Cloud Readiness Assessment Checklist

What is a Cloud Readiness Assessment?

A cloud readiness assessment is essential before moving to the cloud. It helps you determine if you have considered all aspects of the move including the review of existing assets such as data, infrastructure, applications, and dependencies.

Follow the steps below to answer key questions and determine if your organization is ready to proceed with a cloud migration.

Step 1: Identify Stakeholders and Gather Information

To begin your cloud migration planning process, one-on-one interviews with IT and business stakeholders can help you identify shared goals and expected outcomes of the cloud migration project. Ask questions like:

- What specific data and systems do you currently have and who is managing them?

- What are the challenges or pain points you are experiencing with your current IT infrastructure?

- How do your current IT processes and workflows support your business operations?

Step 2: Identify Goals and Opportunities

This is important to do before migrating so that you can prioritize activities based on the potential business benefits and ROI, and so that the migration process supports overall business objectives. Talk to each stakeholder to determine:

- What are the business objectives that each wants to achieve by moving to the cloud?

- How can cloud technologies help them achieve those objectives?

- What are the potential benefits and risks associated with the cloud migration?

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Step 3: Determine Cultural Readiness

A shift in mindset, especially among key stakeholders, is necessary for a successful cloud migration. When the team knows what to expect, they are more likely to be aligned with the organization's goals. Questions that key stakeholders should consider when preparing their team for change:

- How will the cloud migration impact your organization's culture and work processes?

- Are your teams ready to adapt to new technologies and processes?

- What kind of training and support will be necessary to ensure a successful transition to the cloud?

Step 4: Determine What Will Be Migrated

Do this ahead of the migration to allow for a more organized and efficient migration process — ensuring that key workloads are successfully moved and avoiding potential issues related to licensing, networking, and data volumes. When determining what will be migrated, consider:

- Which applications, data, and systems are suitable for migration to the cloud, and have you reviewed licensing stipulations for applications and processes to be migrated?

- What are the technical requirements for migrating each application, data, and system?

- How will you prioritize which applications, data, and systems to migrate first?

Step 5: Calculate Current TCO

It is important to determine actual IT infrastructure costs, including factors beyond server costs. This enables informed decisions about cost savings from a cloud migration and identifying areas for optimization or decommissioning to avoid adding to costs. To calculate TCO, consider the following questions:

- What are the current costs associated with maintaining your on-premises infrastructure?

- What is the current cost of licensing and supporting your current software?

- What is the current cost of hardware and maintenance, including upgrades and replacements?

Talk to an expert about a cloud readiness assessment

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