



# Best Practices for a Smooth Data Center Exit

**You've made the decision to exit—now, it's time to execute a seamless migration.**



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A successful data center exit requires careful planning to minimize downtime, mitigate risk, and ensure business continuity. Follow these key steps to prepare for a smooth transition.

## 1 Establish your business case and plan your workloads

Before execution, ensure stakeholder alignment and define the strategic and financial drivers of your exit:

### Assess costs and ROI

Compare current data center expenses vs. projected savings from cloud, colocation, or hybrid solutions.

### Engage key stakeholders

Align IT, finance, compliance, and business units to avoid roadblocks.

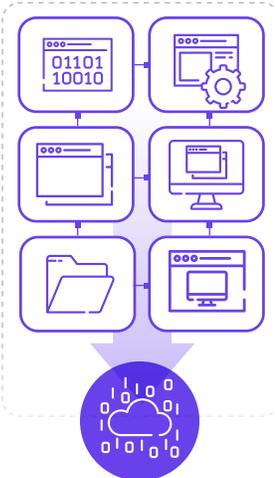


## 2 Define your migration strategy

Not all workloads should be treated the same. Start by categorizing applications and data into:

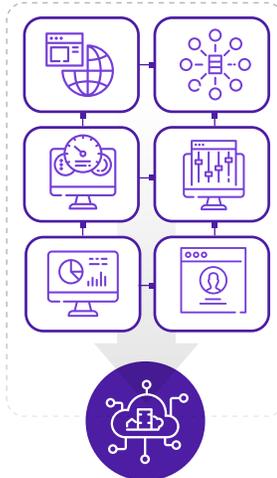
### Rehost (lift & shift)

Move as-is to the cloud for quick migration.



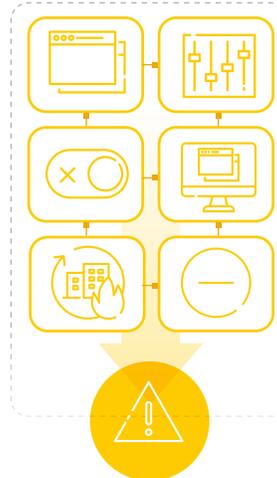
### Refactor (rearchitect)

Modify workloads for cloud optimization.



### Retire

Decommission outdated or redundant applications.



### Retain

Keep workloads on-prem if necessary.



Ensono also recognizes that, for some workloads, repurchasing via SaaS may offer a faster, lower-maintenance path to modernization.

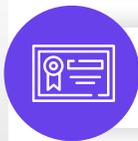
**By classifying workloads before migration, you ensure minimal disruption and optimized post-migration performance.**

## 3 Address security and compliance early

Migration may introduce security risks, so proactive planning is critical:



**Encrypt sensitive data** before migration.



**Ensure regulatory compliance** for data residency laws (GDPR, HIPAA, etc.).



**Establish a rollback plan** to restore data if needed.



**By integrating security from the outset, you avoid compliance headaches and reduce exposure to cyber threats.**

## 4 Build a phased migration plan

A data center exit can feel complex and daunting. Breaking your migration into defined phases helps simplify complexity, reduce disruption, and build momentum.

### Phase 1

#### Pilot migration

Move a low-risk workload first to test performance and uncover potential issues.

### Phase 2

#### Critical workloads

Transition mission-critical applications with careful monitoring.

### Phase 3

#### Final cutover

Complete the migration and decommission remaining infrastructure.

**A phased approach ensures your teams can validate performance, security, and cost savings before full deployment.**

## 5 Find Your Migration Ally

A data center exit is a major transformation—and the right partner can make all the difference. By partnering with an expert managed service provider like Ensono, you can access:



**Specialist migration guidance** grounded in real-world experience and no penalties, through our [Ensono Flex® Migration](#) approach



**Hybrid and multi-cloud solutions** tailored to your unique needs, built for scale, performance, and compliance



**24/7 monitoring and post-migration support** with [Ensono Envision®](#) to protect performance, ensure security, and optimize your hybrid IT estate

**With Ensono as your ally, you're supported at every stage of the journey—from planning and execution to ongoing optimization.**



## Why Ensono

With a track record of delivering complex migrations at scale, Ensono brings deep expertise, proven frameworks, and long-term partnership. Over the past five years, we've:

- Consolidated or exited 55+ data centers
- Completed 396 cloud and infrastructure migrations
- Successfully moved 15,753 applications for clients across industries

**We don't just migrate workloads—we manage them. Our relentless focus is on helping you transition with confidence and unlock long-term value from your new environment.**

**Let's build your migration strategy together**  
**Connect with an Ensono expert to plan your data center exit.**