



Best Practices for a Smooth Data Center Exit

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



Make better happen

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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.

Create a workload roadmap

Determine which applications should be rehosted, refactored, retired, retained, or repurchased.

Evaluate timing and risks

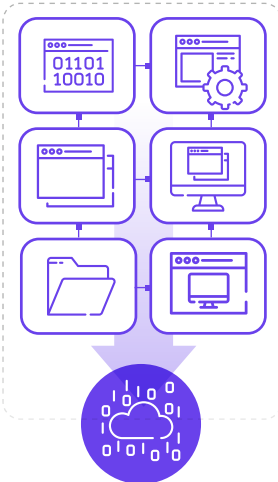
Identify critical deadlines, dependencies, and potential disruptions.

2 Define your migration strategy

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

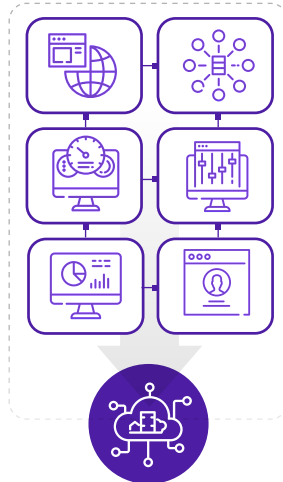
Rehost (lift & shift)

Move as-is to the cloud for quick migration.



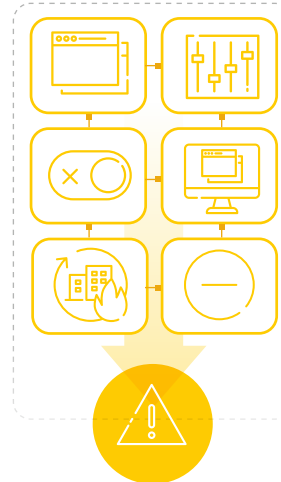
Refactor (rearchitect)

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Decommission outdated or redundant applications.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.

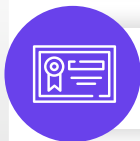
By classifying workloads before migration, you ensure minimal disruption and optimized post-migration performance.

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.