

Cloud Readiness Checklist

Ensure your business is prepared for cloud adoption with this checklist.

Migrating to the cloud is a big step for any organization. While the cloud brings benefits like scalability, cost savings, and agility, a successful transition requires careful preparation. Many businesses jump into cloud adoption without proper planning, only to face unexpected costs, compliance issues, or performance challenges.

This **Cloud Readiness Checklist** helps you evaluate whether your business is prepared for cloud adoption and highlights the critical steps you should take before moving forward.

1. Business Strategy Alignment

- ■ Define Your Goals – Understand why you want to move to the cloud.
- ■ Executive Buy-in – Ensure leadership understands and supports the move.
- ■ Business Case – Calculate the ROI and potential cost savings.

2. Current Infrastructure Assessment

- ■ Inventory Assets – Document all servers, applications, databases, and dependencies.
- ■ Identify Workloads – Decide which apps are cloud-ready and which may need re-architecture.
- ■ Performance Baseline – Understand current system performance to measure improvements.

3. Security & Compliance

- ■ Regulatory Requirements – Check industry standards (GDPR, HIPAA, PCI-DSS).
- ■ Data Sensitivity – Identify which data can move to the cloud.
- ■ Access Controls – Plan role-based access and identity management.
- ■ Disaster Recovery & Backup – Ensure you have clear recovery strategies.

4. Financial Readiness

- ■ Budget Planning – Cloud operates on OPEX (pay-as-you-go).
- ■ Cost Management Tools – Monitor and optimize spending.
- ■ Licensing – Review existing software licenses for compatibility.

5. Skills & Team Readiness

- ■ IT Skills Gap – Assess whether your team has the necessary cloud skills.
- ■ Training & Certifications – Plan for AWS, Azure, or GCP training.
- ■ Operational Readiness – Update processes for cloud environments.

6. Cloud Service Provider (CSP) Selection

- ■ Compare Providers – Evaluate AWS, Azure, GCP based on cost and compliance.
- ■ Service Models – Choose IaaS, PaaS, SaaS depending on needs.
- ■ Vendor Lock-in – Consider hybrid/multi-cloud strategies.

7. Migration Strategy

- ■ Migration Approach – Choose between Rehost, Refactor, Replatform, or Replace.
- ■ Pilot Project – Start with a non-critical workload.

- ■ Testing & Validation – Validate functionality and performance.

8. Governance & Change Management

- ■ Policies & Standards – Establish cloud governance frameworks.
- ■ Monitoring & Management – Set up monitoring tools.
- ■ Change Communication – Prepare staff and stakeholders for the transition.

9. Post-Migration Plan

- ■ Performance Monitoring – Continuously track usage.
- ■ Security Updates – Implement continuous patching and audits.
- ■ Feedback Loop – Collect feedback to improve operations.

Final Thoughts:

Moving to the cloud is not just a technology shift—it's a **business transformation**. By using this checklist, you can ensure your organization is fully prepared, minimizing risks while maximizing the benefits of cloud adoption.

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