

Cloud exit playbook

At TYMIQ, we know for sure: a stitch in time saves nine, so our team has prepared an operational guide that teams can use during planning sessions, architecture reviews, or pre-migration validation.

It can be useful at different stages. Some use it before defining a migration strategy. Others use it to validate readiness before moving critical workloads. In practice, it supports four core activities:

Run the checklist before planning to identify gaps early

Validate the runbook through controlled tests before production changes

Use the scorecard to prioritize improvements across systems

Repeat the process as systems evolve, and dependencies change

1. Cloud exit readiness checklist

This section is useful for engineering leaders, architects, and operations teams who need to assess whether their current environment can support a controlled migration. It is typically used at the earliest stage, before defining timelines or committing to an exit plan.

Use this checklist to determine whether your environment can support controlled migration.

- Data export tested using full production volume
- All systems interacting with data identified and documented
- Infrastructure fully defined in code and version-controlled
- Cost model includes transfer, compute, and temporary duplication
- Rollback process defined and tested under load

Additional recommendations:

- Validate export performance during peak and off-peak hours
- Confirm access permissions for data extraction across environments
- Identify regulatory constraints related to data movement
- Define acceptable downtime thresholds before testing begins



At this stage, teams often discover gaps that were not visible during planning. A data export may take longer than expected, or dependencies may appear across systems that were not initially considered. These findings shift the focus from assumptions to constraints. Once these constraints are clear, the next step is to define how migration will actually be executed.

2. Exit runbook

This section is useful for delivery teams and engineering managers responsible for executing migration steps. It is applied once readiness gaps are identified and teams need a structured way to perform migration without disrupting operations. The runbook defines how migration is executed step by step. It should be precise enough to follow without interpretation.



Core components:

- Assigned roles for each stage of migration
- Sequenced migration steps with clear dependencies
- Communication plan for internal teams and stakeholders
- Defined rollback triggers and recovery procedures

Additional recommendations:

- Include timing estimates for each step based on test runs
- Define escalation paths for critical failures
- Document system states before and after each phase
- Align communication timing with business operations

When teams begin testing the runbook, differences between planning and execution become visible. Steps that seemed straightforward require coordination across multiple teams. Timing assumptions need adjustment. Some rollback procedures may need refinement. These insights help teams understand which systems are ready to move and which require further preparation.

3. Portability scorecard

This section is useful for architects and technical leads who need to prioritize migration efforts across multiple systems. It is applied after initial testing to evaluate which workloads can move safely and which require additional work.



Use this scorecard to evaluate how prepared each system is for migration.

- Can data be exported, transferred, and validated without manual intervention?
- To what extent does the system rely on provider-specific services?
- Can the system be redeployed in another environment without changes?
- Can performance and failures be tracked across environments?

Additional recommendations:

- Review each category with both engineering and operations teams
- Assign ownership for improving low-scoring areas
- Reassess after major system changes
- Link scorecard results to migration planning decisions



At this point, teams move from understanding constraints to making decisions. Some systems show high readiness and can be migrated early. Others require additional work before they can be included in the plan. This creates a sequence of actions instead of a single large migration effort, which leads directly into controlled execution.

4. Execution sequence

This section is useful for coordinating migration across teams and aligning execution with business priorities. It provides a structured order of actions based on validated readiness.

Step 1. Run the readiness checklist

Identify gaps across data, infrastructure, and cost before defining timelines

Step 2. Build and validate the runbook

Simulate migration using non-critical workloads and refine steps

Step 3. Assess systems using the scorecard

Prioritize which workloads can move first based on readiness

Step 4. Execute controlled migration

Start with low-risk systems and expand gradually

Step 5. Reassess after each phase

Update the checklist and scorecard based on new findings

As execution progresses, new constraints and dependencies will appear. Teams refine their approach after each phase, improving accuracy and reducing risk. Over time, migration becomes a repeatable process instead of a one-time event.



Test your cloud exit strategy under real conditions

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