

# How Your Data Center Migration Drives Your Digital Transformation

## Five Keys to Succeed



**Cloud integration is critical to modernizing and future-proofing an organization's digital transformation. During the lifespan of every IT environment, to increase efficiency, maintain security and improve cost-effectiveness, enterprises must assess the best path to manage, simplify, and optimize their data center migration.**

So, when is the right time and context, and what are the steps to scope, plan, migrate, test and optimize? How do you assess readiness to manage the migration of your workloads, applications, data, and machines? How do you identify the right partner to navigate and manage the complexities of your cloud transformation?

## Here are Five Keys to Future Proof Your Migration

### 1. Set a Clear Path to the Cloud

Go over planning and migration strategies for infrastructure, network connectivity, applications, data, security, and compliance requirements. Discover all of your deployed applications, application dependencies, manufacturers, and versions to foolproof your migration.

#### **Clear Workloads Migration**

Evaluate how different workloads will variably impact deployment options. Discuss with your solution partner which workloads will function best in the cloud, which should be on-premise only, and how others may benefit from a hybrid IT approach.

#### **Clear Applications Migration**

Understand the business criticality and dependencies of each application you are migrating. Applications migration requires full discovery of all application, service, and device relationships and dependencies. Generate a centralized repository classifying all applications and add them to a product catalog detailing risk and supportability assessment.

#### **Clear Data and Machines Migration**

While it's critical to support, monitor, and manage the data during and after migration, planning the sequence of machine go live post migration is critical. Certain applications depend on others to deliver full performance and operational impact to your organization.

### 2. Size Your Migration

#### **Clear Budget Parameters**

Tackle all budget decisions to properly assess labor costs. Analyze if you have the square footage required to continue operating in-house. Check that the facilities you select support the specific regulatory and compliance requirements you must meet.

#### **Clear Timeframe**

Enforce best practices for implementation to minimize downtime, avoid hurdles, and ensure a smooth migration. Get an upfront accurate assessment of downtime to propel the actual migration and ensure it keeps in line with the defined planned timeframe.

#### **Clear the Path for Testing**

Complete a series of tests on taking applications through the process to make sure the steps you lay out are foolproof. Avoid migrating your platform for the first time on the same day as your actual migration. Testing will provide a better understanding of how to go through the migration process and identify potential roadblocks.

## 3. See Beyond Migration

While cloud alone can deliver benefits to your business, such as application cost visibility, charge back, reliability, and performance, there are other areas of IT and operations that will be impacted.

Those include:

- Network Infrastructure (WAN, Internet, communications, collaboration)
- E-commerce Business Units
- Sales and Marketing Services
- BI Groups and Divisions
- Finance and Legal
- Governance and Compliance
- Quality Assurance

Do a quick assessment of each organizational area impacted, scope the 'how,' and you will quickly identify broader technical and commercial benefits to your business.

### **Towards Digital Transformation**

Initiating data center migration is the first step beyond the status quo towards digital transformation. Stand-alone migration, without evaluation of managed services to optimize your cloud environment, may not deliver all the efficiencies and cost-reduction expected. Working with one provider who can integrate managed services into your strategy will significantly reduce your overall costs.

### **Managed Services Advantage**

Beyond migration lies transformation. Consulting and managed services help support and future-proof on going application integration, retooling, and recoding, required to guide and supervise the complexities of legacy applications beyond normal DCM workloads.

## 4. Options and Opportunities

A clear path to Cloud can be direct or winding. Many options are available from going Pure IaaS, to implementing IaaS + SaaS + On-Premise, to transforming with IaaS + SaaS. Here are options to evaluate:

### **Pure IaaS**

Pure Infrastructure-as-a-Service is deemed the quickest and easiest way to take existing workloads and 'go cloud' – lift & shift – although not the most cost effective long-term. This is the approach most often taken when making last minute decisions near the end of a colocation or hosting contract.

**How to evaluate:** If you are already using virtualization of your workloads, IaaS can be relatively straightforward; however, straight VM moves may not include networking, virtual appliances and security.

### **IaaS + SaaS + On-Premise**

Most businesses fall into this category. They are already virtualized and use SaaS for other areas of the business, plus probably have a number of 'cloud' compatible databases running somewhere combined with 'metal' and other complex legacy applications. Although not a pure 'lift & shift', this may be a good scenario to commence a transformation journey.

**How to evaluate:** In addition to networking and security impacts, you could now have application communication impacts that require reconnecting, or even recoding, to support the micro-services available in the cloud SaaS environment.

## IaaS + SaaS

The way to go. Although not the most straightforward, this scenario takes a good understanding of the present infrastructure, as well as the destination multi-cloud environment. It provides a great opportunity for optimization, refactoring and re-hosting – a total clean-up of your infrastructure.

**How to evaluate:** Old metal is easy to forget about but also power-hungry. Having good records of hardware configurations, installed applications, and supported organizations at the forefront of the process can help speed things up considerably. This also applies to in-house virtualized environments, with the added benefit that most hypervisor management systems have an inbuilt reporting system.

## 5. Choose Your Partner to the Cloud

A data center migration is an overwhelming undertaking. Rely on partner expertise and proven best practices to minimize downtime, avoid hurdles and ensure a clear and clean migration. The right partner will also have the depth and breadth of capabilities to classify all your applications and design a detailed test plan for user acceptance integration and performance.

Your team may have the required internal resources to execute a successful migration. If self-migration is preferred, a partner can still oversee areas of your migration to alleviate the pressure of the process. Ensure your partner will take time upfront to review planning and migration strategies for infrastructure, connectivity, applications, data, security and compliance requirements.

The right level of planning, communication expectation setting, and a concerted effort to understand the order of operations can ensure you execute a seamless migration.

If you wish to evaluate how prepared or successful you are to implement your Data Center Migration, feel free to request a readiness assessment. We provide bespoke solutions to ensure the successful delivery of critical environment migration and transformation projects.

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A Microsoft Partner for over 20 years, a Tier I CSP Partner and an Azure Expert Managed Service Provider exclusively dedicated to Azure migration and integration, Hanu supports enterprises with unequalled intelligence and expertise providing Managed Transformation, Application Modernization and Enterprise IT Innovation.

From Azure CSP to Managed Services to strategic consulting and development, Hanu has the expertise to help organizations capture the potential of their cloud strategy through discovery, decision and delivery, across each stage of their transformation.

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