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ENTERPRISE SOLUTIONS | a Broad Horizon company

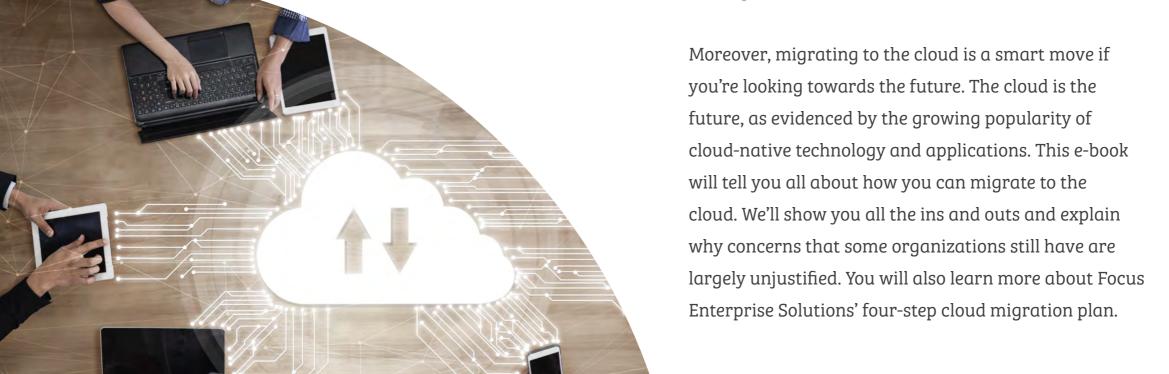CLOUD MIGRATION

MIGRATING TO THE CLOUD: WHY AND HOW

CLOUD MIGRATION: WHY AND HOW

More and more organizations are discovering the cloud. Gartner, for example, predicts that cloud services will account for 14.2% of total IT spending by 2024. Working in the cloud is rapidly becoming the new norm, a development that has been accelerated by the coronavirus pandemic. Organizations need to work faster than ever to help their staff work remotely, save costs, and ensure their own continuity.

The cloud is the answer to these challenges. Because cloud solutions use pay-per-use models for the services you take out, you'll soon gain a good understanding of the cost of ownership. The scalability offered by the cloud also makes it easy to match resources and workspaces to your current needs. It's easier to scale up, and to enable or disable capacity temporarily when needed. Data and applications are also available anywhere, anytime. Perfect for remote working and an ideal way to respond rapidly to new market developments.

Moreover, migrating to the cloud is a smart move if you're looking towards the future. The cloud is the future, as evidenced by the growing popularity of cloud-native technology and applications. This e-book will tell you all about how you can migrate to the cloud. We'll show you all the ins and outs and explain why concerns that some organizations still have are largely unjustified. You will also learn more about Focus Enterprise Solutions' four-step cloud migration plan.

WHAT SOME ORGANIZATIONS HAVE AGAINST THE CLOUD

Many organizations see the cloud as an interesting option, but some still have cold feet. There are certain aspects or components of migration to the cloud that they find hard to get past. Here are a few examples and why these concerns are often unjustified.

Security

In the early days, the cloud was still prone to hacks and data breaches. But technology has since developed rapidly. Major cloud providers like Microsoft and Amazon spend huge amounts of money, time, and expertise making their services secure.
These include not only automatic security updates and advanced encryption techniques, but also various authentication procedures and creating access and user roles.

Control over data

Will I still have control over and reliable access to all my data? This is a question many companies ask themselves when considering migrating to the cloud. As long as you choose a sound implementation partner, then there's no need to worry. They guarantee high uptime and often store data in multiple locations within the EU. This makes it much more reliable than storing all your data in a dedicated physical server room. Do pay extra attention when storing and transferring data involving a country outside the EU, though.

Complexity

Many organizations think migrating to the cloud will be complicated. But as long as you have solid migration plan, clear wishlist, and overview of your current and future IT environment, then things will go swimmingly. This is especially true when you migrate different IT components to the cloud gradually.

Change

People are creatures of habit. They often find it hard to say goodbye to what they are used to and adopt the new ways of working that the cloud offers. A good adoption plan and providing the right information will make this process much easier. Embrace innovation and emphasize the improvements, and it will all go nice and smoothly.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN MIGRATING TO THE CLOUD?

Migrating to the cloud is not something that can be done overnight by yourself: it's always best to bring a partner on board who knows what they're doing. You are going to be working in a completely different situation, away from the old and familiar on-premises environment. That's why it's important to prepare well and plan the implementation.

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Migration plan

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What data and applications do you currently use?
Do they all need to be moved to the cloud?
And can you even use them all in the cloud?
You might have some legacy applications that aren't as suitable for a cloud environment and call for an alternative. And what about the expertise? Do you have enough in-house to carry out the migration yourself? Or do you need to call on an outside specialist?

Set out your goals and ambitions

Clarifying why you want to migrate and what your ambitions are will do wonders. Essentially, what do you want to achieve by moving to the cloud? Is it primarily about creating a more modern and flexible IT landscape, or is cutting costs the main goal? A need for enhanced digital security or expanding your ability to collaborate remotely are also good reasons to consider cloud migration. These are all motivations that can play a role.

By linking clear goals and ambitions to your cloud usage, it's easier to figure out exactly what you want to put into the cloud. It makes sense to start with the things that will give you the greatest benefit if they are stored the cloud rather than on premises.

Choosing the right implementation partner

Now that you have determined what you want to get out of the cloud, this should guide you when it comes to choosing your ideal implementation partner: someone who best suits your preferences and needs in terms of continuity, availability, data security, and subscription package. Next, it's time build a good cloud strategy together and select a solution (public cloud, multicloud, or hybrid cloud) that best fits your organization. This will provide a blueprint for the connections, digital security, integrations, and compliance with all the legislation and regulations that apply to your organization.

Implementation plan

The final part of the preparation stage is to come up with a decent implementation plan. This should cover:

- Transferring data and applications to the cloud. Do you migrate gradually or do as much as possible at once? And how do you minimize disruption to day-to-day processes (downtime)? Migrating in the evening is often a good option.
- Fallback scenarios. These describe what actions to take if something goes wrong during the migration.
- Dismantling the old IT environment. This involves saying goodbye to servers and certain licenses. In this phase, it is especially important to slowly phase out old working patterns and bring everyone in the organization onto your cloud journey.

THE FOCUS ENTERPRISE SOLUTIONS FOUR-STEP PLAN

Focus Enterprise Solutions has the knowledge and expertise you need to guide you through your migration to the cloud. We'll look at the migration plan together, set out your goals and ambitions, draw up, and then execute your implementation plan. We do all of this by following our four-step plan:

1. QUICKSCAN   **2. DIAGNOSIS**   **3. ANALYSIS**   **4. MIGRATION**

The next page describes these steps in more detail. What's great is that you don't necessarily have to go through all four steps if you don't need to.

If you already have an excellent overview of your IT landscape and future needs in the cloud, then you can skip steps 1 and 2. But by taking out all four services, you'll always be sure you're leaving no stone unturned in your cloud migration journey.

About Focus Enterprise Solutions

Focus Enterprise Solutions is your strategic partner for everything to do with Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance & Supply Chain Management, plus Extended Banking – our own solution for processing bank statements. From deployment to management, we help SMEs across different industries to get the most out of their ERP. As your proactive partner, we can help your organization move forward – both now and in the years to come. And our personal approach is central to this.

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HET 4-STAPPENPLAN VAN FOCUS ENTERPRISE SOLUTIONS

1. QUICKSCAN

With our quick scan using the Microsoft Upgrade Analyzer Tool, we can accurately map out your current IT environment. What applications and systems are you using? What integrations and dependencies do you have? And which components of your IT landscape are critical to your business and operations? The quick scan also looks at your IT infrastructure.

2. DIAGNOSIS

Based on your current IT landscape, preferences, and needs, we'll draw up a technical plan and develop a blueprint and strategy for your migration. Then, we'll design a project plan and a schedule for the migration steps. This will give us an indication of your migration budget.

3. ANALYSIS

In the analysis, we'll go into more depth and detail. We will examine the results produced by the Microsoft Upgrade Analyzer Tool, but also take a critical look at business processes and existing functional designs within your IT environment. This will tell us whether there is still a gap anywhere between your current IT environment and your ideal cloud situation. The analysis also takes into consideration the way we migrate data to your brand-new cloud environment.

4. MIGRATION

This phase encompasses all the actions and processes critical to the actual migration of all your data, applications, and IT components. This could include designing new features and functional designs, rewriting necessary but dysfunctional code, performing data migration, testing the new environment, resolving any problems in the test environment, eliminating all bottlenecks, and closing the gaps between old and new.

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

Do you want to take advantage of the many benefits of the latest cloud technology by migrating? Are you curious about how Focus Enterprise Solutions and our four-step plan can help you? Please get in touch by e-mail to info@focus-solutions.nl or use the contact form on our website.

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