

SECTION 5

Before You Migrate

BEFORE YOU MIGRATE

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Prior to migration, you need to build a virtual datacenter in your cloud, including connectivity, networking, storage, and identity - elements comparable to your on-premises environment.

By building this virtual datacenter, you can ensure that your applications will continue to support the business after migration, without surprises. Building this in the cloud is a streamlined process, as you can leverage available components for fast assembly and configuration. Many excellent tools as well as guidance can help accelerate this step, but below are some of the basics—and why they're important to migration.

IDENTITY



As with your on-premises environment, you need a way for users to be identified and authenticated to ensure secure access to your new cloud resources. In most cases, this means running active directory or a similar solution. You could simply extend your on-premises identity to the cloud to support the migrated workloads. However, many cloud providers have built-in identity solutions provided as a service. These can also integrate with your on-premises identity systems to enable single sign-on for user convenience. As your workloads will now be stored within the cloud, you'll also want seamless access for users between your existing on-premises systems and the systems you've migrated.

To ensure a harmonious user experience—while supporting your expected growth into more advanced cloud services—a good investment would be a cloud-based identity management solution connected to your on-premises environment.

STORAGE



Another necessity in your cloud is a storage platform that will meet the expected performance needs of your migrated workloads. On-premises, this platform is usually through network attached storage (NAS) or storage area network (SAN) systems. In the cloud, virtual storage is often through blobs or page blobs, depending on the type of data being stored.

Fortunately, you can choose among many storage types to guarantee reliable performance, including performance and access levels, backup, geographical replication, and disaster recovery. Working with a virtual storage platform means you also have a finer degree of control and configuration. You can easily configure exact storage requirements for each workload as needed, without having to worry about physical architecture.

NETWORKING



Networks are crucial. They are the figurative backbone of the datacenter. Moving to the cloud requires a new way of networking, since you're no longer reliant on physical topology. In fact, you can now overcome physical boundaries with a single subnet, which simplifies networking communication.

When moving applications from on-premises to the cloud, you may want to keep them in the same networking subnets and even IP address ranges to ensure a seamless migration. Virtual networking can support this and merge with your on-premises physical networking architecture, as needed. This ensures that your applications can continue to use the network topology they were built upon, further easing migration.

CONNECTIVITY



During migration, you will move vast amounts of data. However, you'll still be moving data even after the bulk of your critical workloads are hosted in the cloud. As such, you should consider a more dedicated connectivity option to help with the data transfer and ultimate end-user experience.

You may currently have virtual networks set up, possibly using Internet or site-to-site VPNs to connect to your cloud environment. While this works well for smaller deployments, you'll need a new approach to run an entire enterprise both during and after migration.

READINESS



While many core management skills can migrate to the cloud, there are some key differences. You'll need to get up to speed on new skills. However, training takes time away from performing core duties, can be costly, and oftentimes doesn't properly build on what you already know.

Synchroworks Consulting can help solve these problems by means of unique learning paths focused on job roles and by way of managing the entire process for you.

BEGINNING YOUR MIGRATION



Now it's time to begin your migration journey to the cloud. Contact Synchroworks Consulting to help you with the process to maximize success and efficiency.



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