

Migration Feasibility and Planning Checklist



The Executive Checklist and Planning Pack

A practical, vendor-neutral guide to determine what can move, when it can move, and how to migrate without avoidable risk.

Designed for: CIOs, Heads of Infrastructure, Facilities Managers, Procurement, and regulated organisations planning data centre exits, consolidations, or hybrid transitions.

Use this pack to: pressure-test vendor proposals, expose hidden dependencies, validate timelines and costs, and build a defensible migration roadmap.



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Executive Summary

- Feasibility is not a vendor estimate, it is an evidence-based decision on whether, how, and when workloads can be moved.
- Most migration failures originate in planning, incomplete dependency mapping, optimistic sequencing, and unmanaged operational/compliance constraints.
- A feasibility-led roadmap reduces rework, prevents cutover surprises, and improves cost and risk outcomes.
- The output should be Board ready, clear options, trade-offs, risk controls, and a staged migration plan.

What 'Feasibility' Should Prove

Feasibility Element	What it Answers
Scope	Which sites, halls, platforms, and workloads are in play? What is explicitly out of scope?
Constraints	Regulatory, resilience, business calendar, maintenance windows, and contractual constraints.
Dependencies	Application-to-application and infrastructure dependencies validated by evidence.
Disposition	What moves as-is, what needs remediation, what retires, what re-platforms.
Plan	Sequencing, waves, cutover approach, rollback, and runbook-level detail.
Assurance	Controls, governance, independent checkpoints, and success measures.

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The Migration Feasibility Checklist (Quick Scan)

Use the checklist below to identify gaps that typically create late-stage risk. If you cannot answer a question with evidence, treat it as a risk.

1. Current State and Inventory

- Do we have a complete inventory of workloads, platforms, racks, networks, and shared services?
- Is ownership (business + technical) defined for each critical workload?
- Are lifecycle constraints known (EoL/EoS, maintenance, support contracts)?

2. Dependencies and Critical Paths

- Are application dependencies validated (not assumed) and mapped to a migration wave plan?
- Are non-obvious dependencies captured (batch jobs, DNS, certs, shared storage, identity, monitoring)?
- Have we identified 'must-move-together' groups and hard sequencing constraints?

3. Risk, Resilience and Compliance

- Are RTO/RPO, availability tiers, and resilience requirements documented and tested?
- Are regulatory constraints defined (data residency, audit trails, operational controls)?
- Is there an agreed risk acceptance process and escalation path?

4. Migration Design and Runbooks

- Is the target architecture defined and approved (including network, security, and operating model)?
- Do we have wave-level runbooks (cutover, rollback, validation, comms) for each migration group?
- Is tooling confirmed (discovery, replication, orchestration) with realistic throughput assumptions?

5. Programme Controls and Assurance

- Is governance defined (decision rights, stage gates, reporting, vendor management)?
- Are success measures defined (risk reduction, cost, performance, compliance, timeline)?
- Is there independent assurance for critical checkpoints and cutovers?

Interpretation: 0–5 unchecked items suggest 'ready to plan'; 6–10 indicates 'planning risk'; 11+ suggest 'remediation required before credible migration timelines can be set'.

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Common Risk Areas to Validate

Risk Area	What to Check
Dependency risk	Hidden coupling, shared services, undocumented flows
Capacity risk	Target environment undersized; network or storage throughput constraints
Operational risk	Change windows, runbook gaps, monitoring, incident response
Resilience risk	RTO/RPO mismatch; DR not validated; single points of failure
Security and Compliance risk	Data residency, access control, auditability, segregation
Commercial risk	Contractual exit constraints; unclear acceptance criteria; misaligned vendor incentives

A Practical 8-Week Feasibility and Planning Outline

Phase	Outputs
Weeks 1-2	Discovery, inventory validation, stakeholder alignment, constraints capture
Weeks 2-4	Dependency mapping, critical path analysis, disposition options
Weeks 4-6	Wave design, cutover approach, runbook drafting, tool and capacity validation
Weeks 6-8	Risk controls, governance, cost/timeline model, executive pack and recommendations

Next step: If you'd like an independent, evidence-based view of your migration readiness, take the 60 second DC Readiness Assessment and receive a tailored risk profile and recommended pathway.

About BARM Data Centre Solutions

BARMDC provides independent Data Centre advisory, migration planning, and assurance for high-stakes environments. We work only for clients never for vendors to ensure decisions are defensible, risk-managed, and outcomes-driven.

Contact

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