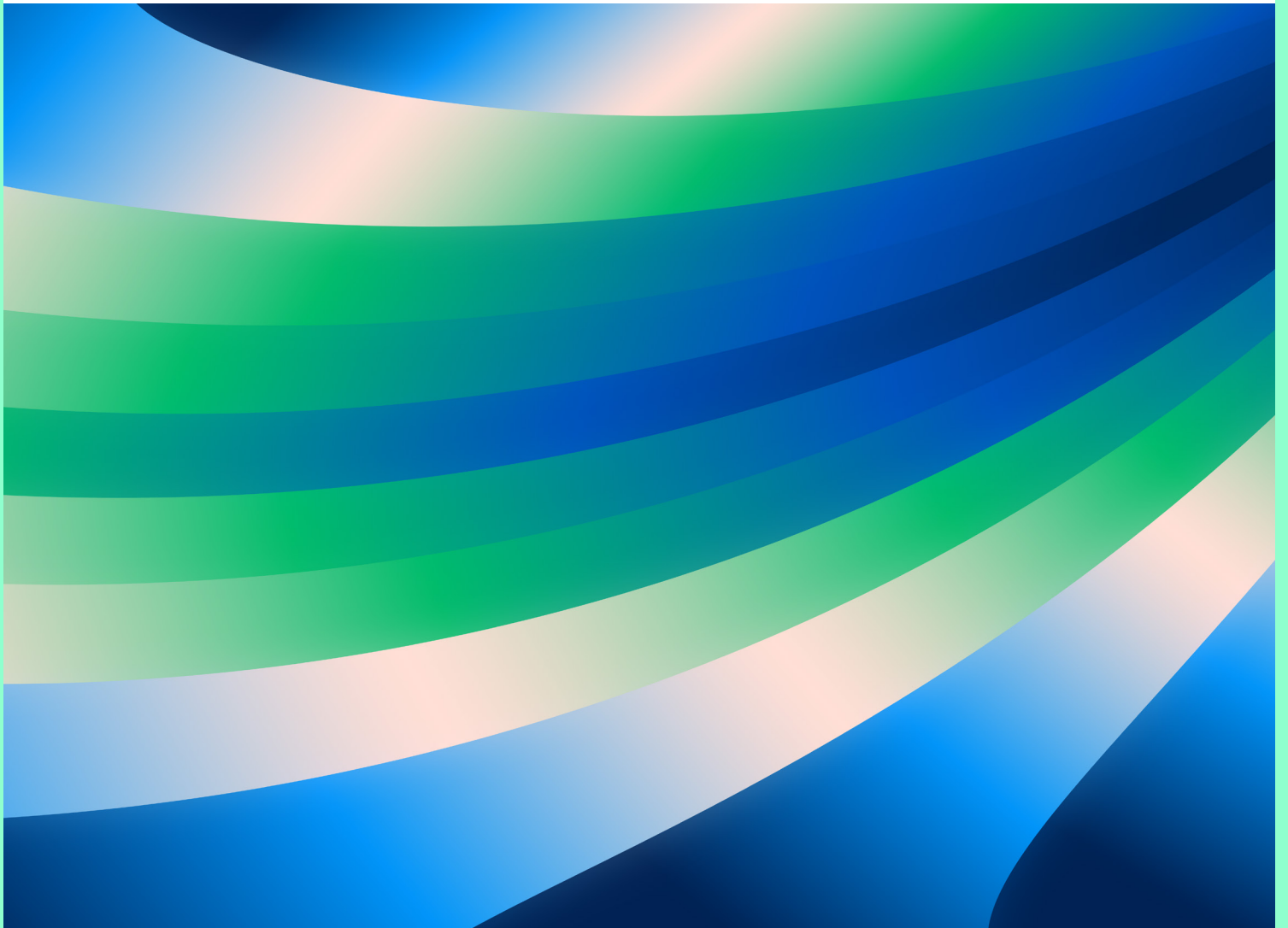




AWS FOR VMWARE

4 essentials for migrating and modernizing VMware workloads

Your guide to cloud success



Embrace change with confidence. Migrate and modernize with AWS.

Organizations are re-evaluating vendor dependencies and long-term strategies. For VMware workloads specifically, what was once predictable now requires fresh evaluation.

What matters now is real choice and flexibility in how you move forward. Consider: Which workloads are ready for cloud-based migration? How can you turn this moment into an opportunity to transform your business? How do you accelerate while maintaining business continuity?

Making this choice confidently requires the right foundation. AWS delivers comprehensive choice, proven expertise, global infrastructure, and continuous innovation.

This guide explores four essentials to turn your VMware disruption into migration success:

- Choosing the right pathway for your unique workloads
- Using migration programs and expertise
- Accelerating with agentic AI to automate complexity and reduce timelines
- Upskilling your team with specialized training and certification

These essentials will help you navigate your decision, accelerate your journey, and maximize long-term value.

4 essentials for cloud success

A successful cloud migration requires careful consideration of four critical factors, whether you're managing immediate change, driving strategic transformation, or balancing both priorities. These essentials provide the framework for confident decision-making and successful execution.

1

Choose the right migration pathway for your workloads

Key questions to consider:

- What are the needs of my organization, and what migration options are available for my VMware workloads?
- Do I have critical deadlines or timelines for my cloud migration project?
- Do my chosen pathways allow me to balance speed, cost, and business continuity based on my priorities?

[Read more](#)

3

Accelerate with agentic AI and migration tools

Key questions to consider:

- What tools and automation solutions will streamline and accelerate my migration process?
- How can agentic AI reduce the complexity and timeline of my migration project?
- What capabilities ensure compatibility and integration between existing systems and the cloud environment?

[Read more](#)

2

Use migration programs and expertise

Key questions to consider:

- What migration resources, assessments, and funding programs are available to de-risk my migration?
- Do I have access to proven migration expertise and partners to ensure success?
- How can I eliminate budget barriers to accelerate my migration?

[Read more](#)

4

Upskill your team with training and certification

Key questions to consider:

- Does my IT team have the necessary skills to manage and optimize cloud infrastructure effectively?
- What training programs will bridge skill gaps within my organization?
- How can I prepare my vSphere administrators for success in the cloud?

[Read more](#)

1

Choose the right pathway for your workloads

Moving to the cloud is about more than infrastructure—it's about building a foundation that drives down costs, accelerates modernization, and unlocks AI capabilities. AWS offers choice and flexibility to get you there.

AWS Pathways for VMware-based workloads

AWS brings together purpose-built services, global infrastructure, and proven migration expertise to help you move VMware workloads to the cloud with confidence.

You gain access to cloud-native services and global infrastructure designed for resilience and high availability, backed by a rich partner network. Most importantly, the cloud provides a foundation for AI capabilities that are difficult and costly to replicate on-premises.

The right pathway makes all of this possible—AWS gives you the flexibility to match your approach to your business priorities, timelines, and workload requirements.

MIGRATION AND MODERNIZATION PATHWAYS

MIGRATE AND MODERNIZE TO AWS NATIVE SERVICES



AMAZON EC2



AMAZON ECS OR EKS



AMAZON RDS, WORKSPACES, FSX, ETC.



MODERN APPS

RUN VMWARE IN THE CLOUD



AMAZON EVS

RUN AWS ON PREMISES



AWS OUTPOSTS

MOVE TO ALTERNATIVE VIRTUALIZATION SOLUTIONS

NUTANIX



NUTANIX CLOUD CLUSTERS ON AWS (NC2 ON AWS)

RED HAT OPENSIFT ON AWS (ROSA)

Migrate and modernize to AWS core services

For organizations seeking to eliminate licensing costs and unlock the full capabilities of the cloud, AWS offers comprehensive pathways:

Rehost VMs to Amazon EC2

Migrate VMware Virtual Machines (VMs) to [Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud](#) (Amazon EC2) and start your cloud journey. Reduce infrastructure costs, scale efficiently, and tap into the performance and resilience of AWS with minimal changes to your applications.

Replatform to container services

Building on your VMware migration, free your teams from the undifferentiated heavy lifting by adopting AWS managed container services: [Amazon ECS](#), [Amazon EKS](#), and [AWS Fargate](#). Modernize and standardize deployments, automate operations, and scale applications without rewriting code.

Replatform to managed databases and storage

Replatform to [Amazon Relational Database Service](#) (Amazon RDS) to eliminate database management overhead while gaining automated backups, patching, and high availability. You can also migrate to [Amazon FSx](#) for fully managed file storage with enterprise features and performance.

Replatform Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI)

[Amazon WorkSpaces](#) modernizes your VDI as part of your AWS data center migration. Move off costly licensing with fully managed Desktop-as-a-Service, or bring your existing VDI license to maintain workflows and operational continuity while ensuring Microsoft 365 licensing compliance.

Refactor to Serverless

For the VMware-based workloads ready to go further, [AWS Lambda](#) enables event-driven serverless architectures that eliminate infrastructure management and build cloud-native, AI-ready foundations.

Key benefits

Break free from vendor lock-in

Eliminate costly on-premises hardware and licensing fees.

Unlock 240+ AWS services

Access AI, machine learning, analytics, and continuous innovation from day one.

Path to accelerated migration with agentic AI and expert services

Use agentic AI and purpose-built services to fast-track your migration.

Scale with confidence

Elastic infrastructure backed by the AWS global presence and 99.99% availability SLA.

Keep VMware stack and run it in the cloud

Relocate workloads to Amazon EVS

[Amazon Elastic VMware Service](#) (Amazon EVS) is the fastest path to run VMware workloads on AWS. Experience the scale, resilience, and performance of AWS together with familiar VMware Cloud Foundation (VCF) software and tools. Unlock flexibility and control as you extend and expand your VMware environments to AWS.

Choose from self-managed or partner-managed options to meet your goals across talent, time, and costs.

For organizations that want to maintain VMware workloads while gaining immediate cloud benefits, Amazon EVS provides the fastest path forward.

Key benefits

Run VMware on AWS

Deploy VCF directly within your [Amazon Virtual Private Cloud](#) (VPC) alongside other AWS applications.

Keep control over your virtualization stack in the cloud

Extend on-premises networks and migrate workloads without having to change IP addresses, retrain staff, or re-write operational runbooks.

Self-manage or use AWS Partners for a managed experience

Choose to self-manage or use the expertise of [AWS Partners](#) to manage and operate your VCF environment on AWS.

Adopt AWS services at your pace

Integrate with 240+ AWS services as your business needs evolve.

Pathways to meet your specific requirements

AWS recognizes that some organizations have unique requirements that call for alternative approaches:

Run AWS on premises

[AWS Outposts](#) allows you to run AWS services on premises, meeting data residency and latency requirements. Access a consistent operational experience across your on-premises and cloud environments, enabling seamless integration and workload portability between the two environments.

Explore alternative virtualization solutions

AWS works with virtualization solutions providers to help you operate in a virtualized environment, with the added benefits of running on AWS. [Nutanix Cloud Clusters on AWS](#) (NC2 on AWS) delivers hybrid cloud and disaster recovery without operational disruption. Preserve IP addresses. Eliminate application refactoring risk.

[Red Hat OpenShift Service on AWS](#) (ROSA) is a fully managed Red Hat OpenShift integration in the cloud. This service is ideal for existing Red Hat customers who need familiar tools and enterprise support.

Key benefits

Meet your data residency needs

Run VMware workloads and access AWS capabilities while maintaining data residency and low-latency performance.

Operate consistently across environments

Use the same AWS tools, APIs, and services on premises and in the cloud. Integrate seamlessly. Move workloads between environments.

Key benefits

Explore virtualization alternatives

Move to solutions that fit your business.

Minimize operational disruption

Keep similar deployment patterns and operational models.

Unlock AWS capabilities

Experience the benefits of the cloud while maximizing your existing skillsets.

Use migration programs and expertise

20 years of migration experience across hundreds of thousands of enterprises is built into every program, tool, and framework AWS offers—so you can move faster, with less risk, and with the right support at every stage.

Start with an assessment

[Optimization and Licensing Assessment \(OLA\)](#)

Before you migrate, know exactly what you're working with. The AWS OLA is a complimentary assessment that gives you a complete picture to assess and optimize on-premises and cloud environments, reduce required instances, and enhance resource efficiency.

- **Licensing and dependency analysis:** Understand your full environment before migrating
- **Cost optimization recommendations:** Reduce costs before you migrate, not after
- **Migration pathway guidance:** Identify the approach that fits your strategy and timeline



Funding programs

[AWS Migration Acceleration Program \(MAP\)](#)

MAP is a comprehensive, proven cloud migration program that combines financial incentives, structured methodology, and hands-on support to reduce the time, cost, and risk of migration.

- **Outcome-driven methodology:** Based on AWS experience migrating thousands of enterprise customers
- **Financial incentives:** Offset the costs of migrations with funding support
- **Reduced risk:** Proven framework minimizes execution risk
- **Faster time to value:** Built to accelerate even the most complex migrations

[AWS VMware Migration Accelerator \(VMA\)](#)

Moving VMware Cloud on AWS workloads to Amazon EC2? VMA provides credits that lower your migration costs and help you move faster.

- Reduce the upfront cost of migration
- Accelerate your project timeline

Your migration and modernization may qualify for additional programs. Talk to your AWS representative to find out what's available to you.

Expert guidance and support

[AWS Professional Services](#)

AWS Professional Services combines AI-enhanced delivery, specialized solutions, and deep industry expertise to help you design, build, migrate, and manage your VMware workloads on AWS.

Access proven frameworks and dedicated VMware expertise to accelerate timelines, reduce risk, and deliver faster time to value.

- **VMware migration strategy and planning:** Tailored approaches for your unique needs
- **Hands-on implementation support:** Expert guidance throughout execution
- **Knowledge transfer:** Build internal capabilities for long-term success

[AWS Migration Competency Partners](#)

AWS Partners with migration and modernization expertise—across industries, workload types, and levels of complexity.

- **460+ Migration Competency Partners:** Proven expertise across industries and use cases
- **Specialized VMware capabilities:** Deep experience with VMware systems and AWS migration strategies

Accelerate with agentic AI and migration tools

The right tooling accelerates everything. Agentic AI and purpose-built migration tools take the complexity out of the process and compress timelines at every stage.

Introducing AWS Transform: Agentic AI for enterprise modernization

[AWS Transform](#) is the first agentic AI to accelerate the transformation of Windows, mainframe, VMware, and more—reducing technical debt and making your tech stack AI-ready

AWS brings this breakthrough technology for VMware migrations. [AWS Transform for VMware](#) is designed specifically to accelerate moving VMware workloads to the cloud. Built on 20 years of migration experience, AWS Transform for VMware automates discovery, planning, and network and VM migration—effectively reducing migration timelines.



How AWS Transform for VMware works

Automated discovery and dependency mapping

The AWS Transform for VMware migration agent automatically discovers your VMware environment, mapping workloads, dependencies, and network configurations, eliminating weeks of manual inventory work.

Intelligent migration planning

Through conversational workflows, the agent analyzes your environment and generates optimized migration waves tailored to your business goals and application dependencies.

Automated network conversion

AWS Transform automatically converts on-premises VMware networking into cloud-based AWS infrastructure in minutes. It also generates ready-to-deploy infrastructure-as-code (IaC) following AWS best practices.

Simplified server rehosting

AWS Transform handles the conversion of VMs to EC2, handling compatibility and optimization. It automates replication, testing, and cutover to eliminate manual errors.

Real-time collaboration

A unified workspace helps your migration team to collaborate in real time guided by the migration agent. Modify plans, adapt to changes, and maintain alignment.

Key benefits

Lower costs

- Eliminate VMware licensing fees
- Optimize infra costs with AI-driven right-sizing

Faster migrations

- Accelerate network conversion by up to 80x
- Preserve app integrity and accelerate cutovers

Improve security

- Strengthen security with cloud-based foundations
- Secure migrations with human validation

Innovate at scale

- Reduce technical debt and build scalable apps
- Integrate with 240+ AWS services

ON-PREMISES

AWS TRANSFORM

THE CLOUD



DISCOVERY
ASSESSMENT



MIGRATION
PLANNING



NETWORK CONVERSION
& MIGRATION



VM MIGRATION
& DEPLOYMENT

4

Upskill your team with training and certification

One of the barriers to cloud adoption is not technology—it's skills. Many IT teams have deep infrastructure and on-premises expertise. Moving to the cloud allows you to build on what you already know. AWS Training and Certification takes your existing expertise and extends it into the cloud.

AWS Training and Certification offerings

[AWS Training and Certification](#) gives individuals and organizations the tools to build real-world cloud skills—backed by industry-recognized credentials. From short online videos to instructor-led and classroom onsite training, there's a format that fits every team.



DIGITAL TRAINING
AWS SKILL BUILDER



INSTRUCTOR-LED
CLASSROOM TRAINING



AWS CERTIFICATION



AWS EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Tailored learning for VMware administrators

[AWS for VMware Administrators Learning Plan](#)

Built for VMware administrators, this learning plan bridges the gap between existing expertise and what's needed to succeed on AWS—covering cloud fundamentals, security, and cost management through interactive courses and hands-on labs. Take it further with AWS Skill Builder courses like [Getting Started with AWS Transform](#) and [Amazon EVS Fundamentals](#) to dive deeper into specific services.

[AWS Migration Essentials Classroom Training](#)

A one-day fundamentals course covering the full migration lifecycle across discovery, planning, execution, and tracking using AWS tools and services. The right starting point for teams that need to get up to speed quickly before an active migration project.

Knowing the essentials helps you forge the right path

Migrating to the cloud and building a successful foundation for modernization doesn't follow any single pattern. Your needs will be determined by your organization's business objectives and technology needs. Making informed choices means tackling the essentials now.

Your journey starts now

For two decades, AWS has helped thousands of organizations successfully migrate and modernize VMware workloads. With comprehensive migration services, proven expertise, and continuous innovation, we're ready to help you turn disruption into opportunity.

The cloud isn't just about infrastructure—it's about transformation. With the right pathway, resources, tools, and skills, you can eliminate vendor lock-in, reduce costs, and unlock access to 240+ AWS services that drive innovation.

Ready to get started? Connect with your AWS representative to discuss your migration strategy and discover which programs and resources are available for your organization.

[Learn more →](#)



Get started today

Request your no-cost [Optimization and Licensing Assessment here](#).

Additional resources:

- [Learn more about AWS for VMware](#)
- [AWS migration resources](#)

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