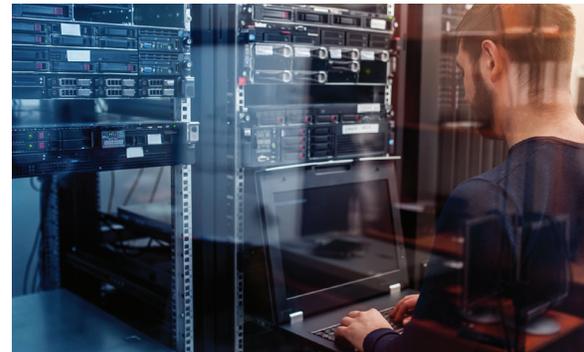# Cloud Ready Checklist

Moving an application or site to the cloud can be complex. Before you get started, use this simple checklist to ensure you are ready to move to the cloud.

☐ **Decide Business Outcomes** – To get started, consider your end game. Where do you want to go with cloud, and what is its value to your organization? Cost savings, agility, speed, and delegating responsibility are 4 common desired outcomes from moving to the cloud. You may think of a few others as they pertain to your business.

☐ **Ensure Your Application or Site is Cloud Friendly** – Not all applications or sites can – or should – move to the cloud. This can be due to things like compliance rules/regulations or technical limitations. Work with your development team to confirm the application or site can handle the resource differences between bare metal and virtual resources.

☐ **Select Your Approaches & Prioritize** – A one-size-fits-all approach will lead to sloppiness and disaster. Draft a list of the applications and/or sites potentially moving to the cloud. From there, label the approach for each item and arrange the list in priority order.

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☐ **Optimize Cost and Performance** – Run assessments on your current applications/ sites to discover the best way to configure your cloud to optimize for both cost and performance. Synthetic Transaction Monitoring (STM) scripting tools provide a clear picture of performance across the board. A MSP can be an invaluable resource in this step.

☐ **Account for Security and Compliance Requirements** – For years, many worried the cloud was not secure. That is no longer the case, but it can still be tricky to meet all of your security and compliance needs. Again, a good MSP can make this a thorough and simple process but be sure they support not only the infrastructure, but also your application or site on top of it.

☐ **Don't forget HA, DR and Backups** – Cloud makes High Availability (HA), Disaster Recovery (DR) and Backups easier than ever. However, it is not a given, so do not forget to account for them in your plan.

☐ **Run a Full Test** – Public Clouds like AWS and Azure make it affordable, and MSP partners can simplify building a test plan in the cloud for your application or site.

Working with an MSP is the most efficient way to accomplish your goals. Doing it yourself requires a large team with the right skill set, and many man-hours. The best advice anyone can give you (especially if this is your first time moving to the cloud) is to go to the experts who do this every day. In the end, this will save you time and money.

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