Decisions, Decisions. Key Insights into Cloud Migration

Cloud services are being touted as the most important technology in decades[1]. Find out why companies are moving to the cloud.

Driving interests
Disaster recovery (42%)
Always-on access (40%)
Cost savings (40%)
Reduced infrastructure (38%)
Scalability (35%)

Not everyone has made the switch

31% of organizations have no current plans to move their IT infrastructure to the cloud

50% have assessed strategy, reviewed vendors, or plan to move to the cloud

19% are already moved some of their applications to the cloud

What's holding them back?

The obstacles
Security concerns (65%)
Systems integration (34%)
Systems Performance (33%)
Computance (32%)
Lack of standards 28%

The primary concern for those not on the cloud is security. Let's take a look at the threats online, today.

Top 5 Cyber Threats	Things all of these have in common
59% Malware	79% were targets of opportunity
57% Phishing	85% took weeks (or longer) to discover
44% Data Leakage	92% discovered by a third party
43% Hacking	94% involved servers
42% Spam	96% breaches were not difficult

BUT

Cloud solutions can reduce the risk of many cyber threats. That's why 50% of **global companies** rely on the cloud.

WHY?

61% cloud migration projects are driven by business leaders seeking collaborative innovation

---

[1] http://time.com/3856963/2015-the-cloud/

59% say cloud allows them to collaborate with business partners today

The cloud adds a layer of security implications to the IT landscape. Given the emphasis on collaborative work, the cloud offers data sharing controls. In addition, an enterprise must ensure that their organization remains in compliance. International companies need to comply with regulations that vary by country or economic region.

Interested in migrating to the cloud? The following checklist will make sure you have everything in order.

The Only Cloud Migration Checklist You Need

The journey to the cloud requires a series of detailed analyses that inform major business decisions. Whether looking to keep implementation in-house or seeking a third-party partner, it is imperative to establish key business goals before proceeding. Here is a detailed checklist to ensure that you leave no stone unturned.

Everyone Needs a Little Help Sometimes

Migrating to the cloud isn't a simple one-time deal; it involves careful planning, constant analysis, and a defined process in order to mitigate overall disruption of an organization's day-to-day. A third-party vendor or partner can not only offload the work, but provide an experienced hand that will expedite the process. Here are some questions that will facilitate choosing the right partner for your company:

- Is the service provider you are considering a trusted provider?
- Does the vendor understand the specific needs for and have the capabilities to support those applications that you will look to use in a cloud?
- Is there an optimal combination of private and public cloud services that would optimize business performance?
- Does the vendor offer SLAs, or ensure performance of cloud services as well as required security capabilities?
- Can the vendor deliver solutions on a global scale, as well support a global enterprise?
- Does the vendor understand your business, business risks, and regulatory requirements?

Looking to Keep it in the Family?

People in the IT industry have built their lives on finding solutions; it's perfectly natural to want to conquer this task in-house. The decision to move to the cloud, however, is a process that involves multiple departments and a good deal of analyses. A third-party vendor has the experience to complete the daunting task at hand with minimal disruption to your organization. The following list details what is involved in a cloud migration project.

In the Beginning

Before beginning the assessment process, you will need to gather relevant information about your company, including (but not limited to) the workload and environment. Here is a list of key questions to get you started

Business goals

- Is your organization planning expansion? Are you adding other facilities, users, or branches?
- Are you deploying a new application, or replacing an old one?
- What are the reasons you are currently considering the cloud, and is there another option?

User base

- Is your organization overdue for an upgrade in hardware? Outdated gear may need to be replaced before moving to the cloud.
- Do you anticipate any changes to the organization's workload in the near future?

Infrastructure

- What type of cloud model are you considering: public, private or hybrid? Which is best for your company?
- Are you building out your own data center?
- Are you migrating your entire operations? Will you keep some applications in-house?

Not that you've established your organizations cloud involvement, you can begin

Phase 1: Discovery
- Asses business environment
- Review IT strategy
- Assess Cloud strategy
- Perform cloud readiness assessment
- Perform cloud maturity assessment
- Conduct gap analysis
- Conduct proof of concepts
- Identify cloud drivers
- Identify economic imperatives
- Identify barriers and obstacles
- Complete business discovery documentation

Phase 2: Analysis
Analyze the information you gathered in the Discovery Phase. Don't forget to take a look at governance, the skillset required for implementation, compliance, risk, and cost.

- Develop goals for cloud development
- Develop scenarios
- Develop architecture
- Define enablement
- Create an operations, management, and governance plan
- Define your organization's ecosystem on the cloud
- Define metrics
- Define and finalize cloud deployment plan

Phase 3: Mobilization
- Clearly identify a preferred cloud migration plan
- Evaluate scenarios and on-the-spot options
- Determine desired results and their viability
- Enact cloud education
- Transition to implementation

Phase 4: Implementation
- Confirm cloud strategy
- Refine cloud architecture
- Select use-case for implementation
- Plan cloud reference implementation
- Perform tech and provider analysis
- Implement provider's tech
- Define migration and onboarding plan
- Validate and test plan
- Complete cloud reference implementation
- Execute cloud validation
- Begin cloud operations, management, and governance
- Measure ROI

Looks complicated, doesn't it. Let Bird Rock Systems take care of details so your team doesn't have to.

Download the presentation to find out what makes Bird Rock Systems Different.