Microsoft Azure

Database migration checklist

Steps and resources for moving data to the cloud

Many organizations want to take advantage of the cloud's innovation and efficiency by migrating their existing databases. However, a successful cloud migration requires careful planning and strategy. The following resources can help you put in place a strong plan that covers the readiness of your relational or nonrelational databases and systems, the end-cloud environment, and how to optimize for efficiency and security once your migration has begun.

Database migration steps and resources

Start planning and get ready

Discover and assess your on-premises resources, such as applications and workloads, to plan where your migration should start. In this stage, you'll identify and involve key stakeholders, and calculate costs and potential savings.

☐ Make a business case by estimating your total cost of ownership

☐ Determine your team's technical readiness and share training through Microsoft Learn and Pluralsight

☐ Explore the process and available tools in the Azure migration center

Begin your migration

After you assess your databases, you need to complete the schema, data, and object migration process. You can leverage migration tools and services that analyze data platform solutions, recommend the best options, and then enable seamless execution.

☐ Start the self-guided migration process with Azure Database Migration Service

☐ Learn about partners that can support your migration efforts

Your data migration strategy will vary based on the database environments you currently use, and where your resources and teams are in terms of cloud readiness. Below, you will find specific documentation and resources you can select based on your current tools and needs.

Migrating PostgreSQL to
Azure Database for PostgreSQL

Migrating MySQL to Azure Database for MySQL

SQL Server on Azure Virtual Machines

Migrating to Azure Cosmos DB

Tutorials by database migration scenario

Improve cost efficiency

The actual migration is not the end of the process. There are opportunities to continually improve performance and optimize for cost management.

☐ Track resource usage and manage spending with detailed visibility tools in Azure Cost Management

☐ Explore additional ways to save and maximize value from your current licensing investments with Azure Hybrid Benefit and Reserved Capacity

Secure and monitor

Keep your database secure, protect your data, and monitor your cloud health. Ensure that you have monitoring tools that can provide proactive and reactive analyses. Incorporate backup and disaster recovery planning as part of your process.

☐ Strengthen your threat protection measures with Azure Security Center

☐ Mazimize database performance and monitor usage with Azure SQL Database Intelligent Insights

Learn more

For more about migration planning—Cloud Database Migration Essentials

For SQL migration—Choosing Your Database Migration Path to Azure

For DBAs—The Essential Guide to Data in the Cloud: A Handbook for DBAs

For cloud architects—Microsoft Cloud Adoption Framework for Azure

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Contact an Azure specialist

Contact a 3Cloud Azure specialist to discuss your cloud migration project and get the most out of Azure.

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