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7 Steps
to Worry-Free
Data Center Migration

Data center migration can be an overwhelming project, but IT teams that follow these seven best practices can ensure a successful outcome.

1. Identify migration scope

Fully assessing the current environment and identifying what needs to be moved is a crucial starting point. There should be a complete inventory of the IT environment, and lists should be created to track your migration plan from both a services and application perspective.

2. Assess platform stability

Be aware of equipment age—is it in danger of failure in transport? Ensure that healthy equipment is on standby in case of an emergency.

3. Define data criticality

Define each asset and identify its level of importance. Determine how assets are being used and their relationship to the whole environment.

4. Know your network

It is imperative to establish your network at the new location and thoroughly test communication. Relying only on copying configurations for network infrastructure is a no-no.

5. Determine tolerable downtime

Decide how much downtime can be reasonably incurred throughout the migration.

6. Establish the "how"

Information gathered in steps one through five helps to identify which migration methodology is right for your workloads. Several options exist, including:
- The "forklift" process - equipment is picked up and moved
- Swing migration – enables continuous uptime throughout the process
- Cloud migration with network storage appliances – takes copies of data and moves it first
- Cloud migration with software – allows for over-the-wire data transfers
- A combination approach – couples two or more of these migration methodologies

7. Test migration plans

Testing the migration plan is a critical best practice. It is never a good idea to migrate a platform for the first time on the day of the actual move. Complete a series of tests, taking applications through the process to validate if each step works properly, making adjustments as needed to ensure success.

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