## **Cloud Migration Timeline Template**

#### Introduction

Migrating to the cloud can save money, improve flexibility, and strengthen security. But without a clear plan, businesses risk downtime, data loss, or unexpected costs. This template outlines the typical timeline and steps to move from on-premise IT to cloud services safely.

For expert support and tailored advice, visit: https://acenetworks.eu/contact-ace-networks/

#### Phase 1: Preparation (1-2 weeks)

- Assess current systems: List servers, applications, and data in use.
- Define business goals: Cost savings, scalability, compliance, or remote access.
- Identify risks: Legacy systems, sensitive data, or weak internet connections.
- Choose a cloud model: Public, private, or hybrid.
- Create a budget: Include migration, training, and ongoing costs.

### Phase 2: Planning (2-3 weeks)

- Select a cloud provider (e.g., Microsoft 365, Google Workspace, secure backup provider).
- Set priorities: Decide which workloads or apps to migrate first.
- Create a migration schedule: Avoid peak business times.
- Plan data backup: Ensure all information is secured before migration.
- Assign responsibilities: Internal team vs. external IT partner.

#### Phase 3: Pilot Migration (1-2 weeks)

- Migrate a small workload first (e.g., email or non-critical apps).
- Test functionality: Ensure access, security, and performance.
- Train staff: Give basic cloud usage and security guidance.
- Fix issues: Address problems before scaling up.

### Phase 4: Full Migration (3-6 weeks)

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- Move key applications: Accounting, CRM, file storage, etc.
- Transfer data in stages: Prioritize critical business data.
- Run systems in parallel: Keep old systems active during the transition.
- Monitor performance: Watch for downtime or user issues.

## Phase 5: Optimization & Support (Ongoing)

- Decommission old servers: Retire unused hardware securely.
- Fine-tune performance: Adjust storage, security settings, and access rights.
- Ongoing monitoring: Watch costs, usage, and system health.
- Regular training: Keep employees updated on best practices.
- Review every 6-12 months: Ensure IT strategy aligns with business growth.

#### Conclusion

Migrating to the cloud doesn't have to be overwhelming. By following a structured timeline, SMEs in Cyprus can reduce risks and get the full benefits of cloud services.

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