# Cloud Migration PM Checklist From Servers to Services

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Migrating to the cloud is one of the most strategic moves an organization can make—but it's also one of the most complex. Whether you're shifting from on-prem servers to AWS, Azure, or Google Cloud, cloud migration projects demand **rigorous planning, careful coordination, and deep cross-functional collaboration.**

As a project manager, you don’t need to be a cloud architect—but you *do* need to understand the lifecycle, risks, and critical checkpoints to keep your migration on track and secure. Here's a practical guide to navigating the journey—from legacy infrastructure to cloud-native services.

## 🧭 Phase 1: Discovery & Assessment

The groundwork of any successful migration starts with knowing what you’re moving—and why.

**Key Tasks:**

* Inventory current systems and dependencies
* Identify quick wins (e.g., file servers, non-production apps)
* Conduct readiness assessments (network, storage, licenses)
* Align stakeholders on goals (cost savings, agility, scalability)
* Choose the right migration strategy: **Rehost, Refactor, Rearchitect, Rebuild, Replace**

📌 *PM Tip:* Partner with cloud architects and security to evaluate data residency, compliance, and connectivity needs early.

## 🛠️ Phase 2: Planning & Design

Next comes building the blueprint that will guide your execution.

**Key Tasks:**

* Define scope, timeline, and migration waves
* Secure budget and cloud service provider contracts
* Establish a governance model and RACI matrix
* Set up landing zones and core infrastructure (IAM, VPCs, firewalls)
* Create rollback and contingency plans

📌 *PM Tip:* Include buffer time for provisioning, licensing, and change control approvals.

## 🚚 Phase 3: Migration Execution

With a plan in place, it’s time to move workloads to the cloud—methodically and securely.

**Key Tasks:**

* Coordinate infrastructure setup (VMs, containers, storage buckets)
* Migrate workloads by wave (starting with low-risk systems)
* Validate with smoke testing and UAT
* Track issues in real-time via Jira or ServiceNow
* Monitor performance and security during migration

📌 *PM Tip:* Establish a command center or war room for high-visibility cutovers.

## 📈 Phase 4: Optimization & Handover

Post-migration is where ROI begins. Optimize, stabilize, and hand off for operational success.

**Key Tasks:**

* Conduct cost analysis and rightsizing (e.g., eliminate overprovisioned VMs)
* Enable auto-scaling and performance tuning
* Transition ownership to Ops or DevSecOps teams
* Archive lessons learned and update documentation
* Schedule regular review cycles for performance and spend

📌 *PM Tip:* Use cloud-native tools (e.g., AWS CloudWatch, Azure Monitor) for ongoing visibility.

## ✅ Final Thoughts

Cloud migration is more than a tech initiative—it’s a business transformation. As a project manager, your role is to guide the organization through ambiguity, technical hurdles, and shifting priorities—while ensuring clarity, communication, and control.

Use this checklist to make your next cloud migration efficient, secure, and aligned with your strategic goals.

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