

The 10 Laws of On-Premises to Cloud Migration Projects

- 1 Law of Adapting Modern Business Processes**—Don't copy and paste on-premises business processes to the cloud. Start with modern best practices. Avoid "paving cow paths" based on old approaches and custom code.
- 2 Law of Good Data Management**—Good data strategies require an aggressive archive strategy, a purge plan, a well-defined dictionary, and multiple sequential quality-checked data conversion trials.
- 3 Law of Human Testing**—The cloud still requires testing (but far less compared to on-premises). User acceptance testing by real end users is project insurance. Performance testing is critical—test internal and external capacity requirements at maximum levels prior to go-live.
- 4 Law of Proactive Change Management**—Organizations always encounter resistance to change regardless of applications or technologies. Manage change before change occurs.
- 5 Law of User Training and Orientation**—Users still need training before go-live. With cloud applications, training focuses on orientation, process, and intuition rather than traditional click-a-button step-by-step task instruction.
- 6 Law of Executive Sponsor Impact**—Enlist an executive sponsor who has major organizational influence (and, if needed, can threaten a paycheck).
- 7 Law of Budgets and Resources**—Internal staff and external resources are required to deliver a successful project. Budget accordingly.
- 8 Law of Configuration Priority**—Configurations are the first, second, and third priority over customizations. Always strive to avoid customizations with cloud applications.
- 9 Law of Customization Avoidance**—Don't reproduce on-premises custom objects. If absolutely required, justify each customization by opportunity and reject "nice-to-have" features. Match requests to one of these key reasons: earn more money, save more money, or work in a new market.
- 10 Law of Partner Involvement**—When companies migrate to the cloud without a partner, they have hired the wrong partner. Engage the right partner before project kickoff and take advantage of their expertise and experience.