appian

Cloud Migration Simplified with Appian Process Automation

By John Trapani

As firms across financial services continue to make investments in cloud computing, they are seeking to balance the need to innovate more rapidly with the challenges imposed by reliance on legacy, on-premise systems. Legacy systems can be inflexible, difficult to modify, and they hold you back from taking advantage of the modern capabilities provided by today's cloud vendors. What's more, it can be difficult or impossible to migrate a legacy system to the cloud.

Operating in the cloud comes with lots of advantages, including lower costs, a smaller carbon footprint, and scalability, which enhances reliability. Choosing the right cloud provider can unlock opportunities to use cutting-edge technologies like artificial intelligence and machine learning, advanced databases, and serverless computing, all without large up-front investments. To achieve these benefits, though, existing platforms need to become cloud-enabled.

So what are the challenges of executing a cloud migration plan? Is there an opportunity to gain a competitive advantage by positioning your systems to leverage new capabilities? How can you keep the effort and risk low, while maximizing the potential benefits? One way is to deploy a unified platform like Appian to optimize your processes and take advantage of all the cloud has to offer.

Cloud migration and the Five R's.

The Five R's represent different approaches you can take when deciding how to cloud-enable your systems. You need a strategy for each existing system to move it to the cloud or to begin using cloud capabilities. These strategies are typically one of the following: rehost, revise, re-architect, rebuild, or replace.

Legacy systems can be inflexible, difficult to modify, and they hold you back from taking advantage of the modern capabilities provided by today's cloud vendors.

Each of the Five R's presents a different level of effort, risk, and benefit:

Option	Summary	Effort	Risk	Benefits
Rehost	"Lift and Shift" a system from on-premise to the cloud. Make no other changes.	Lowest	Lowest	Small
Revise	Enact comprehensive modifications to core system behaviors.	Low	Low	Small
Re-architect	Build a new, cloud-native version of an existing application.	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Rebuild	Build a new, cloud-native version of an existing application.	Large	High	High
Replace	Fully replace a legacy platform with a new solution, often a cloud-native SaaS.	Largest	Highest	Highest

When planning your cloud migration, you'll want to minimize cost, keep risk very low, and maximize your ability to take advantage of your cloud provider's capabilities. Using the Appian platform helps you achieve these goals.

Appian for faster, easier cloud migration.

Many organizations use Appian to build applications that sit in front of one or more legacy applications, tying them together and improving their functionality. This approach lets you retire or replace legacy applications without affecting the user experience or productivity. For a cloud migration project, this is a powerful capability.

Four of the Five R's involve moving legacy applications to the cloud whilst making changes to system architecture, features, or both. Using Appian as an enabling application atop your legacy estate allows you to more easily adopt a more ambitious approach to your migration, helping you capture more benefits while keeping the risk low. Appian applications can be used to migrate features and functions gradually, avoiding the risk of big-bang system cutovers and shielding your user population from disruption. Of course, some applications may still require an all-or-nothing approach to a cutover. Using Appian will give you an easy way to fall back and try again in case something needs remediation, while shielding your users from the impact of the migration.

> Using Appian will give you an easy way to fall back and try again in case something needs remediation, while shielding your users from the impact of the migration.

The key takeaway is that using Appian for your migration efforts is a smart way to lower your risk and capture more value more quickly.

Beyond migration: Innovate with Appian.

Once you've migrated your application to the cloud, Appian can help you iterate faster and deliver value more quickly and will allow you to leverage cloud capabilities rapidly. Building applications with Appian is 10x faster than with alternative approaches. Faster development shortens your time to value and lowers the cost of ongoing maintenance.

Appian will also help you integrate new cloud capabilities into your applications. Modern cloud providers are developing new capabilities at a rapid pace. Appian, as an open platform, lowers the cost of trying these new cloud services, since you can integrate them into your Appian applications almost immediately. And since change is easy in Appian, you can quickly swap between the different service offerings until you find the right combination of features and functionality.

Appian lets you go from idea to implementation quickly, and iterate early and often. And the cloud provides a palette of options you can use to enrich your applications without making a big upfront investment. Options like AI/ML, scalable modern database technologies, serverless computing, and messaging services are levers you can use to gain a competitive advantage. Together with Appian they allow you to deliver value to your business quickly and efficiently.

Conclusion.

Migrating your applications to the cloud with Appian will provide advantages that can make your business more competitive, contain costs, and help you to manage risk. This approach can yield greater benefits at a lower cost and will continue to help you build applications that have an impact long after you have completed the migration. You will have a modern, efficient, and optimized set of applications that will allow you to innovate at a rapid pace, keeping your competitive edge now and into the future.

Building applications with Appian is 10x faster than with alternative approaches.

appian

Appian is the unified platform for change. We accelerate customers' businesses by discovering, designing, and automating their most important processes. The Appian Low-Code Platform combines the key capabilities needed to get work done faster, Process Mining + Workflow + Automation, in a unified low-code platform. Appian is open, enterprise-grade, and trusted by industry leaders. For more information, visit **appian.com**.