SEVEN
WAYS TO MIGRATE TO THE AWS CLOUD

Cloud migration — moving your digital operations to the cloud — has become increasingly common as companies seek to modernize existing legacy mainframe systems to align with overall business strategy, increase productivity, and find cost savings.

51%

Reduction in operational costs for customers who migrated to AWS[1]

62%

Increase in IT staff productivity for customers who migrated to AWS[1]

94%

Reduction is downtime for customers who migrated to AWS[1]

The cloud is here to stay, and if you haven't migrated to AWS, you may fall behind. It's time to migrate, but you need a strategy first. The 7 Rs offer different strategies to help make your migration as seamless as possible.

1 Re-factor/Re-architect

Refactoring (re-architecting) moves an application and modifies its architecture. It involves breaking your application's components down into smaller parts before wrapping them in a container. They are then deployed on a container platform that allows for optimized use of the cloud.

PROS		CONS	
	Improves agility, scalability, and performance by taking advantage of cloud-native features		Expect a higher initial transformation cost than other migration strategies
	Future-proofs the application		More complex because it requires extensive code changes

2 Re-platform

Commonly referred to as "lift and reshape," re-platforming involves moving an application to the AWS cloud without making a lot of significant changes. Instead, you'll replace a few components to optimize for cloud capabilities.

PROS		CONS	
	No big changes to the architecture		Doesn't take full advantage of the cloud
	No expensive development and testing		Potential for failure if the company doesn't accurately map the application requirements
	Easily move core services without disrupting business activities		There could be performance issues for applications that weren't fully optimized for the cloud

③ Re-purchase

This "drop and shop" strategy replaces your legacy solution with a SaaS product that can offer similar services or capabilities.

PROS		CONS	
	No code adjustments—the software's code is already cloud-ready		This approach isn't viable if you have custom-built software
	More cost-effective than some of the other migration strategies		Potential to be more costly than hosting on your own premises
			Could cause downtime if you don't have a high-speed bandwidth connection

④ Re-host

"Lift and shift" is all about a near effortless and speedy migration. This approach moves your applications, software, and data to the cloud without making any changes to the code to get the most out of the cloud. If you're looking to migrate fast, re-hosting may be your best option.

PROS		CONS	
	Easy to migrate		You don't reap all the benefits of cloud-native capabilities
	The cheapest way to migrate to the cloud		It's more of a short-term option
	Minimal time commitment		Potential failures or outages caused by application dependencies

⑤ Retain/Re-visit

If you've decided it makes little sense to migrate or you don't have enough information or latency requirements, you may want to re-visit a cloud migration at a later date. For now, you'll keep everything as-is.

PROS		CONS	
	You may discover that some applications are no longer necessary		You don't get to take advantage of all the benefits of the cloud
	Retiring outdated or unnecessary applications can lead to cost savings		

⑥ Re-locate

Specific to VMware Cloud on AWS, this migration strategy involves moving the existing system in its entirety to the cloud without purchasing any new hardware, rewriting applications, or modifying current operations.

PROS		CONS	
	Can be a quicker route for VMware customers		Requires extensive planning as IT teams have to figure out how to migrate existing data and leverage it in the new system
			Significant user training and a sizeable learning curve

⑦ Retire

Have applications that no longer serve a purpose within your organization? Using the retire approach allows you to phase out or remove unnecessary applications. This is common when organizations go through mergers and acquisitions, and the focus is really on eliminating applications that offer redundant business capabilities or none at all.

PROS		CONS	
	Free up space on your on-prem servers and clear your infrastructure		After getting rid of a costly application, you may need to build a more useful application from scratch to meet the business needs
	Eventual cost savings and less app maintenance		

Need Help Migrating?

If you're looking to migrate to the cloud to drive your business strategy, modernize your infrastructure, or increase your competitiveness, we're here to help. We're an AWS Advanced Consulting Partner and experts in all things cloud migration. We'll help you assess if migration to AWS makes sense for you and which approach will work best for you.

1 https://aws.amazon.com/campaigns/migrating-to-the-cloud/#:~:text=A%20recent%20whitepaper%20by%20IDC,and%2094%25%20reductions%20in%20downtime