

VOLOGY



# 5 STEP PATH TO THE CLOUD

**Organizations—from small and medium-sized businesses to enterprises—continue to invest in public cloud architecture with the goal of delivering more productivity, better agility and stronger security to their IT efforts.**

According to Gartner, [the global public cloud services market is projected to grow by 17.3 percent](#) during 2019 to \$206.2 billion, up from \$175.8 billion in 2018. In addition, 83 percent of workloads are expected to run in the cloud by 2020, as surveyed by [LogicMonitor's Cloud Vision 2020](#), with 41 percent of enterprise workloads likely running on public cloud platforms by the same year.


These and many other similar cloud adoption statistics indicate a monumental shift of applications and data to the public cloud. This shift is evident across all industries, from the financial segment to educational institutions and to the secondary sector of the economy. But, with cloud adoption come many challenges organizations must overcome to successfully use the cloud at a massive scale and across multiple lines of business.

This white paper offers a proven Cloud Adoption Plan consisting of five simple steps organizations of all sizes can use when developing, testing and executing a cloud migration strategy. While the migration of applications and data to the public cloud is anything but a trivial process, following these steps ensures it is not time-consuming or risky.

## STEP 1: DEVELOP A CLOUD STRATEGY

There are many reasons for organizations to move to the cloud. But first, every organization must explore its core motivations to develop a clear cloud strategy. This then provides stakeholders with estimated outcomes, results and financial projections.

[“Exploiting cloud successfully and safely](#) requires multiple domains to coordinate and develop a business-driven decision framework and best practice IT operational models,” says David Cearley, research vice president and fellow at Gartner. “This helps standardize cloud strategy across an organization, while allowing for an approach that will meet the unique needs of different use cases and business units.”



Gartner proposes five questions every organization must ask to define its cloud strategy:

- How and where should our organization consume cloud computing services?
- How will we access, manage, integrate, secure and govern across hybrid environments?
- How does cloud computing factor into our architecture and application strategy?
- How should our infrastructure and existing data center technologies and approaches change?
- Where will our business become a cloud computing service provider to others?

Organizations should also break down their estimated costs into capital versus operating expenses, because the move to the cloud involves the embrace of subscriptions, instead of capital investments.

## STEP 2: CREATE ORGANIZATIONAL BUY-IN

After developing a detailed cloud strategy, it is time to create organizational buy-in by first talking to the users. Everyone must understand why migrating to the cloud is important, and they must know the benefits they will experience. They should also be aware of any complications which may occur during and after the migration.

It is advisable to create a Technology Advisory Board comprised of all key stakeholders. Their expertise can help mitigate issues which might have otherwise occurred during the migration. A Technology Advisory Board should include an executive sponsor, field general, solutions architect, system administrator, cloud security manager and compliance specialist.

Some organizations may want to partner with a cloud migration specialist or a trusted provider of managed IT services to fill in any missing role or roles and make up for insufficient expertise and experience. It is always better to partner with a trusted technology partner than take any unnecessary risks, especially when considering [the failure rate of data migration projects is 38 percent](#), according to Bloor Research.

## STEP 3: PREPARE TO GO LIVE

Ahead of the actual migration, all stakeholders should receive training documentation and support guidelines. A decision must be made whether the transition can be performed in parallel—with both the new and the old system running for a period of time or in a staged cutover, incrementally switching to the new system.

By testing applications in the cloud before officially migrating them, organizations can avoid costly and inefficient deployment issues and perform optimization when the stakes are still relatively low. Regardless of how the testing of individual applications goes, it is always advisable to have some sort of contingency plan.

## STEP 4: MIGRATE TO THE CLOUD

After completing the previous three steps, the actual migration to the cloud should go smoothly and without major challenges. Even though the failure rate of data migration projects is 38 percent, most organizations only fail because they neglect the planning stage.

Organizations should consider using a migration solution. This allows for a reversion to the original configuration. Essentially, it de-risks the migration process by providing a safety net, prompting a restart.

“Your cloud migration doesn’t have to be a blind leap. [There are many tools to help you with planning, discovery and tracking each step of your migration](#),” advises Fredric Paul, Editor-in-Chief at New Relic. “Use these tools to take inventory, build a pre-migration business case, perform migration readiness, plan the actual migration of workloads and data, and validate that your migration was successful.”

## STEP 5: MIGRATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

No cloud migration is considered truly successful unless it delivers direct value to the organization. When RightScale conducted its sixth annual [State of the Cloud Survey](#) of the latest cloud computing trends, the software-as-a-service provider discovered 40 percent of customer service employees, 30 percent of sales workers and 22 percent of marketing users said they received new benefits from the cloud.


Organizations should always measure post-migration success and continuously assess performance to prove the cloud delivers direct value to the business. To leverage the cloud at its maximum potential, organizations must also change their operational usage habits, meeting the highly-dynamic environment the cloud provides.

An experienced managed services provider (MSP) like [Vology](#) can help organizations take advantage of the agile, flexible and scalable nature of the cloud. Such a trusted technology partner can offer ongoing support and administration to help organizations innovate faster, scale smarter, uncover additional cost savings and stay secure.

### ABOUT VOLOGY

Vology, a leading Managed IT, Security and Cloud Services Provider, positions companies for growth by powering digital transformation and delivering custom solutions. Vology currently monitors, manages and maintains 260,000 devices at 32,000 customer sites, providing 24/7/365 support through its U.S.-based Network and Security Operations Centers. Vology is ranked as the No. 21 Managed Services Provider in the world on the 2018 MSP 501 list with access to 2,200 fully vetted field technicians nationwide.

### GET IN TOUCH

 888.808.2199

 [CONTACT@VOLOGY.COM](mailto:CONTACT@VOLOGY.COM)

 [VOLOGY.COM](http://VOLOGY.COM)