



The benefits of moving your applications and infrastructure to the cloud are too compelling to pass by. You stand to gain greater agility, innovation, and increased speed and efficiency of operations. You can also reduce costs by shifting away from large capital projects in favor of scalable infrastructure services.

So, to the cloud it is! But before you charge ahead, how will you make the transition without interrupting business continuity or customer experiences? Running on open infrastructure is a great first step for a smooth transition. Read on to understand 10 additional considerations to plan your successful cloud migration.

1

Develop a holistic strategy that aligns business and IT objectives

A move to the cloud is not a tactic, or a single team's responsibility. Successful migrations are based on broad support from corporate and leadership teams that can benefit from cloud projects.

To build this support, align IT deliverables with applications, services, and initiatives that are critical to specific business goals. Assess the cloud value proposition by using language and metrics that present the value in terms that will resonate with the business.

2

Focus on projects with tangible outcomes

When executing your cloud strategy, focus on aligning projects with business priorities. Each project should have a finite scope but also support the long-term strategy. Identify the business drivers for each project and measure your success based on one or more of the key bottom-line metrics: revenue impact, cost efficiency, and risk mitigation.

3

Avoid vendor lock-in with open source and portable solutions

Access to innovation is a strong reason to move to the cloud. Take advantage of community innovation by prioritizing an open strategy for integrating your cloud provider, your platforms of choice, and an application ecosystem.

Open source solutions enable you to build your application in one environment, deploy it in another, and scale it as demand grows. In a multi- and hybrid-cloud world, you should be able to move your applications as business needs evolve.

4

Develop risk management plans that prioritize security

Risk and security concerns are often cited as one of the top three challenges enterprises face when moving to the cloud. You can address these concerns in a systematic way by developing a framework to define and manage risk throughout the process. In decisions that may affect security, consider that risk and innovation can co-exist – and often, there is not an inevitable trade-off between them.

Prioritize risk management so you can look for ways to improve security while still gaining the flexibility, innovation, efficiency, and other business benefits of the cloud.

5

Ensure that your existing applications can run effectively in the cloud

IT teams need the right tools and teams monitoring workloads before, during, and after migration. Suitable management tools provide system visibility and control. This way, your team gains a clear understanding of any anomalous behavior with applications, and the adjustments you need to make. Also, test whether the application can scale properly to ensure you can respond to fast-changing business needs.

6

Choose the right applications to move to the cloud

Not every application delivers the flexibility you need to adapt quickly and optimize performance. Consider several factors to find the optimal environment for your workloads, including storage, network, compute resources, throughput, and operational or management costs.

Review the capabilities of your applications carefully, and ensure they can be optimized across a range of operational scenarios.

7

Identify your high availability needs

Invest in management tools that deliver insights into all your infrastructure and application performance, while systematically testing for vulnerabilities. In periods of stress – such as fast-changing business needs or IT staff volatility – IT can be compromised if you don't have an integrated management process.

Home-grown tools, disparate management products, remote management issues, and lack of automation, as well as inconsistent monitoring and health checks can all leave IT seriously compromised.

8

Define objectives for backup and disaster recovery

You need a well-defined plan to prevent total loss of your data in the event of a disaster. Leading cloud providers have disaster recovery and backup solutions available, with multiple levels of rollover and backups. Consider how you can use these established services to maintain continuity across different types of system interruptions so you are not relying entirely on home-built recovery tools.

9

Develop SLA that matches your performance requirements

The service-level agreement (SLA) defines the terms of implementation and management with your cloud provider. For example, the provider might manage availability based on time periods, such as a "four nines" commitment that promises 99.99% availability during business hours.

Terms should also define the provider's obligations in the event of unplanned downtime, including alerting its users and providing updates on maintenance and service repairs.

10

Consider how to manage a hybrid cloud effectively

A true hybrid cloud environment combines two or more cloud platforms (usually public and private) into a single entity. Access to resources is consolidated and controlled through a single management environment. Sharing data and applications between clouds can greatly simplify interoperability and management.

Choose tools that deliver a consistent level of insight and control as you migrate workloads between clouds, or from on-premise to multi-cloud environments.

Moving to the cloud should be a key pillar in your digital transformation strategy, but it requires careful planning. Take the time to build your strategy, from aligning business and IT goals, to assessing integration options, mapping the migration process, and planning for effective management.

Migrating to SUSE brings all your systems into a structured lifecycle that is centrally orchestrated and managed. A Discovery Services session with SUSE experts can help you learn how adopting true open source solutions can provide a competitive edge now, and flexibility to build your future.

Contact us

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