

Cloud readiness checklist:

- 1) Cloud strategy signed off by both business and IT
Knowing why the business wants to move to cloud is essential to understanding that there will be a benefit and value realized from moving to cloud. The business and IT need to be aligned to ensure buy in from all sides, and ultimate success as workloads are moved.
- 2) Network assessed (IP/subnet, routing & name resolution et al)
The network that is built to browse the Internet is not the same network that can be used to consume cloud-based services. It is very important to understand the current traffic patterns on the existing network before an attempt to move to cloud.
- 3) Security and NexGen firewall requirements (load balancers, IPS, IDS)
Understanding what traffic leaves and enters your network is extremely critical to building a suitable security framework for cloud-based services. Knowing what you have in place and where you want to go may appear to be obvious statements, but you will be surprised how many organisations actually have no idea what is actually going on.
- 4) Crypto/encryption/certificates identified and documented
Establishing whether encryption is required and at what level could severely affect the price tag and complexity of moving to cloud. This needs to be understood and documented up front before organisations make the decision to move to cloud.
- 5) Management and reporting requirements documented
We need to know what is happening in our environment and we need to be able to report on that so that we are able to make informed decisions to improve the environment on an iterative basis.
- 6) Maintenance and operational requirements documented
We need to define this upfront, if we know what effort is required in our current environment we will have a better idea of determining what effort may be required after moving to cloud. This may just help us in making a more accurate decision.
- 7) Onboarding and Off boarding (M&A) strategy documented
Having a sound mergers and acquisitions strategy is essential before moving to cloud. This will make the effort required to engage and dis-engage with other business entities smoother and a lot more cost effective.

- 8) Decommissioning and succession strategy documented

Knowing when your infrastructure reaches end-of-life is extremely important. This may expedite or even delay moving to the cloud. Some businesses like to 'sweat' their assets for many years which will definitely affect the timing of moving to the cloud. On the other hand, it may expedite the decision as there may be a cost saving opportunity. For example; replacing end-of-life on premises storage, it may be more cost effective to move the storage to the cloud.

- 9) Development operational life cycle framework documented

This is extremely important, and organisations have been caught out by this. They have many line of business applications developed in-house and then the resources that developed the product leave the organisation, sound familiar? Refactoring of applications is an essential need to moving to cloud and not having this framework in place could just be very costly.

- 10) Content and data management, classification and protection documented

Knowing what your data is, why you have it and what you intend doing with it is extremely important to any organisation. Knowing this upfront before moving to the cloud is essential, especially with all the new compliance and regulations coming soon.