

How to Survive a Successful Cloud Migration

Many organizations are implementing cloud technology to streamline administrative operations with the potential for long-term cost savings — and higher education and health care institutions are no longer an exception.

In the following Q&A, Bill Cronin and Jason Moebius, both Huron managing directors, provide their expert insights as to why higher education and health care institutions are migrating over to the cloud, and how these organizations can effectively do so.

Q&A

Q: What are an institution's most common pitfalls when implementing cloud technology?

Bill: The No.1 challenge is a person treating the implementation like it is the same type of implementation they have gone through for the last 10 to 15 years where there is a tremendous amount of effort upfront. That's not the case for the cloud.

The approach during these implementations needs to be more iterative, and institutions should evolve their processes to better align with the technology.

The second pitfall is not taking advantage of the leading practices that get delivered in these cloud systems and revisiting dated and inefficient processes of the past.

When an institution implements a cloud product, they are able to realign with more efficient business processes, and some may stop short of taking full advantage.

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— Jason Moebius
Huron Managing Director

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To hear more from Bill Cronin and Jason Moebius on this issue, follow @Huron for up-to-date webinar, events, and speaking engagements, and **subscribe** to our monthly newsletter, The Future of Higher Education, for timely higher education news.

The final issue is ignoring the change-management element. In implementing cloud technology, you are making a large process change, and many people will be impacted. Not fully investing in and supporting end users through the change is a real trap.

Jason: There are two things happening that really make it challenging for organizations to make this jump. One, there is a real shortage of skilled resources in the market, so it's hard to find the right people to advise your cloud implementation.

Then, there is also the challenge of getting the right vendor and/or services provider to support you.

Q: What is the No. 1 piece of advice you would give to an institution going through a cloud implementation?

Bill: Make sure your leadership is ready and willing take the project on. Then, talk to other institutions of similar size and complexity that have gone through an implementation, learning from their experience.

Jason: Don't stop short of looking at a cloud implementation as a larger transformational effort for your organization. It can open up a lot of doors for candid conversations about the way things have been done for a very long time across either a university or a hospital system.

Rather than think about this as a technical effort, think about this as an organizational transformation effort.

If you're considering a migration to the cloud, Huron can help. You can learn more about our technology solutions, and contact us, by visiting www.huronconsultinggroup.com/Expertise/Education/Technology_Solutions.

You can also reach **Bill Cronin** and **Jason Moebius** directly at bcronin@huronconsultinggroup.com and jmoebius@huronconsultinggroup.com.

4 PRACTICAL WAYS to Prepare for the Cloud

Adopting cloud technology can be disruptive, but it's the direction many modern health care and higher education institutions are starting to take. So why wait?

- 1 Build a case for change**
Focus on quantitative elements, such as hard savings targets, and qualitative, such as improved end-user experience
- 2 Prepare for the transition**
Understand current process pain points, cultivate executive support, and identify change agents
- 3 Design for future state**
Assess changes needed to business processes, organizational structure, and system support
- 4 Begin with the end**
Educate your team, select your vendor(s), and develop a transition roadmap rooted in business objectives