

QUICK GUIDE

Cloud migration checklist

What to verify before moving the first server — and why "lift and shift" usually just changes the address of the problem.

Why so many migrations disappoint

Most failed migrations do not fail in execution. They fail **earlier**: in deciding what to migrate, in which order, and into which design. Three mistakes show up in almost every case:

- **Migrating the waste along.** An oversized server in the data center becomes an oversized server in the cloud — now with a monthly invoice. Lifting and shifting what was already inefficient only changes the address of the problem.
- **Deciding by application, not by dependency.** The ERP talks to billing, which talks to the bank. Migrating one without mapping the others creates the latency nobody predicted.
- **Treating it as an infrastructure project.** Migration touches cost, security, licensing and operations. When only the infrastructure team decides, everyone else finds out later.

Rule of thumb: architecture first, migration after. The target design (accounts, networks, identity, backup) must exist before the first workload moves — otherwise every wave invents its own.

What this checklist covers

Five blocks, in the order they should happen: decision, architecture, security, execution and post-go-live. If any item of the previous block is still open, do not advance — waiting is cheaper than going back.

Blocks 1 to 3 — decide, design, protect

1 • Decision and inventory

- ✓ Complete inventory: applications, versions, operating systems, licences and **the dependencies between them**
- ✓ Classification by path: retire, keep on-premise, move as-is, replatform, refactor
- ✓ TCO compared per application (infra + licence + operations), not the cloud invoice alone
- ✓ Business window agreed: when each system CAN stop, and for how long

2 • Target architecture

- ✓ Landing zone ready: account structure, networks, DNS and dedicated connectivity (VPN/Direct/ExpressRoute)
- ✓ Identity resolved: who authenticates, where the directory lives, how an access dies
- ✓ Sizing by measured usage — not by the current size of the server
- ✓ Backup and DR designed BEFORE the first workload, with RTO/RPO per application

3 • Security and compliance

- ✓ Encryption in transit and at rest as the default, keys with a defined owner
- ✓ Network segmentation equal to or better than today — the cloud does not forgive a flat network
- ✓ Data privacy (LGPD/GDPR): where personal data lives, who accesses it, how it is audited
- ✓ Centralized logs from day 1 — turning them on after the incident does not count

Blocks 4 and 5 — execute and sustain

4 • Execution in waves

- ✓ First wave with a low-risk, high-learning application — never the ERP
- ✓ Rollback plan tested per wave: knowing how to go back is what allows you to go
- ✓ Functional validation with the process OWNER, not just ping and login
- ✓ Decommissioning of the old environment scheduled — paying for two environments "just in case" becomes an expensive habit

5 • After go-live

- ✓ FinOps from month one: cost tags, budget per area, monthly review
- ✓ Reservations and savings plans only AFTER 60–90 days of measured usage
- ✓ Monitoring that alerts before the user complains
- ✓ Operations runbook updated — the cloud changes the "how", not just the "where"

Path	When it makes sense	Typical trap
Move as-is	Short deadline, stable application, high on-prem cost	Taking the oversizing along
Replatform	Clear gain from a managed service (database, queues)	Underestimating compatibility testing
Refactor	Strategic application with a long roadmap	Becoming a multi-year project with no interim delivery

The next step

This guide gives you the criteria. Applying them to your environment — your systems, your contracts, your deadline — is a one-hour conversation with people who do this every week.

To go deeper, at the **Inove Academy** (inovesolutions.com/en/inove-academy-en): the e-book **Brazil's Tax Reform in SAP** · migration and FinOps infographics · cloud articles on the blog

Talk to Inove about your migration: inovesolutions.com/en/contact · contato@inovesolutions.com