

How to Transition Your Print Operations to the Cloud

A Comprehensive Guide to Navigating Cloud
Adoption for Your Manufacturing Organization

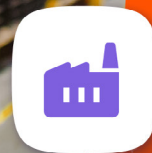


Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Understand the Value of Cloud Solutions	4
What to Expect After Cloud Adoption	4
Identify Needs and Establish Goals	5
6 Action Items to Ensure Success	5
Prioritize Security and Visibility	6
Consolidate Front-and Back-end Print and Document Management	7
Find a Trusted Cloud Partner	8
Execute Your Ideal Cloud Migration with Vasion Print Today	9



80%

The infographic features a large, abstract shape composed of two overlapping organic forms, one purple and one orange. A white rectangular box with a subtle drop shadow is centered within the purple form. Inside this box, the text '80%' is displayed in a large, bold, orange font. Below it, a smaller black font contains the statement 'of manufacturers are expected to increase cloud spend in 2024.' At the bottom of the white box, the text 'Source: Infosys' is written in a small, dark font. To the right of the white box, partially overlapping the orange form, is a white rounded square containing a dark blue icon of a cloud with a checkmark inside. The background of the entire page is a light gray with a repeating pattern of small, white, line-art icons representing various manufacturing and industrial concepts, such as gears, trucks, factories, and robotic arms.

of manufacturers are expected to increase cloud spend in 2024.

Source: Infosys



Introduction

Implementing cloud-based solutions that integrate, automate, and connect your mission-critical systems enables you to operate at the highest level. **According to Infosys, 80% of manufacturers are expected to increase cloud spend in 2024, 73% of which believe a move to the cloud is extremely effective in reducing operational costs, improving production time to market, and streamlining ERP-based processes.**

Not sure where to begin? Below are steps IT leaders like you can follow for a smoother transition to the cloud.

Understand the Value of Cloud Solutions

Understanding the value of navigating the cloud transition for manufacturing is essential for leveraging its full potential. The shift to cloud-based solutions can drive significant improvements in operational efficiency, flexibility, and innovation—not to mention a pretty favorable return on investment. **A recent report found that cloud-powered organizations experience 92% cost savings compared to companies without cloud-based solutions.** These savings come in the form of lower energy costs, optimized resource allocation, and reduced unplanned downtime.

By adopting cloud technology, manufacturers can access advanced analytics, enhance collaboration, and streamline processes, ultimately leading to better decision-making and faster time-to-market.

What to Expect After Cloud Adoption



Increased Operational Efficiency: Cloud solutions optimize resource utilization and reduce the need for on-premises infrastructure, leading to streamlined operations.



Enhanced Collaboration: Cloud-based platforms allow for seamless communication and collaboration among geographically dispersed teams, improving project coordination and innovation.



Advanced Analytics: Access to real-time data and powerful analytics tools facilitates informed decision-making and continuous improvement.



Cost-effectiveness: The pay-as-you-go model and reduced maintenance costs associated with legacy systems free up financial resources for strategic initiatives.



Unlimited Flexibility and Scalability: Cloud platforms enable manufacturers to scale resources up or down based on demand, ensuring agility and cost-efficiency.



Disaster Recovery: Robust backup and redundancy features ensure quick recovery from disruptions, maintaining business continuity and protecting critical data.

Identify Needs and Establish Goals

Assessing needs and establishing goals is a critical first step when navigating the cloud transition for manufacturing. Identify point systems you'd like to eliminate and areas where you can consolidate applications to cut costs and streamline processes.

You may also find opportunities to automate processes like sales processing, order creation, printer driver deployments, device and document tracking, and more. Establishing these goals provides a roadmap and sets benchmarks for measuring success as you go through the transition process.

6 Action Items to Ensure Success



1. Assess Current Operations

Conduct a comprehensive evaluation of existing processes to identify bottlenecks and inefficiencies.



2. Define Objectives

Set specific, measurable goals such as improving scalability, enhancing collaboration, reducing costs, and ensuring robust disaster recovery.



3. Align with Business Goals

Ensure that cloud transition objectives support the broader strategic goals of the organization.



4. Create a Focused Strategy

Develop a detailed plan that outlines the steps needed to achieve the defined objectives.



5. Set Benchmarks for Success

Establish clear metrics to measure the progress and success of the cloud transition.



6. Engage Stakeholders

Involve key stakeholders in the goalsetting process to ensure alignment and support across the organization.

Prioritize Security and Visibility

According to IBM threat intelligence, manufacturing is the industry most commonly targeted by cybercriminals. As manufacturers transition critical operations and data to cloud-based platforms, ensuring robust security measures and maintaining visibility into system activities become essential safeguards against cyber threats and data breaches. And while there's no "right way" to do security, cloud-based platforms provide built-in features and integrations that improve your manufacturing organization's security posture, such as:

- **Advanced Data Encryption:** Utilize encryption protocols to protect sensitive data both in transit and at rest.
- **Access Controls:** Implement strict controls to limit user permissions and prevent unauthorized access to sensitive information.
- **Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA):** Require multi-factor authentication for accessing cloud resources via IdP integrations.
- **Regular Audits and Compliance Checks:** Conduct regular audits and compliance checks to ensure adherence to industry regulations and standards.
- **Printed Document Protection:** Require users to authenticate at the printer via badge swipe, QR code scan, or web browser to release print jobs.
- **Automatic Security Updates:** Leverage rolling updates from your cloud providers to eliminate manual security checks and hardware patches.

Implementing comprehensive security protocols and leveraging advanced monitoring tools enable proactive threat detection and rapid response, supporting the overall resilience of manufacturing operations in the cloud.

\$4.73M

The average cost of data breach in manufacturing

Source: IBM



Consolidate Front- and Back-end Print and Document Management

Printing is an integral part of manufacturing operations. In fact, when printers stop, so does production. **Unplanned downtime caused by printers and print servers costs manufacturing organizations up to \$260,000 per hour, including lost productivity, revenue, and expensive repairs.**

Business-critical documents like work orders, labels, and bills of lading must be printed on time with zero disruption to ensure smooth end-to-end processes. However, one of the major disconnects lies within front- and back-end printing from SAP systems—many of which don't provide insights into print activity or automate failovers in case of a printer error.

By connecting cloud-based print management with SAP systems, manufacturers can eliminate front-end print servers and leverage automated printing capabilities, streamlining print management and improving print and document workflows. Additionally, cloud print management provides real-time insights into end user printing and scanning activity to enable better resource allocation and predictive maintenance.

Eliminating front-end print servers and moving your print environment to a cloud-based solution gives you access to features that maximize document output, including:



Batch Printing

Configure batches of documents to print in a specific order every time.



Confirmed Delivery

Receive updates on a print job's current status to ensure the successful delivery of high-volume and critical print jobs.



Rules & Routing

Automate management and routing of documents based on key characteristics—without manual intervention.



API Print Service

Connect your web-based applications to your printers through API post requests.

Find a Trusted Cloud Partner

A reliable cloud partner can provide expertise, guidance, and support throughout the transition process, ensuring a smooth and successful implementation. By selecting a trusted partner, manufacturers can leverage their experience and resources to maximize the benefits of cloud technology while minimizing risks and challenges.

Whether it's selecting the right cloud platform, designing a tailored solution, or providing ongoing maintenance and support, a trusted cloud partner plays a crucial role in driving innovation and transformation in manufacturing.

But what makes a partner “trusted” in today's fast-paced environments? Research suggests it's all about exceeding expectations. **According to Salesforce, 80% of consumers say the customer experience is just as important as the products and services they sell.** Another 58% of customers now want companies to understand their unique needs and expectations in order to maintain their loyalty. In short, your expectations should be met from day one—no matter how big. Here are a few questions to get your relationship started down the right path.

What to Ask Before You Purchase

Q: What compliance standards do you follow?

The best organizations are ISO 27001- and SOC 2 Type 2-compliant.

Q: How do you minimize output disruptions during implementation?

Look at the company's experience with other manufacturers. Make sure they have a wellbuilt game plan tailored to your objectives.

Q: Can you supply references from other manufacturing organizations our size?

Ask for recent case studies and customer reviews so you know what you're getting into.

Q: What's your downtime history?

Cloud outages can be disruptive to your bottom line. Ensure your cloud provider has a good track record and backup procedures in case of downtime.

Q: What customer support services do you offer?

Customer support should be available at all hours of the day. Inquire about response times and if you'll be speaking with dedicated experts during a call.

Execute Your Ideal Cloud Migration with Vasion Print

Avoid analysis paralysis, and let Vasion Print help you migrate your mission-critical print and document processes to the cloud.

[Learn More](#)



SOURCES

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