

# Cloud Migration Checklist

Simple steps to start your migration today



This checklist walks you through the steps to plan, assess, and begin your cloud migration, and offers resources to help you move to the cloud with Microsoft Azure.

- 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 a strategic 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.
- Calculate total cost of ownership**  
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.
- 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. During migration, use Azure Migrate to better understand VMs and app dependencies of your migration.
- Strengthen security and save**  
End of support for 2008 servers is coming soon. Prioritize migration of workloads running on SQL Server and Windows Server 2008 and 2008 R2 to Azure and get Extended Security Updates at no additional cost to you.
- Get support for your implementation**  
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 Provider or FastTrack for Azure.
- 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.
- Know your migration options**  
There are several different migration strategies including rehosting, refactoring, and rearchitecting. To start, try rehosting, often referred to as "lift-and-shift" migration. This approach lets you migrate applications as they are, without the risk or expense of code changes.
- Pilot your migration with a few workloads**  
Prove success in your migration journey by assessing and migrating low complexity workloads as a pilot. Perform a pilot by migrating physical servers or VMs from on-premises to Azure using Azure Site Recovery. Perform a pilot by migrating databases from on-premises to Azure using Azure Database Migration Service.
- Migrate your remaining workloads to Azure**  
With a successful pilot, you will be ready to migrate at scale. Use learnings and tools from the pilot to complete your workload migration to Azure.
- Decommission existing on-premises infrastructure**  
After a successful migration and verification, determine the decommissioning process for your on-premises systems. The goal is to reduce your IT overhead and time spent managing outdated infrastructure.
- Optimize, secure, and manage your migrated workloads**  
After migration, continue to optimize usage and savings. Azure empowers you to keep improving with Azure Cost Management and Azure Security Center. Learn more about security and management best practices.