



SAP on Azure Migration Challenges

What to expect and how to overcome them



The Challenges of an SAP to Cloud Migration

A survey¹ by O'Reilly examined the challenges faced by more than 500 practitioners, managers and CXOs when it came to Cloud adoption. According to the survey, around 40% of the respondents found the migration from legacy architecture to be one of the biggest challenges they faced when implementing Cloud-based infrastructure.

The study also found that the complexities of shifting SAP infrastructure to the Cloud varied across different industries, with Finance experiencing more issues with legacy architecture and compliance than other business sectors.

Despite the varying levels of complexity faced in each industry, the awareness of the criticality of a move to the Cloud was universal. This sentiment was driven by competitive markets and disruption from agile startups.

The challenge organizations face during Cloud migration is not just managing the move from legacy architecture, however. There is the additional challenge of having the right skills, corporate culture and systems in place to ensure that a migration is seamless and ultimately successful.

1 www.oreilly.com/radar/how-companies-adopt-and-apply-cloud-native-infrastructure/



Strategic Planning and the Right Approach

Due to the complexity of SAP applications and the interdependencies between SAP components and other applications, an SAP Cloud migration cannot be treated as “any” other application migration. A successful SAP Cloud migration requires strategic planning and an approach that enables your organization to leap past obstacles when they arise.

Why is strategic planning and the right approach so important? It's quite simple.

Organizations that undergo SAP Cloud migrations with little strategic planning and a flawed approach not only increase the risks of the migration but also fail to realize the promise of a flexible, agile, and secure SAP Cloud environment.





Don't Forget About Skill

Skill is critical. The O'Reilly survey found that almost 50% of organizations felt that their lack of skill was impacting their ability to move to the Cloud. Skill shortages, in fact, scored higher than hiring issues, legacy architecture challenges, and security and compliance.

To overcome skill gaps, it's essential that your organization partners with the right service provider throughout the Cloud migration process. You need a partner that's capable of understanding your existing infrastructure and providing a strategic pathway to a successful Cloud migration.

Lemongrass has extensive experience helping organizations successfully migrate their SAP applications to Azure Cloud. Following are the 10 common challenges we typically see during SAP on Azure Cloud migrations and how you can overcome them.



Migration Challenges and How to Overcome Them

- 1. Dealing with the mental paradigm shift:** Thoroughly understand the unique attributes of Azure & the mental shift that can occur during Cloud adoption.
- 2. Provisioning enough local bandwidth:** In the case of a Hybrid Cloud solution, note that the traffic which previously ran over high-speed, low latency LAN will now run over WAN.
- 3. System downtime planning:** Carefully estimate the downtime that each migration step can cause and try to spread it out across your Azure migration steps to reduce downtime impact.
- 4. Dealing with existing dependencies:** Various dependencies should be taken into account while migrating your SAP application to the Cloud. Connection configurations should be determined to prevent serious service interruptions in the Azure migration process.
- 5. Database migration problems:** Identify and predict compatibility issues between Azure storage, like unsupported or partially supported functions. Azure database specialists can help in fixing them during the Azure migration process.



6. **Virtual machine compatibility:** IaaS migration includes many existing virtual machines. Although Azure is an excellent VM hosting choice with wide compatibility for VMs from Windows Server 2008 R2 to Linux VMs, the compatibility of each VM meant for migration must be verified.
7. **Security issues:** Consider implementing a virtual private network with end-to-end encryption to safeguard your application from data breaches.
8. **Managing Application Monitoring:** Ensure that you know the service level agreement and capacity planning strategy needed for your migration processes.
9. **Application compatibility:** Run the application in an Azure test environment to discover any compatibility issues and ensure successful migration to Azure without any service disruptions.
10. **Disaster Recovery planning:** To protect your business, it's important to have a robust Disaster Recovery plan in place to overcome any catastrophic data loss or application errors.

Contact us to schedule an assessment

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Lemongrass is a software-enabled services provider, synonymous with SAP on Cloud, focused on delivering superior, highly automated Managed Services to Enterprise customers. Our customers span multiple verticals and geographies across the Americas, EMEA and APAC.

