

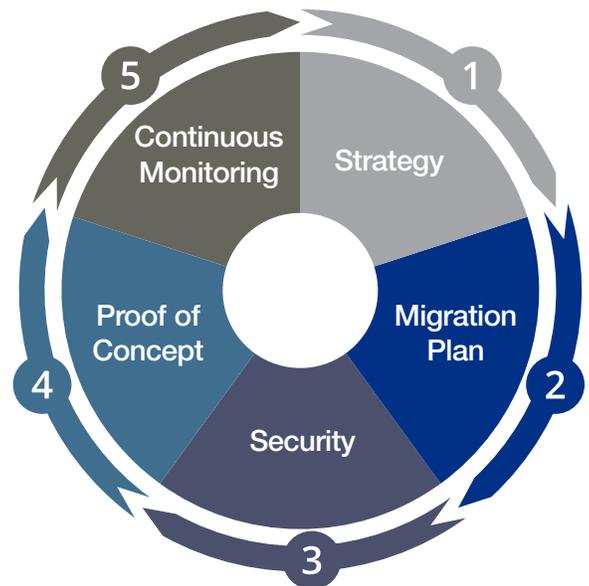
Short Guide to Cloud Migration – A Five Step Process

WHITE PAPER

Cloud Solutions

Agencies and organizations are more willing now than ever to adopt cloud computing. Research into the pace of adoption in the government sector identified a quarter of federal agencies are “aggressively moving” systems to the cloud and more than half are more confidently moving systems with fewer security and operational concerns¹. However, as agencies look to embrace the benefits of cloud computing they are presented with a new set of challenges to overcome.

Though there are many ways to approach cloud migration, it is important to plan a migration path that is secure, repeatable and reliable. This guide explores a proven, iterative and repeatable five step process to achieving a successful cloud migration strategy focused on business outcomes and mission.



¹ Migration Motivation – The Shift in Federal Cloud Optimism (MeriTalk Research, June 2016)

1. Strategy Development

Focus on Business Outcomes

The first step to a successful journey into cloud includes the development of a strategy driven by business and mission objectives. Cloud enablement projects typically fail when based on technology or tools alone. In order to develop a sound strategy, it is important to clearly articulate the long-term objectives, business processes and required outcomes, and why moving into a cloud environment is essential (e.g. what business goals are satisfied). A focus on business outcomes and organizational impacts also helps identify the appropriate cloud model – public, private, hybrid or community cloud. And finally, paramount to guaranteeing a realistic and achievable strategy, all the right stakeholders must be involved and in agreement from the beginning.

2. Migration Planning

Identify Risk versus Value

A migration plan acts as the checklist for moving into a cloud. Begin by mapping all the applications and potential target models (IaaS/PaaS/SaaS), but keep in mind not all applications are appropriate for a cloud environment. Identifying the risk versus value of moving a certain application or set of applications into a cloud model can help determine the data and systems which are appropriate for migration. It is important to prioritize based on business value, risk and suitability. Cloud migrations can become time and cost inhibitive if the plans do not account for organizational and system impacts.

3. Security Factors

Consider Requirements Early

One of the most important considerations when migrating to the cloud is security. This should be embedded in the early planning stages, not as an afterthought. This will not only minimize the risk to systems and data, it will mitigate user fear and resistance to accept migration. At a minimum, it is important to meet FedRAMP security requirements and achieve an Authority to Operate (ATO). This gives application owners and users peace of mind knowing that the cloud provider has policies in place compliant with stringent standards.

4. Proof of Concept

Manage Change by Demonstrating Value

As in the case of adopting anything new, quick wins matter when demonstrating the capability of processes or technology. Cloud migrations are no different. By developing incremental capabilities using the proof of concept model, one can achieve quick wins and user commitment. This approach not only alleviates the concerns users may have about cloud adoption, but provides insight to leadership on the real value of leveraging a cloud model.

5. Continuous Monitoring

Reduce Threat Posture

Once in the cloud, all systems should be monitored continuously. Processes should be in place to help significantly reduce threat posture, provide real-time insight into current threat exposure and tighten security controls.

Migration to the cloud is a complex undertaking often involving multiple systems, applications and data, in addition to organizational and stakeholder considerations. The agencies who have achieved the most success from the cloud have focused on business and mission outcomes, security from the outset, and have demonstrated success by migrating low-risk or high-priority applications to the cloud, first. Leveraging this five step process can alleviate missteps and ensure a positive cloud migration experience.

**View the 5-Step Process to Secure
Cloud Migration Webinar:**

brighttalk.com/webcast/13383/229341

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