

WHAT ABOUT PLANNING?

— BRINGING THE CLOUD TO YOU: THE PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR CLOUD ADOPTION —

Transitioning some or all of your organization to the cloud is not a matter of flipping a switch. You need a thoughtful, thorough plan.

01 BUSINESS GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Naturally, you should start with the foundation: business goals and objectives. As the Cheshire Cat told Alice when she arrived in Wonderland: If you don't know where you're going, any road will take you there. And by "there," the Cat surely meant lost. Before setting out on this journey, you must know what you are and where you're going.



Is my organization planning to acquire or divest businesses in the near future?



Are new products / services being developed?



Are new markets being explored?



Do I intend to add new personnel?

ORGANIZATIONAL ALIGNMENT

02

With your foundation in place, the next set of questions deals with alignment. Business processes must be in place to move your organization, goals, and objectives forward; it's important to have the answers to these questions.



Does my business strategy align with my IT strategy?



Am I expecting the cloud to improve my business processes? If yes, stop. If you're going in the wrong direction, the cloud only gets you lost twice as fast.



Is this a business-focused approach enabled by technology?

03 READINESS CHECKLIST

Outline the key challenges of moving to the cloud and assess your organization's level of preparation. This exercise is most effectively satisfied with a trusted strategic consulting partner and needs to include the following elements.



Rolling forecasts



Workforce planning



Your "nice-to-haves"

POST-LAUNCH PLAN

04

All of this will obviously require a lot of thinking and work, but you can't stop there. You must also contemplate what happens after you go live. Learning how to get a plane off the runway and into the sky is useless without mastering the art of flying and landing, too. Change management is key.



Maintain an executive presence and guiding vision



Select project champions and assemble a core team



Establish your subject matter experts and power users

05 TESTING & TRAINING

Last but not least, there are two final points not to be neglected: testing and training.



Test, test, and re-test that new system before going live. Proper preparation should preempt unwanted surprises when it is showtime.



Train staff. The greatest system in the world will disappoint if users don't know how to operate it.



To learn more about our practice and how we can help your organization on its path to cloud adoption, please reach out to the SC&H Group team today.

888.235.6448 | SCHGROUP.COM/BPM