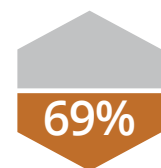# HOW DO I MIGRATE TO AWS?

The cloud has been around for years. While many organizations have slowly transitioned to the cloud, many more are still weighing the costs and benefits of migrating and evaluating if it's the right decision for their organization.

If you're unsure about migrating to the cloud—specifically to Amazon Web Services (AWS)—there are a few things to consider. First, most companies who have made the move to the cloud did it to modernize their legacy systems and infrastructure, drive business transformation, and be more agile in responding to the ever-changing needs of their employees and customers. As a result, they've seen cost savings and more operational efficiency.

Facts & Stats

Businesses that move to AWS reap all the benefits—from decreased downtime to increased efficiency and everything in between.

69%
Reduction in unplanned downtime.[1]
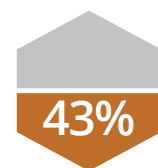
43%
Reduction in annual security incidents.[1]

31%
Infrastructure cost savings.[1]

With so many gained efficiencies, cost savings, and operational innovations, there are quite a few reasons to migrate to AWS. But successful migrations take work, and they require planning and expertise. Let's dive into how you will actually begin your migration to the cloud (and enjoy all those cloud-native benefits).

How Do I Move to the Cloud?

There are a few options when you're ready to move to the cloud, whether you choose to do it on your own using one of the strategies from the 7 Rs, hire an AWS partner (yes, we're an AWS certified partner), or put Amazon's Migration Acceleration Program (MAP) to use. AWS wants you to have a successful migration, so they provide assessment tools to help determine your cloud readiness. They also offer a plethora of tools to ensure your success, so be sure to take full advantage of those.

Amazon's MAP approach breaks down your migration process into three chunks—assess, mobilize, and migrate and modernize.
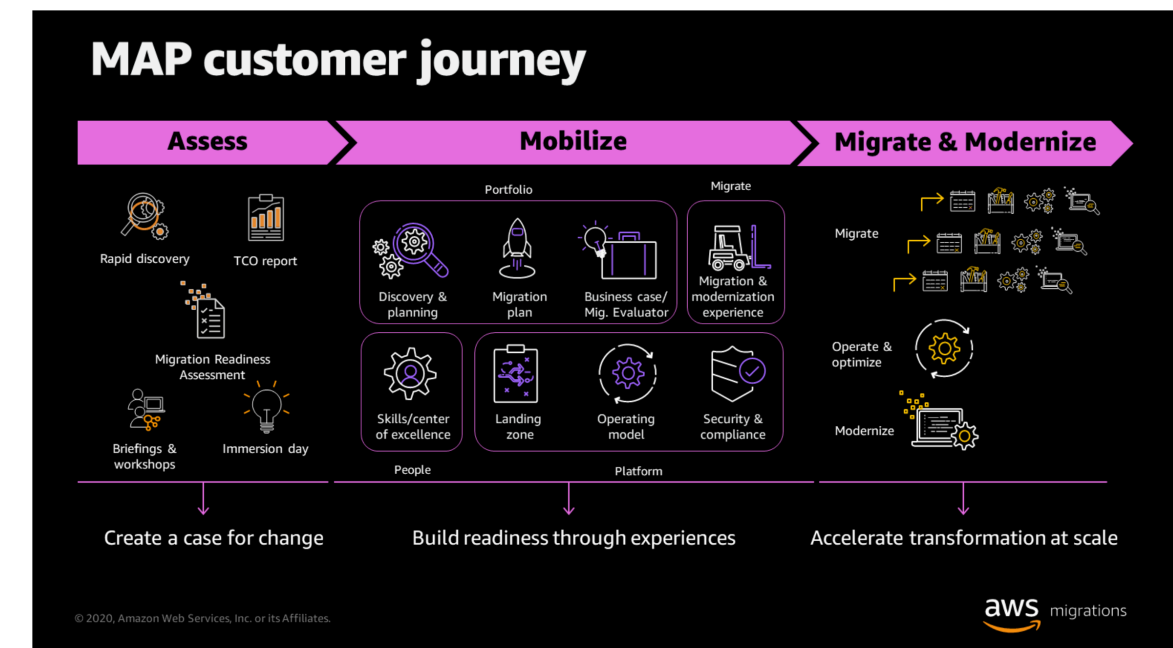
1 https://pages.awscloud.com/rs/112-TZM-766/images/%5BeBook%5D_OpsGuru.pdf

Once you get to the migration phase of this approach, consider the 7 Rs to determine which method will help you migrate in a way that makes the most sense for your organization. They include:

- Refactoring/Re-architecting
- Re-platforming
- Re-purchasing
- Re-hosting
- Retaining/Re-visiting
- Relocating
- Retiring

How Do I Use the MAP Approach?

AWS's MAP for migration helps you assess your cloud readiness, mobilize your team and come up with a plan, and migrate your applications and systems to AWS. Let's explore each phase of this approach to better understand the requirements for a successful migration.

Assess

Is your organization prepared to move its infrastructure to the cloud? A cloud readiness assessment will help determine if a migration is even feasible and give you a clear idea of what you will migrate—you don't have to migrate everything, and certainly not all at once.

In this stage, you also want to build a business case for migrating. Moving to the cloud isn't necessarily right for you, or you may need more information before you can proceed. Building a business case will help you determine if the time's right to make the switch.

The Migration Readiness Assessment (MRA) gives clarity around where you are on your cloud journey and your organization's strengths and weaknesses related to cloud readiness. It also includes an action plan based on the Cloud Adoption Framework. This framework has six tenets—business, people, governance, platform, security, and operations—that give you a more holistic view of the migration and business transformation that will support your successful transition to AWS.

This is where you'll dive into the total cost of ownership and build the business case to get funding from stakeholders, so it's a crucial first step.

Mobilize

Once you've made it through your assessments and have a thorough understanding of the value of migrating to the cloud, you can move on to the mobilization phase. Here, you'll build foundational capabilities and hands-on migration experience in the AWS environment. The focus is on automating operations and security, so you can make your migration scalable.

Instead of trying to migrate everything at once, you'll migrate a small set of applications. But the main goal here is to create a culture of agility and scalability that feeds into the change management process the business will need to enforce.

Think of this phase as your checklist step. AWS defines activities to complete across work streams (in eight two-week sprints). These include:

- Detailed business case
- Detailed portfolio discovery
- Application migration
- Migration governance
- AWS landing zone
- Security, risk, and compliance
- Operations
- People, which includes: skills, culture, change, and leadership

It can seem overwhelming, but it's meant to deliver a big impact, like boosting your IT team's migration competency and organizational transformation skills. After completing your sprints, you can expect these outcomes, too:

- Define and automate policies to accommodate operational controls
- Implement a scalable AWS landing zone as you continue migrating additional applications
- Finalize your cloud operating model
- Run applications as an iterative, evolving process

All of this is to build a solid foundation for a successful migration. Once you have that foundation, you're ready to dive into your full-scale migration.

Migrate and Modernize

Congratulations, you've made it to the migration! You've done the work to assess where you are and where you want to be, understand the total cost of ownership, and have taken the necessary steps to prepare for a full-on migration. Now it's time to migrate.

Remember the processes, tools, resources, and methodologies (7 Rs) you explored in the previous stages and leverage them to migrate at scale. AWS recommends using everything you've learned to implement a blueprint for scaling implementation and operations and a migration factory.

Need help?

If you're contemplating migrating your systems, applications, and infrastructure to the cloud but are anxious about where to start, we can help. We've outlined how to migrate but understand it's a big step. We're an AWS Advanced Consulting Partner and work with AWS-certified engineers and architects who have years of experience assisting and driving migrations of all sizes. We can assess your current situation and plan a course of action.

Reach out to get started at [email_address].