

Cloud migration checklist

Take the first steps in your move to the cloud



This checklist walks you through some early steps you can take to build momentum in your move to the cloud. After you review these ideas, learn more about the end-to-end migration process in the [Microsoft Cloud Adoption Framework for Azure](#).

Start with business strategy and planning

Assess your migration readiness

Use the [Strategic Migration Assessment and Readiness Tool](#) to evaluate your readiness for cloud and determine areas that need attention.

Identify and involve stakeholders

Reach out to key people throughout your organization, including both IT and business stakeholders. Early engagement and support will lead to a smoother, faster migration process.

Create your plan

Establish objectives and priorities for cloud migration. Plan around major business events and identify quick wins, like moving applications with just a few dependencies to expedite your migration.

Estimate costs and return on investment

Create a personalized business case for migration by using the [Total Cost of Ownership \(TCO\) calculator](#) to plan for costs and estimate your potential savings. Get data on the potential ROI of cloud infrastructure for your business in this [Forrester study](#). Read more about financial considerations in [this blog post](#).

Get ready for cloud migration

❑ Build your team's skills

A solid training foundation is important for successful organizational change. Check out the free training available on [Microsoft Learn](#), including courses on Azure fundamentals, solution architecture, and security. Encourage your team to explore [Azure certification](#) as well.

❑ Discover and assess on-premises applications

Before migrating, inventory all on-premises servers, and assess dependencies. With [Azure Migrate](#), you have an inventory mechanism to help you as you move into subsequent steps. Use Azure Migrate to better understand VMs and app dependencies on-premises, along with Azure readiness, estimated costs, and recommended sizing. For more guidance on discovery and assessment, [read this blog](#).

❑ Know your migration options

There are several different migration strategies including rehosting, refactoring, and rearchitecting. [Read about your options](#) for migrating and modernizing your digital estate.

❑ Consider getting help for your migration

Many organizations opt for outside help to support their cloud migration. To move to Azure quickly and confidently with personalized assistance, consider an [Azure Expert Managed Service Providers](#) or [FastTrack for Azure](#). You can also apply for the [Azure Migration Program](#) to get best-practice guidance and direct access to Azure engineers, tools, and subsidized partner services.



Migrate to Azure

Get more tips that can help simplify your path to the cloud

Read the e-book:
[Cloud Migration Simplified](#)

Learn, optimize, and improve

❑ Pilot your migration with a few workloads

Prove success in your migration journey by [assessing](#) and [migrating](#) low complexity workloads as a pilot.

- Use Azure Migrate to run a test migration without impacting on-premises machines. Then, migrate groups of virtual or physical servers at scale. Choose to shut down machines during cutover to eliminate downtime and data loss.
- Perform a pilot by migrating databases from on-premises to Azure using [Azure Database Migration Service](#).

□ Get tips on how to easily secure, manage, and optimize

Choose a cloud provider that offers tools to help you achieve operational excellence and reduce costs. For example, [Azure Arc](#) helps you simplify how you manage across your cloud, on-premises, and edge environments. [Azure Advisor](#) provides recommendations to improve reliability, security, and performance. For other ways to ensure you are optimizing costs, explore additional resources available through [Azure Cost Management](#).

□ Monitor and enhance security

Security should be a top consideration in choosing a cloud provider, as well as an ongoing priority once you have migrated. Visit [Azure Security Center](#) and read about [security and management best practices](#) offered through the Cloud Adoption Framework.

Migrate efficiently on your own terms



Optimize costs and migrate data with confidence

Save money with the [most cost-effective offers](#) for Windows Server and SQL Server. Confidently migrate your workloads to Azure with [best practices](#), [expert guidance](#), and [cost optimization tools](#).



Stay secure and resilient across hybrid environments

Protect workloads across your hybrid environments with [intelligent security services](#) backed by 3,500 cybersecurity professionals. Use [built-in resiliency](#) to avoid costly business interruptions.

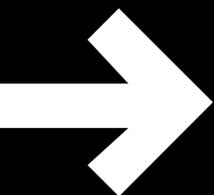


Scale your workloads and applications on demand

Increase agility with best-in-class [Azure infrastructure](#) that scales to your business needs. Reduce operational burden with fully managed [application](#) and [database](#) services in Azure.

Accelerate cloud migration

Prepare for what's next on your journey to Azure with help from our [top three recommendations](#).



Save money and bring your workloads to Azure with confidence. Get best-practice guidance and direct access to Azure engineers, tools, and subsidized partner services.

[Join the Azure Migration Program >](#)