

Cloud Migration Planning Guide

A pragmatic sequence for planning a low-risk migration to AWS, Azure, or Google Cloud.

Phase 1 — Assess

- Inventory workloads, dependencies, and data stores
- Classify each workload against the 7 Rs
- Map data residency, licensing, and compliance constraints
- Establish a target landing zone with account/subscription structure

Phase 2 — Design

- Design network topology (hub-spoke or shared VPC)
- Define IAM boundaries and SSO federation
- Select observability, backup, and secrets platforms
- Codify everything in Terraform / Bicep from day one

Phase 3 — Pilot

- Migrate one low-risk workload end-to-end
- Document runbook, cutover plan, and rollback plan
- Measure cost, performance, and operational overhead vs baseline

Phase 4 — Migrate

- Sequence workloads by dependency and risk
- Run parallel environments for stateful cutovers
- Cutover in maintenance windows with tested rollback

Phase 5 — Optimize

- Right-size compute after 30 days of steady-state
- Enable Savings Plans / Reservations
- Refactor to managed services where ROI is clear
- Post-migration security and DR review