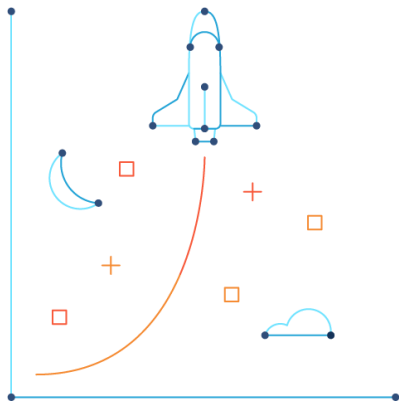


CLOUD ANALYTICS MIGRATION CHECKLIST

To help you plan a solid cloud migration strategy



More customers want to exploit the advantages of cloud computing – faster deployments, minimal IT involvement, and reduced hardware/software maintenance – and many data management and analytics platforms are making the move to the cloud. In fact, according to a BARC research study, "BI and Data Management in the Cloud: Issues and Trends," the number of companies using the cloud for their BI program has grown from 29% to 43% in the past 3 years.

If you're thinking about migrating your analytics systems to the cloud, we recommend you start by mapping out your current state and future goals. As you determine your unique cloud migration strategy, many technical and non-technical factors should be considered.

Use this checklist to help guide and prepare you for migrating your analytics systems to the cloud.

KNOW YOUR BUSINESS GOALS

- What are your business objectives for moving to the cloud?
- How does cloud fit into your overall BI strategy?
- Who would be driving this effort? IT, Business, or both?

KNOW YOUR BUDGET

- What is your overall budget?
- Does this require a big initial investment?
- Is it easier to get OPEX vs CAPEX approved?

ASSESS YOUR CURRENT ANALYTICS SOLUTION

Not every application is suitable for cloud deployment. Review all parts of your analytics solution to determine what should be moved to the cloud.

- What parts of your analytics solution are already in the cloud? Databases, non-relational data sources, BI tools, ETL processes, etc.?
- What parts of your analytics solution are on-premise? Do any of these have ties to local file stores? App dependencies can require a deconstruction of a tangled IT web, but it's important to think this through.
- What parts of your analytics solution do you plan to move to the cloud? Database, sources, BI tools, ETL processes?
- What other applications are you running in the cloud? Will any of these be used as data sources: Office365, Intacct, Slack, Salesforce, ADP, Adobe cloud apps, Dropbox, ShareFile, Atlassian, Zendesk, Workday?
- What are your needs for advanced analytics? Machine learning, AI, predictive, prescriptive, etc.?

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PLAN YOUR CLOUD ENVIRONMENT

- How exactly are you going to use the cloud? Production analytics, production data prep, ad hoc analysis, proof of concept, or sandbox environment?
- What cloud approach are you taking? Hosted, managed, or SaaS?
- Which components are you taking to the cloud? Database, platform, ETL?
- Where are your users geographically located? Cloud servers physically exist somewhere, and you want them to be as geographically close as possible for good bandwidth and network availability.

DEFINE AFFECTED DEPARTMENTS

- What departments will be using platforms/applications in the cloud?
- Who will be managing the cloud applications? Do they have the required skills?
- Are there any internal political challenges to overcome? For example, moving to the cloud could represent potential job loss, or there might be a stigma associated with hosting data offsite.
- Who would be driving the cloud migration effort? IT, Business, or both?

REVIEW YOUR DATA

- Where are your data sources? Are some of your data sources already in the cloud, like Salesforce.com?
- How much data do you have?
- What mix of structured and unstructured will you be analyzing now and in the future?

CONSIDER SECURITY & PRIVACY

- What are your security requirements for data access and authorization?
- What are your backup strategies?
- Have you ensured application resiliency and disaster recovery?
- Do you have any privacy concerns or requirements?

PLAN THE MIGRATION PATH

- Who is in charge of managing the migration? Is it someone in-house?
- How do you plan to migrate historical data? Some vendors have tools that can help automate this.
- Have you planned the order in which you will move components? What interdependencies among components exist?

Analytics8 is a data and analytics consulting company. We help organizations make smart data-driven decisions by translating their data into meaningful and actionable information.

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