Your Data In The Cloud: Steps To A Seamless Migration
Having a functional IT infrastructure is not the same as having an efficient, reliable, or secure IT infrastructure—which is why 90 percent of organizations are looking at moving away from their legacy systems and into crafting a cloud strategy. (Gartner)

Legacy IT infrastructures often lead to higher costs as a result of increased deficiencies, including security vulnerabilities, process interruptions, or system unreliability and unavailability. Each of these deficiencies can make it more challenging to accomplish business objectives or meet customer demand. Even organizations that are not ready to go 100 percent cloud with their data management solutions, are looking towards hybrid solutions, a combination of on-premises and cloud for their data management.

80 percent of the federal government’s IT budget is spent on the maintenance of legacy systems (Federal CIO Tony Scott, CIO Dive Daily)

Making a move to the cloud is a shift forward in many ways, and can empower organizations to accomplish much more with less. For the organizations with smaller budgets or an even smaller team, the cloud can save a great deal of time and money. In situations where legacy IT systems are involved, the operational costs are higher, with productivity not matching up with the costs.

In the end, IT departments are forced to allocate more time and money trying to manage and maintain systems that are simply not getting the job done.

This guide will walk you through the situations that lead to the cloud, how to simplify your transition to the cloud, critical cloud security essentials, and the benefits of a cloud-based managed file transfer (MFT) deployment.

More than $1 trillion in IT spending will be directly or indirectly affected by the cloud shift by 2020.

(Gartner, Market Insight: Cloud Shift – The Transition of IT Spending from Traditional Systems to Cloud)
How You Know It’s Time:  
3 Signs That It’s Time To Move To The Cloud

The IT department is the backbone for many organizations throughout every industry, but it’s not without its challenges. IT needs the right strategy and tools to manage and maintain a secure and productive IT infrastructure, moving to the cloud alone isn’t the answer. Moving to the cloud with a powerful managed file transfer (MFT) solution will make the transition to the cloud easier; and at the same time, it will help you build an IT infrastructure that is secure, efficient, and productive. MFT takes data management to a proactive level of security and productivity, so that you decide who can and can’t access your data; and you stay at a position where you can prevent security or productivity risks before they become a problem.

Listed below are some of the common challenges that IT departments often face and how a cloud-based MFT solution can help.

1. Business needs are not aligned with IT objectives
2. Your IT costs are killing the bottom line
3. Your current IT infrastructure isn’t scalable
1. Business Needs Are Not Aligned With IT Objectives

Every department has goals they must meet in order to support, build, and grow a business. Department leaders will find themselves in need of software applications to support their various initiatives. For example, a sales and marketing department may need a customer relationship management (CRM) solution and marketing analytics tool.

Additionally, that same organization’s HR department may need human resources management software solution to manage their employee records and payroll transactions. The software applications should be vetted through IT to ensure that the solutions can be integrated without obstructing IT’s operational visibility and data management. All departments must work together to align business needs and IT objectives.
2. Your It Costs Are Killing The Bottom Line

If your company runs on a legacy system, then IT will be heavily relied upon to make things happen. Everything from system upgrades to daily server maintenance takes up valuable resources and eats away at your budget. IT ends up spending a majority of its time putting out fires, dealing with network issues, or testing disaster recovery plans. Shift your focus instead on the alternative. If most of your services are in the cloud, a huge weight is lifted off IT so they can then divert energy to other priorities.

System upgrades happen flawlessly behind the scenes. Failover methods and backups are taken care of by the service provider. Support is available to your team 24/7. In other words, your company can quit worrying about infrastructure and focus on what matters most—creating value for your customers.
3. Your Current IT Infrastructure Isn’t Scalable

Many organizations, when faced with resource challenges, put off capital expenditures and seek alternatives to acquiring new hardware platforms. But if a transition is deferred too long, hardware maintenance costs rise anyway, and your applications will fall behind the current standards.

Cloud computing offers an onramp to new computing advances to new computing advances, such as non-relational databases, new languages, and frameworks that are designed to encourage scalability and free up your time to focus on the needs of your business.

Disparate IT systems and applications are a one-way ticket to inefficiency. For many organizations, consolidating their IT assets has long stayed on their agenda. Disparate systems reduce IT operational visibility, which makes it more challenging for IT to catch security or productivity risks. Consolidating disparate systems and IT assets helps overcome these challenges and further enhances collaboration across an organization.

Integration leaders are increasingly recognizing the value of leveraging integration competencies in a consistent way across both application and data integration disciplines. Converging both will drive staffing optimization and synergy between practices and teams to align skills for common goals.” (Gartner)
Simplifying Your Transition:
**Three Steps To A Seamless Cloud Migration**

1. **Determine The Goals Of The Cloud Migration**
2. **Assess Your Current IT Environment**
3. **Select The Right Cloud Migration Solution**
1. Determine The Goals Of The Cloud Migration

Understanding why moving your infrastructure to the cloud is not only the right thing to do, it is imperative.

To do this you need to first determine the goals of migrating to the cloud. Some questions to ask yourself may include:

- **Do you need to lower your IT costs?**
- **Is your existing infrastructure too difficult or cumbersome to maintain?**
- **Do you need to connect currently disparate or outdated systems more efficiently?**

Outlining your goals and objectives helps all involved, both internal stakeholders and external vendors, understand the vision of the migration and how your organization ultimately benefits.
2. Assess Your Current IT Environment

A thorough assessment of your current infrastructure will lay the foundation for many important decisions you’ll need to make and ultimately sets you up for migration success. You need to have a deep understanding of the applications and systems that need to migrate to the cloud, an overall view of your existing infrastructure and the knowledge of existing resources to help with the migration. As part of the assessment, you should evaluate three key points:

a) Decide what should be migrated
While migration to the cloud can bring a variety of benefits to any organization, not every application or system is a good fit for the cloud. As great as the cloud may be, it may not always be the best fit for every application your organization is running. So before taking the migration plunge, make sure you identify which applications are best prepared for migration and focus on those first.

b) Audit your current infrastructure
Once you decide which applications and systems are going to be migrated, the next step is to perform an audit of your current infrastructure. This allows you to get a better idea of the scope and scale of the migration. Some of the factors you should look at include:

- What types of storage do you use and what is the current level of storage you are using?
- How much data do you create and store on a daily, monthly, and yearly basis, and how fast is that growing?
- What kind of databases do you use?
- What kind of analytics programs do you use?
- What is your percentage of downtime?
- Do you have any hidden costs? For example: real estate, security for data centers, power, HVAC, and other costs.
- How much do you pay for server management software?
- What other resources do you have that are dedicated to maintenance and the upkeep of your infrastructure?

A thorough analysis of your current resources and costs will help you identify inefficiencies, locate areas for improvement, and give you a baseline for comparison.

c) Understand your current resource and cost levels
After performing your audit, you then need to understand the resources and costs that you have so that you can maintain your existing setup without any issues.
Some questions to ask include:

- How much money have you spent and do you continue to spend on physical servers?
- How many employees are dedicated to maintaining your data centers, and how much do you pay them in aggregate?
3. Select The Right Cloud Migration Solution

Once you’ve identified the goals of the migration and understand what you have to work with, selecting the right cloud migration solution becomes imperative. Questions to consider before selecting a solution to help you migrate your infrastructure to the cloud:

- What are your core data management processes, and are they efficient?
- Do you have operational visibility over your data and network activity?
- Do you have uptime requirements or SLAs to meet?
- Do you operate within a heavily regulated industry?

Selecting a trusted cloud migration partner early in the process can mean the difference between a successful migration and a disaster. Minimizing the possibility of complications requires a solid data management and migration strategy, along with the right tools to streamline the entire process from start to finish.
How MFT Enables A Successful Migration To The Cloud

Your migration to the cloud is made easier with a MFT solution. A MFT solution offers a direct strategic advantage for an organization that not only wants to protect its investment in the cloud, but also its sensitive and proprietary data. The right MFT platform can help you maintain the control you need to manage your data every step of the way, while you’re making your transition to the cloud and beyond. Additionally, the right MFT platform will enhance visibility over your network, protect your data while it is at rest or in transit, and it will ensure that the flow of your data transfers and business workflows remains both secure and efficient.

With a MFT solution, your transition to the cloud is simplified, even after your IT infrastructure and data is moved to the cloud. MFT enables a successful migration to the cloud in these ways:

1. Added operational visibility and control
2. Increased security over data and IT infrastructure
3. Enables efficient data management
1. **Added operational visibility and control**

No matter how much data you may be moving to the cloud, it’s crucial that you know what’s going on with your data at all times. Through an MFT solution, you can continuously monitor and track all of your data as it moves, who has access to it, and what it’s doing at rest. This level of sight empowers you to have full visibility in near-real time so that you can identify potential security vulnerabilities and improve your overall security posture. Maintaining visibility and control over the data inside and outside of your network can be one of your biggest obstacles, but with MFT, it doesn’t have to be.

2. **Increased security over data and IT infrastructure**

Sending and receiving data is more than getting a file from one location to another. It’s about the steps in between, the systems the data touches, and the employees that have access to it. A MFT solution can deliver an additional layer of enterprise security necessary to safeguard sensitive data and intellectual property during the cloud transition. IT infrastructures integrated with a MFT solution provide a proactive security layer by protecting data while it’s at rest or in transit, and reducing the inefficiencies and inaccuracies that often lead to more security vulnerabilities. Through a MFT solution, you maintain a high level of control over the IT infrastructure and data, so that security vulnerabilities can be reduced or quickly mitigated, regardless if they are external or internal.

3. **Enables efficient data management**

Whether you are moving some or all of your data and IT infrastructure to the cloud, a MFT solution can be scaled to meet your data management needs, from simple file transfers to having the ability to accommodate high volumes of data—including your business critical workflows and processes. On top of the efficiency of being able to scale your MFT solution to your data management needs, there is also the automation element. With a MFT solution, you can automate all of your data workflows and processes, no matter how simple or complex. At the same time, enhanced data transfer automation capabilities reduces the chances of having failed file transfers or other inefficiencies—including a reduction in time wasting manual file transfers. Data transfer automation contributes to an efficient data management strategy because it saves a great deal of time by eliminating the need to manually move data or write and rewrite scripts.
Managed File Transfer To The Rescue

A cloud migration can be a challenging endeavor to take on, but it doesn’t have to degrade your security and productivity objectives in the process. With the right managed file transfer solution you will feel confident with your infrastructure investment. Business processes will be more efficient, secure, and flexible to accommodate to the needs of your environment— no matter how much your volume of data grows.

Globalscape’s award-winning MFT platform, Enhanced File Transfer (EFT), provides enterprise-level security for collaboration with business partners, customers, and employees, while automating the integration of back-end systems. Built-in regulatory compliance, governance, and visibility controls help keep your data safe, while outstanding performance and scalability help boost operational efficiency and maintain business continuity. Administration is easy, yet granular enough for complete control of your file transfer system.

With EFT, you can:

- Use industry-standard secure protocols to secure your file transfers
- Monitor file movement and user activities on your network
- Create a multi-layered security solution for data storage and retrieval, authentication, and firewall traversal with Globalscape DMZ Gateway®
- Use data wiping to thoroughly delete data
- Use malware and IDP tools to prevent malware from entering the network and prevent sensitive data from leaving the network
- Encrypt stored data
- Securely access your data on any device without the cloud
- Merge or replace legacy file transfer systems
- Automate workflows and integrate systems

Don’t take our word for it. Try the 30-day free trial today!
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