting toolset wisely

It's impossible to run a successful migration if you can't see what's being done, when, and by whom. Using a platform for better visibility and orchestration will enable you to run your migration more smoothly. Cutover can be used to plan, test, and coordinate your cloud migration instead of relying on spreadsheets, increasing efficiency and your chances of success. Unlike spreadsheets, Cutover makes it easy to



quickly plan a complex process, notifies everyone involved when their tasks will start, includes built-in comms, and allows you to view status in real time.



CASE STUDY

Supporting a multinational bank to successfully migrate to the cloud

Support migrating to the cloud

A major multinational bank needed the confidence to deliver a major application transformation to the cloud at a macro level. The approach was to enable and empower the application team with a guided path to help them ensure migrations would be successful. There was pressure from the board to deliver on the promise of the cloud immediately and accelerate the program, so speed was of the essence. The combination of the scale and pace of the migration presented significant challenges and risks.

The teams recognized the importance of understanding the overall process to ensure all teams had visibility before beginning to migrate applications. There were regulatory requirements, and part of adhering to these involved documenting the risks associated with starting a move, creating the need for better visibility and an audit trail. The existing migration processes were stored in many different places, so Cutover was needed to bring these together onto one central platform.



Improving cloud knowledge

Cutover helped the bank to accelerate the maturity of its App team's cloud knowledge and provide guardrails from a templated, proven approach. Cutover provided visibility to everyone involved in the event, from stakeholders to delivery teams, with real-time dashboards. By connecting humans and machines, Cutover allowed external processes to be included in the Cutover runbooks, such as testing, rehearsals, and AWS cloud migration parties. Risk assessment was key, as evidenced by other organizations facing major fines for failing to appropriately prepare.

Cutover also created an automatic system of record from design to completion, providing a single source of truth for evaluation and improvement. This also made the post-event review, to ensure regulatory compliance, less labor-intensive.

Cutover's executive dashboard was visible to the C-suite throughout, so they could easily see the progress of delivery, enabling key executives to understand progress, help remove roadblocks, and ease the move towards the goals of innovation, speed, and cost reduction for the bank.

A successful cloud migration

Following the adoption of Cutover, the bank successfully migrated a substantial number of applications in 2020 and is set to migrate hundreds more in 2021.

The bank could only realize the cost savings of being on the cloud once the on-premise data centers had been decommissioned, which was the final step in the process. It was also essential that the pre-production, test, and development environments were removed at the right moment in time.

Throughout the lifecycle of a migration, there are many processes and activities that could be templated to provide the starting point of where to go and how to manage moving each application step by step. Cutover enabled the bank to standardize this process and provided a central location for all templates, plans, and communications.





How Cutover supports our customers moving to the cloud

Although cloud migrations can be costly and high-risk, when done correctly they are hugely beneficial. Operating on the cloud is increasingly becoming essential for more and more businesses. The Cutover platform has helped our clients to effectively plan, orchestrate, and analyze every aspect of their migration to the cloud.

To find out how Cutover can help your organization successfully migrate to the cloud, request a demo.

[**Book a demo**](#)





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