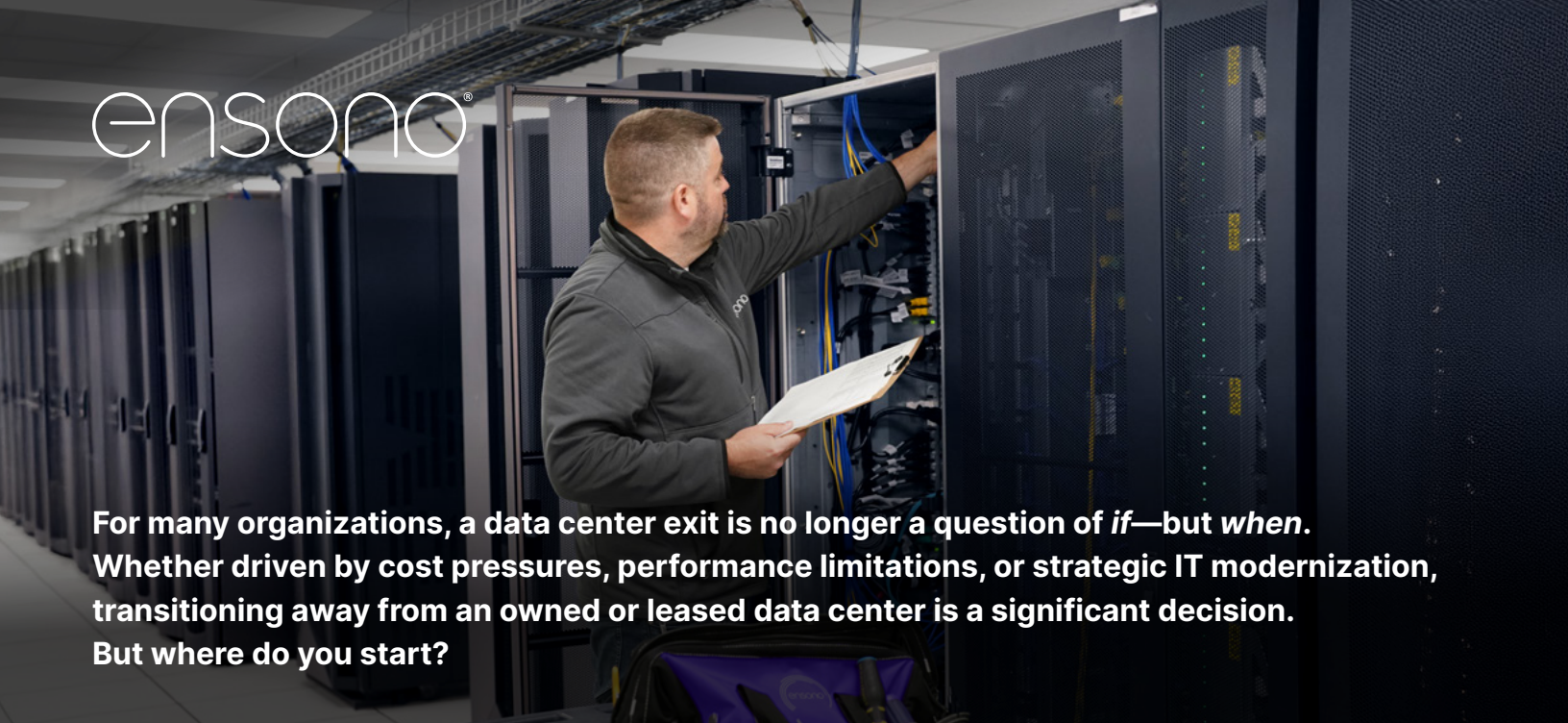


Considering a Data Center Exit?

Key steps to assess your options and build a smart exit strategy.





For many organizations, a data center exit is no longer a question of *if*—but *when*. Whether driven by cost pressures, performance limitations, or strategic IT modernization, transitioning away from an owned or leased data center is a significant decision. But where do you start?

1 What triggers a data center exit?

Understanding the common drivers behind data center exits can help you assess whether now is the right time to plan your transition.



Expiring leases and contract deadlines

Data center leases often come with long-term commitments. If your lease is set to expire, now is the time to evaluate your options before being locked into another costly renewal.



Aging infrastructure and rising costs

Maintaining legacy data centers comes with increasing costs for power, cooling, and hardware refreshes. Many organizations are realizing that staying put is actually more expensive than modernizing.



Security and compliance risks

Legacy infrastructure may not meet evolving compliance requirements or provide the necessary cybersecurity resilience. Cloud and hybrid solutions often come with built-in compliance controls.



M&A or business strategy changes

Acquisitions, divestitures, or IT consolidations often drive a need to move workloads, retire redundant assets, and streamline operations.



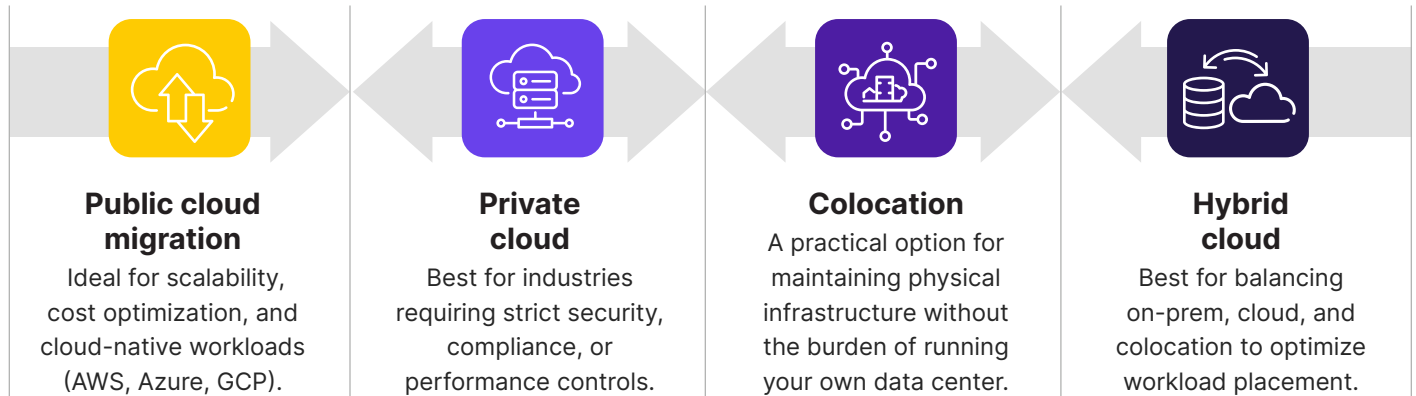
Cloud-first or digital transformation initiatives

Many enterprises are accelerating cloud adoption to enhance agility, scalability, and cost-efficiency. If your data center is a barrier to innovation, it's time to consider your exit strategy.

If any of these apply to your organization, now is the time to evaluate your options and plan your transition.

2 Assess your exit options

A data center exit doesn't have to mean a full shift to the cloud. Evaluating your specific IT and business needs will determine the best approach:



Choosing the right approach depends on your organization's strategic goals, regulatory requirements, and financial considerations.



3 Build your business case

Before making a move, define the strategic and financial impact of exiting your data center:



Total Cost of Ownership (TCO)

Compare current infrastructure expenses against migration and cloud operating costs.



Workload roadmap

Prioritize applications for migration, refactoring, or decommissioning based on business needs.



Security and compliance

Ensure your new environment meets regulatory and security requirements.



Operational impact

Engage IT, finance, and business teams to align on timing, risks, and expected benefits.

A well-defined business case ensures stakeholder buy-in and a clear path forward.



4 Create a migration roadmap

A well-structured migration plan helps minimize risk and ensure a seamless transition:



Discovery and workload assessment

Map infrastructure, workloads, and dependencies to determine which applications should be migrated, modernized, decommissioned, or retained.



Phased approach

Migrate workloads in stages, starting with low-risk applications.



Cost and risk management

Plan for data transfer costs, security controls, and failover strategies.



Not sure where to start?

Exiting a data center can feel complex—but you don't have to face it alone. Working with a trusted managed service provider like Ensono can help you turn uncertainty into action. With deep expertise and a proven framework, we help you define your path forward, accelerate progress, and avoid costly missteps. Whether you're building your business case or planning execution, Ensono brings the clarity, confidence, and experience to get it right.

Ready to make your move?

Speak to an Ensono expert today and take the first step toward a smarter exit.