

Cloud Migration Checklist

12 steps to complete before you move a single workload

PHASE 1 — ASSESS

- 1

Current-State Assessment
Inventory servers, apps, databases, licensing, and performance baselines.
- 2

Dependency Mapping
Trace every connection between apps, databases, APIs, and services.
- 3

Workload Prioritization & Wave Planning
Group workloads into waves by risk, complexity, and dependency chains.

PHASE 2 — PREPARE

- 4

Cost Modeling & TCO Analysis
Model compute, storage, transfer, licensing, and parallel-run costs.
- 5

Security & Compliance Review
Confirm data residency, encryption, IAM, and regulatory requirements.
- 6

Target Architecture Design
Define lift-and-shift vs. re-platform vs. re-architecture, and scale plan.

PHASE 3 — PLAN THE MOVE

- 7

Network & Connectivity Planning
Design VPNs, DNS cutover, load balancing, and bandwidth needs.
- 8

Data Migration Strategy
Choose bulk transfer, replication, or hybrid, plus integrity checks.
- 9

Pilot Migration
Move one low-risk workload first to test the process end to end.

PHASE 4 — EXECUTE & VALIDATE

- 10

Cutover Plan
Document the exact go-live sequence, owners, and verification steps.
- 11

Rollback Plan
Set rollback triggers, decision-makers, and legacy-environment window.
- 12

Post-Migration Validation & Optimization
Confirm performance and cost, then tune at 30/60/90 days.

Need help applying this to your environment?

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