



# Data Center & Cloud Transformation Guide: 3 Steps to Getting Started

Jump-start your strategy







# Why consider transformation?

As organizations look to adopt modern cloud services, clients need to revisit their cloud adoption and data center strategy. Transformation is a crucial part of the conversation.

For growing organizations, transformation and/or consolidation offers a viable way to achieve one or more critical goals. Reducing your data center footprint and centralizing your infrastructure enables you to modernize your technology platform to support native cloud services, streamline management, and optimize consumption and performance — all of which may contribute to lower costs and improved scalability for growth leveraging cloud.

## Common drivers



Reducing resource consumption



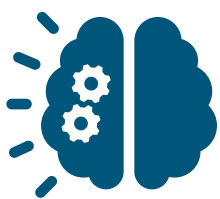
Improving environmental sustainability



Increasing performance and scalability



Managing cloud and network costs



Supporting modern technologies (AI/ML)



Meeting evolving customer demand



Engaging in M&A and/or divestiture activities



Enhancing resiliency with BC/DR



# Who is a candidate for transformation?

While transformation or consolidation may help organizations with any of the above goals, it's especially worthwhile for organizations seeking to modernize with AI and cloud-based capabilities, organizations looking for ways to push the needle on accelerated growth, and organizations executing business activities such as mergers, acquisitions, and divestitures.

A well-executed transformation can accomplish a variety of goals. While you may have one or two primary reasons to pursue a data center transformation initiative, the very fact of reducing and modernizing your data center infrastructure by leveraging cloud will have a ripple effect of positive outcomes for your organization.

For example, consider this scenario: A midsize company has just grown considerably through M&A activity. Now, it must contend with a cobbled-together data center architecture. Disparate and outdated infrastructure, unused or hidden workloads, accessibility challenges, and security gaps are just some of the issues likely to crop up — not to mention the cost of maintaining a bloated and complex system.

This organization's key driver is likely to increase performance and scalability. It's tough to continue growing with an inflexible and complex data center architecture. The expected outcomes will be simplified management, improved control, and increased business agility. With a smart strategy in place, the organization will also be able to adopt modern capabilities to support new cloud initiatives, as well as enhanced security solutions. Having expert guidance for such a modernization project will enable the company to experience all of the additional benefits associated with a data center transformation to cloud, including better business continuity and disaster recovery, stronger risk management and compliance, reduced operational costs, and more.

## Benefits to the business



Simplified management



Improved visibility and control



Reduced operational expenses



Stronger risk management

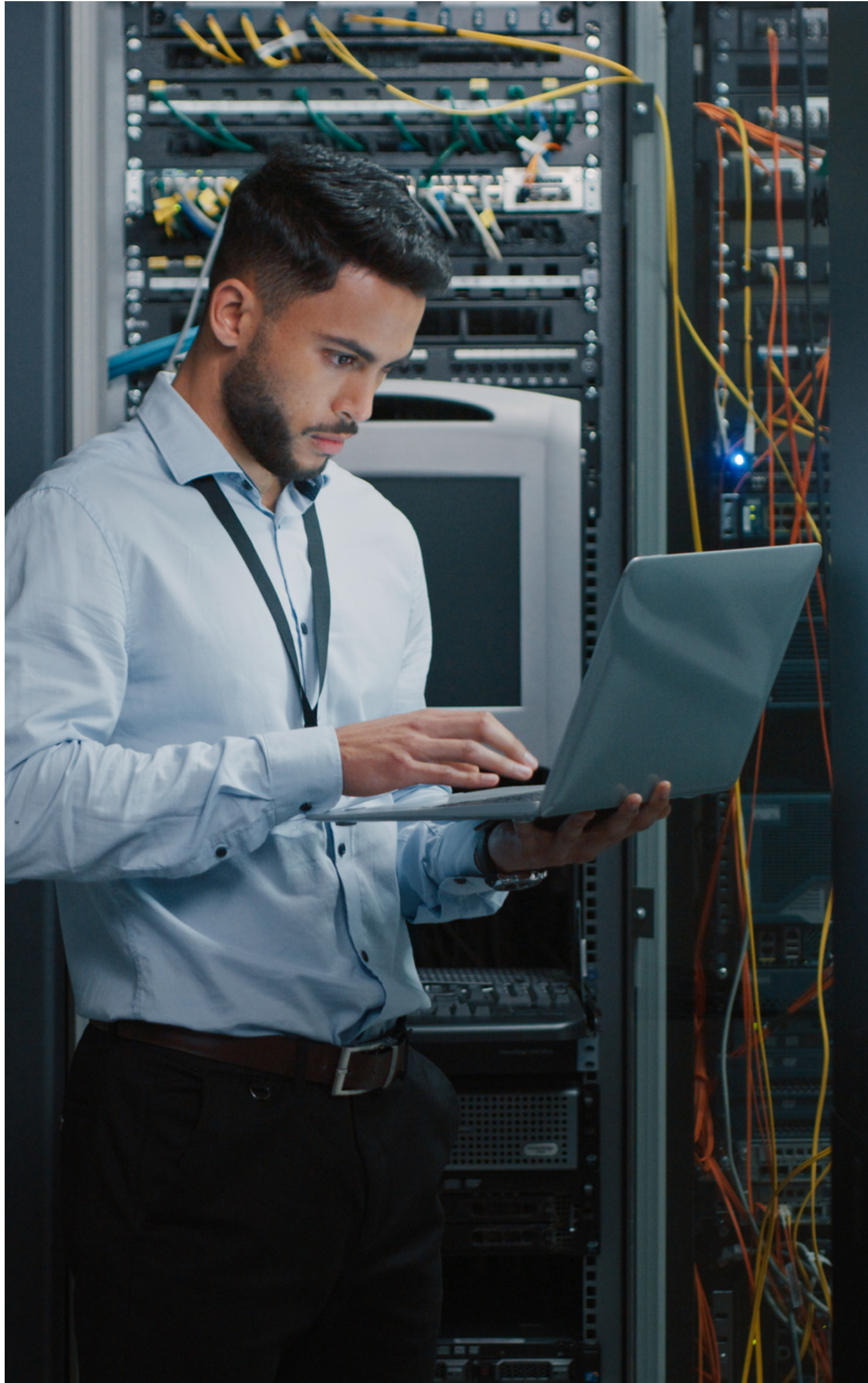


Increased business agility



Enhanced compliance





## How to ensure an intelligent cloud strategy

Transformation is an involved process and not a project to be undertaken lightly. With a smart strategy in place, you can expect a clear roadmap, fast progress, and reliable outcomes. Lacking an informed strategy, data center and cloud initiatives can easily fall prey to complexity and other common challenges, interrupting the business and potentially incurring more costs over time.

### Transformation challenges



#### Downtime and business disruption

Migrating data and applications is a delicate task — even minimal downtime can have significant negative impacts on the business.



#### Application and systems complexity

Data centers often contain a mix of hardware, software, and apps, introducing challenges related to outdated systems, lack of integrations, and more.



#### Up-front costs and resource demands

Transformation promises long-term savings, but the initial investment can be significant and requires expert guidance to ensure best-fit solutions and ROI.



#### Security concerns

Consolidating your resources concentrates critical data, potentially creating a bigger target for cyberattacks and necessitating strong backup and disaster recovery.

Avoiding these challenges requires strategic planning. Before you even take the first steps, it's important to consider the stages of transformation and whether your existing teams are well equipped to navigate and manage the many components of each phase.



## The three stages, or pillars, of transformation

### **Pillar one encompasses planning and strategy.**

A successful migration begins with thorough discovery of all assets in your existing data center, including your organization's hardware, software, apps, and data. Then, you'll need a detailed migration plan to outline timelines, resources, tools, and risks. This is also the time to consider your target environment and weigh the pros and cons of a physical data center vs. cloud platforms vs. a hybrid approach.

### **Pillar two involves execution and migration.**

It takes considerable expertise to transfer all the assets you intend to retain with minimal downtime and risk. You'll need to migrate data quickly and securely, considering whether a lift-and-shift approach, replatforming, or a phased approach will be best based on your organization's needs.

### **Pillar three is just as critical, even though migration has already been completed at this point.**

Resiliency, disaster recovery, backup, optimization, and validation can't be omitted post-migration. The new environment needs to be tested against established performance benchmarks to ensure functionality, optimize resource consumption, and put cost management protocols in place for your new data center or cloud environment.

## **Keys to success: Partnership and planning**

The safest and most effective way to approach transformation is with a trusted partner to guide your teams through every phase. In this way, you benefit from expert input on a strategic roadmap; experienced professionals for seamless, accelerated execution; and responsive, seasoned support to quickly address any questions or unexpected roadblocks.

A good partner will be able to help you answer key questions to project your cloud needs; assess your assets; compare your cloud and infrastructure options, project costs, and timelines; and more. In the following section, we'll cover three major cornerstones of the planning process, all of which are offered by Teton Cloud Consulting as a leading-class transformation partner. Starting your project here will give your organization a solid foundation on which to draft a realistic, effective plan for moving forward and realizing your desired outcomes.





# 3 steps to jump-start your transformation

## Application Rationalization

**Q: How complex will my transformation journey be?**  
**A: Find out with an Application Rationalization Scorecard.**

Quickly gain a clear understanding of your current state and best next steps with an assessment questionnaire that helps you align your application landscape to the six R's.

Teton Cloud Consulting offers an Application Rationalization Scorecard for this purpose, helping you expedite assessment, scope project complexity, and prioritize migration activities.

We'll help you determine how to disposition your applications and gain a better understanding of the due diligence required to complete a data center consolidation or transformation project. As a result, you'll benefit from a clear view of your current-state environment, reduced effort to get your project underway, and strategic recommendations for implementation.

### The six R's

Rehost	<b>Lift-and-cleanse</b> Move current assets to a new provider with little to no change.
Retire	<b>Decommission</b> Remove applications that are no longer needed or relevant.
Retain	<b>Left on premise</b> Some applications may not be suitable for migration and are best left on premise.
Refactor	<b>Refactor/Rearchitect</b> Complete redesign of the application to take advantage of cloud-native.
Repurchase	<b>Repurchase/Replace</b> Adopt new cloud-native versions or SaaS platforms.
Replatform	<b>Lift, tinker, and shift</b> Involves minor adjustments to applications to leverage cloud benefits.



## Platform Costing Estimate

**Q: What will it cost to modernize on-prem data centers with a move to cloud?**

**A: Find out with a professional Platform Costing Estimate (PCE) engagement.**

It's unrealistic to move forward with a large-scale project without having a clear idea of the potential costs. Before making a decision, you need a simple way to estimate the different costs of your various migration options.

Teton Cloud Consulting offers a PCE engagement to help you determine how much your journey will cost, providing like-for-like estimates for cloud as well as a single hosted provider with colocation-provided infrastructure.

We'll help you assess your platform options and related costs, giving you a rapid analysis of potential operating costs, resource consumption, and platform alignment. This helps you focus more of your energy on complex planning decisions, ensuring you have all the data needed up front to make the best choice for your business.





## Application and Dependency Mapping

**Q: How do I get full visibility of all my assets and their interconnectedness?**

**A: Conduct a tool-assisted inventory, including asset discovery and application mapping.**

You need total visibility of your digital estate in full before you can truly begin transformation. Critical workloads, shadow IT, underused or unused assets, application dependencies, etc. all need to be clearly mapped and assessed.

Teton Cloud Consulting’s Inventory Discovery and Dependencies (IDAD) is designed to solve this need, creating a fast and accurate inventory of servers, applications, and dependencies.

We use proven tools and methodologies to streamline discovery and dependency mapping — a process that historically may take months. With our efficient approach to discovery and documentation, you can typically expect results within weeks.

Your organization gains a clear, fact-based, and complete view of your current data estate and all dependencies therein, enabling you to streamline migration and make objective decisions on how to move forward.

### How it works

Introduction	The discovery process is conducted through a proven auto-discovery tool set that runs in the background while you maintain business as usual.
Installation	We’ll send you an install package with simple instructions to begin the data collection process. Our team will help finalize scanning parameters and offer assistance for any technical concerns.
Import	When scans are complete, our team will archive and import your data to our database, where we will validate your data and create reporting and analysis deliverables.
Inventory report	Our team will analyze the data gathered and create detailed reports, an executive summary, and action items for next steps.





## Get started with Teton Cloud Consulting

Our recommended strategy for next steps will ensure your transformation project gets off to a strong start with the support needed for seamless, effective execution from beginning to end.

If you're interested in conducting a project with us, contact us. We'd love to help you create a strong strategy to accelerate success



## Speed up time to market with solution accelerators

Rapidly stand up new solution offerings with Teton Cloud Consulting. We deliver prebuilt, configurable solutions to help you address common business challenges and accelerate time to market. Our solution accelerator approach leverages best-practice frameworks developed over decades of experience.

When you're ready to accelerate growth and solve business challenges, trust Teton Cloud Consulting to design, implement, and operate your practice or offerings across a host of solutions:



Cloud transformation



Program management and delivery quality



Resiliency and security



Data and AI

**We can work directly with your teams** to deliver a variety of services to drive your transformation.





# About Teton Cloud Consulting

Teton Cloud Consulting serves high achievers looking to increase revenue and make the business more valuable. Our mission is to help you define your vision, align your resources, and execute a well-built strategy to accelerate your growth.

All our solution areas are built around the goal of accelerating your services journey.

## Why companies trust us for transformation

Our senior leadership team has 30-plus years of Big 4 consulting experience and CIO management experience. Our delivery team has an average of 20 years in scalable IT transformation, cloud, migration, consolidation, and IT infrastructure optimization across storage, compute, and network solutions.

### Deep technical knowledge

Our consultants have experience in executing successful transformations and consolidations. We bring established methodologies and best practices to the table, ensuring a smooth and efficient process.

### Change and modernization

Our consultants possess in-depth technical knowledge of cloud, data center infrastructure, hardware, software, and migration techniques to navigate complexities like application compatibility and resource optimization with vendor-neutral expertise.

### Proven methodologies

Our consultants are experienced in managing change within organizations. We can manage the entire project, including resource allocation, scheduling, and vendor/team coordination. This frees up your IT teams to focus on core responsibilities.

## Think above the clouds

Achieve successful data center transformation with Teton Cloud Consulting. [Contact us to get started.](#)