

6 Steps of a Flawless Migration to Azure



The public cloud, with Microsoft Azure as a leading provider, is poised to become the backbone of business operations. According to Gartner, it is projected that by 2025, over 95% of new digital workloads will originate from the cloud. Concurrently, 80% of businesses anticipate shutting down their on-premise data centers by the same year, a significant increase from just 10% in 2020.

This trend indicates a massive shift of companies towards cloud migration, with many choosing Azure for its robust infrastructure and offerings. However, the success rate of these migrations is not as high as the rate of adoption. McKinsey's research reveals that 75% of current cloud migrations overshoot their budget, and nearly 40% surpass their scheduled timelines.

The prevalence of these issues can be attributed to inadequate planning, insufficient understanding of the prerequisites for a successful cloud migration, and errors during testing and training phases.

Ensure a flawless migration of mission critical enterprise workloads like SAP by following these six steps - and accelerate your successful IT modernization to achieve the goals, outcomes, and ROI you expect from the cloud journey.

Enterprises That Will Close Their Traditional Data Centers

Percentages of Respondents



Source: Gartner (February 2019)
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Gartner

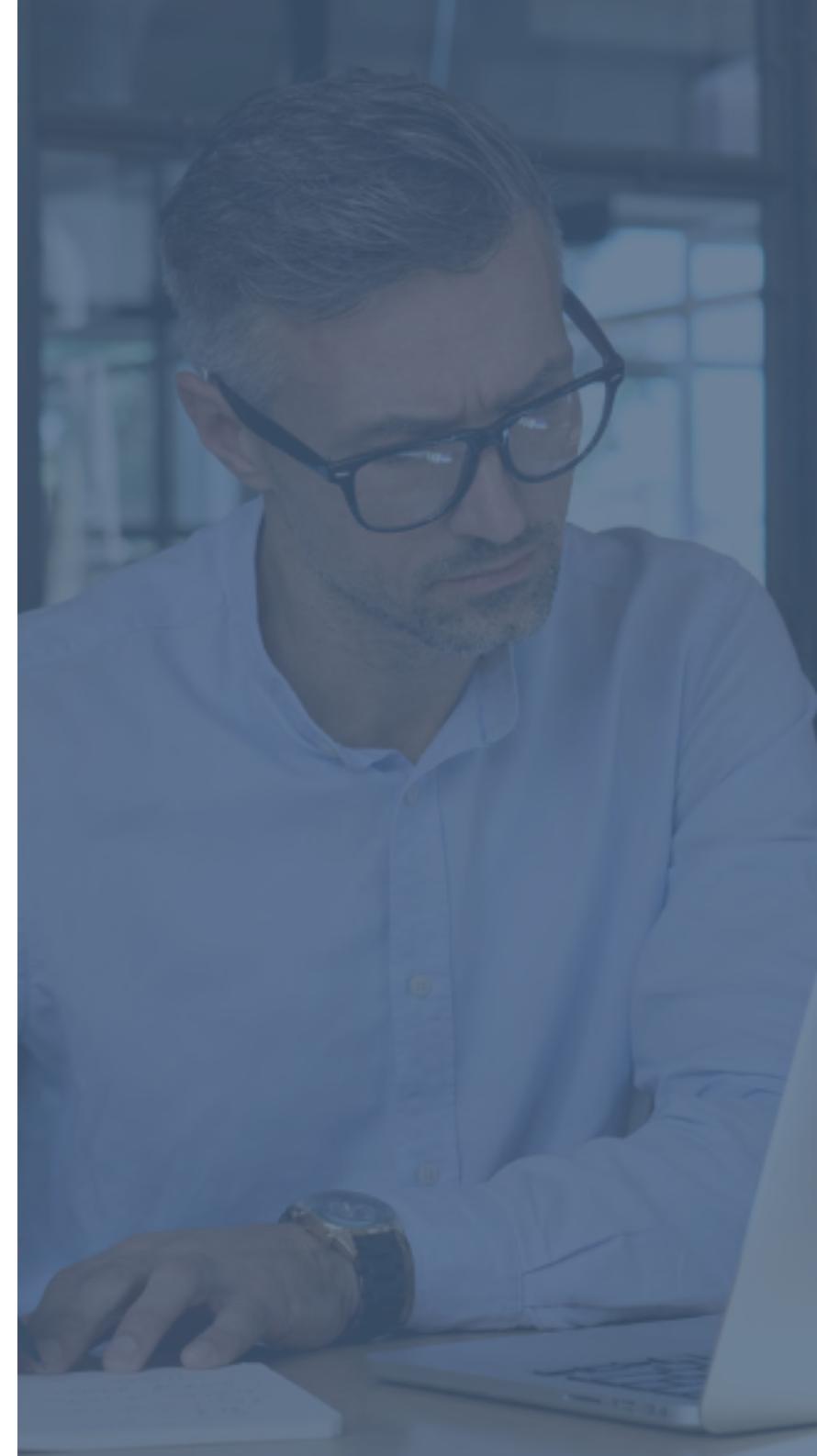
6 STEPS OF A FLAWLESS MIGRATION TO AZURE

1. Define Your Strategy and Align Stakeholders

Just like any substantial business endeavor or transformation, the first crucial step to a successful cloud migration is to clearly and comprehensively define your strategy. Identify all the individuals who will be involved in the planning and execution of your migration and ensure their inclusion in this phase. Jointly, delineate the scope, timeline, budget, and anticipated business outcomes of your proposed cloud migration and achieve alignment among all stakeholders.

Bear in mind that cloud migrations, even those initially perceived as single-unit or department-specific initiatives, usually have broader implications. The shift from on-premise to cloud environments affects different business units and teams in various ways.

At this stage, it's essential to gain perspective into potential impacts, understand both common and individual goals, and address any concerns your team members may have about the migration. Investing in alignment fosters collaboration and smoother execution throughout your migration. It also ensures that contributors at every level of your organization — from IT management and company executives to daily support teams — are all moving in the same direction towards shared objectives.



2. Assess Your Current Environment

Next, it's critical to understand your current environment in its entirety — the components of your IT infrastructure, complexities, dependencies, and existing issues that may exist. This step is essential for mapping your Azure cloud migration execution plan and determining the steps that need to be taken to move your organization from its current to future target state.

Other areas of focus include security, performance efficiency, scalability, and of course, cost. A cloud migration is only the first step toward modernizing IT and business strategy — like being more agile and data-driven, implementing DevOps, DevSecOps and/or FinOps, and offering more innovative, flexible customer experiences, and more.

Knowing where your current environment stands, identifying your target state on Azure, and choosing a provider with the right services, features, and capabilities to get you there is an investment in your company's future. On the flip side, failing to do a current state assessment could miss including critical systems, integrations and IT infrastructure or application footprints essential to your migration. The result? Having to repeat activities, replan and migrate systems, and take on the time and cost implications that come along with unexpected changes in project scope.

3. Establish Strong Governance Frameworks

The establishment of robust governance frameworks is crucial, not only for the duration of your cloud migration to Azure but also for the period following the go-live. More specifically, it is imperative to ensure that your existing team and trusted Managed Service Provider (MSP) are prepared to manage the transition from an on-premise environment to the cloud.

Identify the roles and responsibilities for each individual, team, and partner, establish communication and escalation channels, and set up monitoring and reporting mechanisms. It is essential to include stakeholders from your organization and all partners involved in your migration planning and execution. This ensures that every key contributor is aligned and adheres to the same outlined processes.



4. Test, Test, Test (Then Test Again)

The importance of rigorous testing at every stage of your cloud migration to Azure cannot be overstated. Surprisingly, many organizations underestimate this step, assuming their data and workloads will transfer to the cloud as planned. However, this is seldom the case.

Given the vast size of most infrastructures and the complexities/nuances of integrating critical applications like SAP, RISE with SAP, or other workloads, there will inevitably be applications and other components of your infrastructure that require adjustments and updates for a successful transition to the cloud.



Failure to do so can lead to significant post go-live consequences, such as data loss, application failure, and security breaches.

Avoid these issues by testing and validating workloads and processes in phases throughout your cloud migration. This approach ensures higher quality at each phase, so that when you finally proceed to the product migration of your environments, it occurs seamlessly and without any unwelcome surprises.

5. Train Your Team or Secure a Trusted MSP

The cloud comes with new capabilities and thus new responsibilities for IT teams that didn't exist in an on-premise environment. Here are some examples:

Security — The increased vulnerability of public-cloud attack surfaces necessitates more sophisticated security tools and disciplines.

Automation — Automating routine tasks and ensuring they are performed comprehensively across the organization.

Data Management — The public cloud significantly enhances data bandwidth and analytics capabilities, demanding new types of management around storage, handling, integrations, and privacy. Additionally, cloud providers like Azure have native cloud data management offerings that can be leveraged.

Modern Work: — Extending the capabilities of cloud across the business with agile, flexible, and fully governed expansion solutions to elevate employee experience- such as M365 Directory Management, Virtual Desktop & Published Applications, Endpoint Management, and CoPilot Enablement.

Your IT team must be adequately trained and prepared to assume these and other new cloud management responsibilities from Day 0 of your go-live on the cloud.

Assuming your teams will learn on the job is a mistake that could lead to a number of issues that inhibit your cloud operations and cause frustration for your end users.



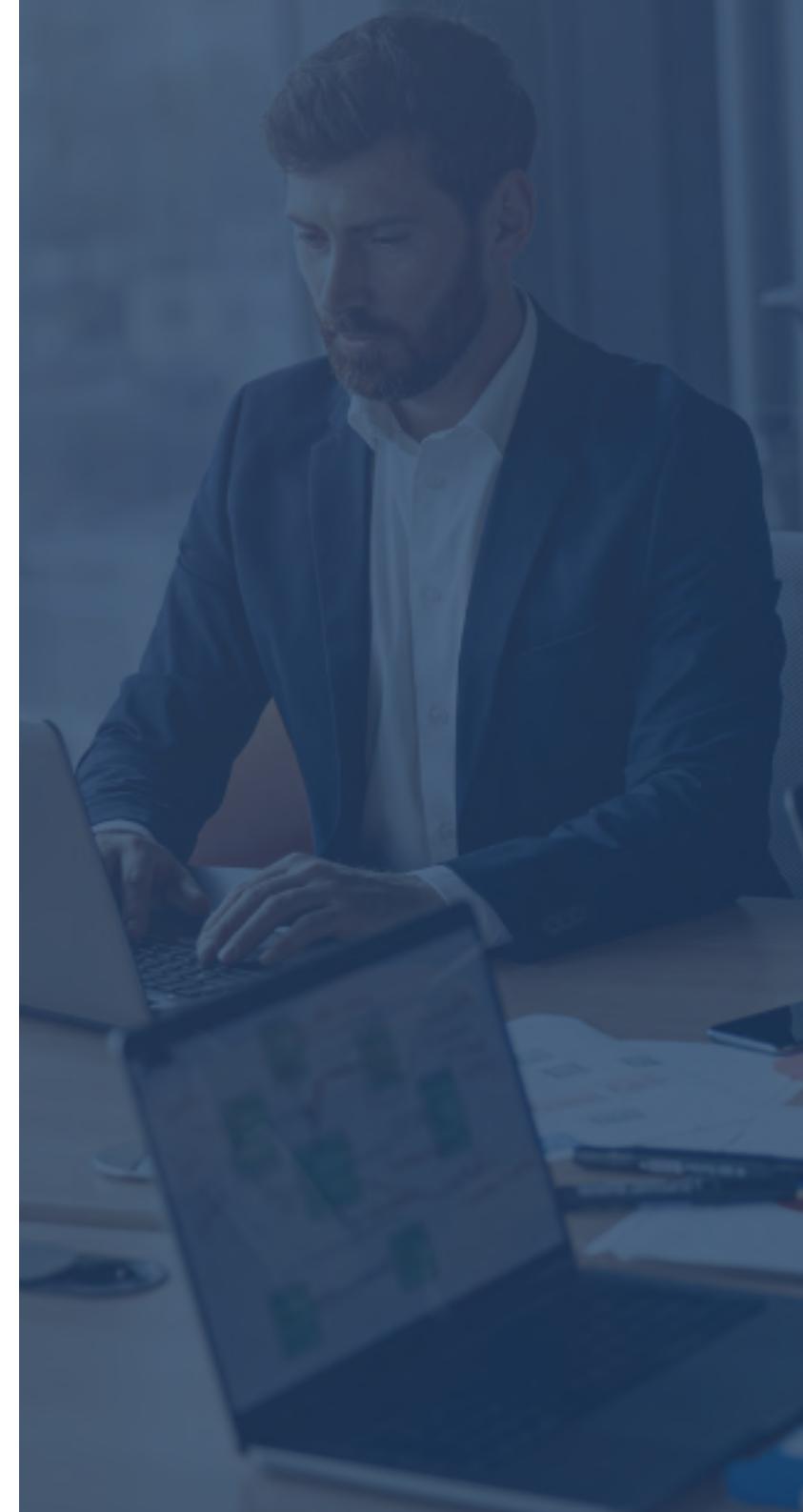
6. Review the Value of a Trusted Cloud Migration Partner

Cloud migration is a fundamental and crucial step towards larger and more transformative initiatives in your company's future. Making critical errors throughout the process, either due to taking shortcuts or simply being unaware of certain aspects, can lead to significant cloud creep, overruns, security vulnerabilities, subpar stakeholder experiences, and adverse impacts on revenue.

Even those who take measures to plan and execute to their best ability encounter many of the risks and challenges we highlighted throughout the six steps to cloud migration. These include security concerns, a lack of internal expertise and resources, and issues managing cloud expenditure.

Perhaps the only way to achieve complete confidence in your cloud migration planning and execution is by collaborating with a trusted cloud migration partner. A trusted cloud migration partner with the requisite experience, expertise, and resources, can fill your internal gaps and ensure all critical steps towards a flawless migration are complete.

This is why many companies choose to outsource all or a portion of their cloud migrations and ongoing cloud management to a Managed Service Provider (MSP). Not only is this approach cost-effective and reliable, but it also enables you to reassign your dedicated internal IT employees to more strategic, value-adding roles while your partner manages the day-to-day IT operations.





50% TCO Savings and 2X Performance Improvement After Migrating to Microsoft Azure with Protera

Vilore Foods, exclusive importer, distributor, and marketer of leading Hispanic brands in the U.S. and Canada, faced a significant technological pivot when required to migrate from their previous cloud service provider which was decommissioning their data centers. The migration needed to achieve minimal downtime and disruption while maintaining continuity of critical business operations. Additionally, an upgrade to SAP S/4HANA was an imperative to leverage enhanced functionalities including real-time analytics.

The dual challenge of migrating existing SAP systems to a new platform while upgrading to SAP S/4HANA required meticulous planning and flawless execution. The migration of SAP and surrounding workloads was completed with zero downtime and without any disruption to Vilore Foods' daily operations, marking a seamless transition to a more robust and scalable cloud environment.

“

Protera's expertise in SAP and Azure has enabled us to embrace innovative cloud technology such as AI and Microsoft CoPilot, positioning the company for future advancements.” — Eduardo Valdes, IT Director

See the Case Study

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How Protera Can Help

Protera is the pioneer in migrating and managing SAP in production on the cloud. Protera is an AI Cloud Solution Partner with specializations in SAP on Azure, Windows Server and SQL Server Migration, Azure Virtual Desktop, Azure Networking, DevOps on GitHub, and has earned the designation for Security. Protera is a certified, accredited Microsoft partner with a deep engineering relationship that enables early access to new technologies and integrated Microsoft Azure cloud native tooling.

Whether you're initiating your first cloud migration, adopting RISE with SAP, or modernizing an entire data center, Protera boasts experience in migrating and modernizing the most intricate enterprise environments across industry, with a focus on quantifiable business outcomes.

Schedule a Review with an Azure Expert

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