

WHITEPAPER

Essential Strategies for Transitioning On-Premises PLM Systems to Cloud



In today's competitive markets, a great product is not sufficient to ensure financial success. Equally important is how a business orchestrates various aspects of the product life cycle.

That's why, getting products quickly to market, enhancing quality outcomes, and minimizing costs are the most coveted outcomes of product lifecycle management (PLM). Today, these outcomes cannot be achieved without cloud-based PLM solutions.

This means that most organizations are due to migrate their on-prem PLM deployments to the cloud.



Why transition to cloud PLM?

Cloud PLMs offer numerous tactical and operational advantages over on-prem PLMs. Here are a few of them:

- 1** On-prem PLMs have become cost centers, as they require recurring hardware and software upgrades. Cloud PLMs abstract these responsibilities away, driving significant cost savings.
- 2** Cloud PLMs make it easier to stay on current hardware and software. Upgrades come without disruptions and at a lower TCO than on-prem PLMs.
- 3** With on-prem PLMs, scaling with growing demands requires significant infrastructure investments. Cloud PLMs on the other hand, can quickly scale up and down with changing needs.

Lastly, cloud PLMs also facilitate remote accessibility and improved collaboration within product teams and with suppliers and contractors. These upsides make a transition to cloud PLMs worth pursuing to gain a strategic edge in today's competitive markets.

Challenges in transitioning to cloud PLM

Migrating your PLM to the cloud is a significant undertaking. However, attaining the above benefits is not assured if common challenges of PLM cloud migration are not addressed at the get-go. These include:

- 1** Ensuring the security of confidential product data during migration and maintaining compliance with data security regulations.
- 2** Integrating the cloud PLM to other systems like the CRM, ERP, or MES to build connected processes and drive secure collaboration.
- 3** Teaching users how to use the new product and helping them adapt to new workflows without disrupting operations.

These challenges can be mitigated by adhering to the best practices for migrating PLMs to the cloud.

Best practices for switching from on-prem to cloud PLM

- 1 Assessment Phase**
 - Evaluate current on-premises PLM system
 - Identify business goals and requirement
- 2 Partner Selection**
 - Research and select a reputable cloud PLM provider
 - Ensure compatibility with existing systems
- 3 Data Migration Strategy**
 - Plan data migration process carefully
 - Test data integrity post-migration
- 4 Training and Change Management**
 - Provide comprehensive training to users
 - Address resistance to change proactively
- 5 Security Measures**
 - Implement robust security protocols
 - Regularly monitor and update security measures
- 6 Integration Planning**
 - Develop a strategy for integrating cloud PLM with other systems
 - Ensure seamless connectivity between platforms

Learnings from successful migrations

Successful PLM cloud migrations can bring tangible results. One of our clients, with 4000+ users spread in 100 countries was able to improve publish and response times and enhance performance and efficiency across key workflows like promotion requests, frame processes, and tooling management.

This was realized by migrating a Windchill 10.x on-prem deployment with 10+ customizations and north of 80TB of data to AWS. Post-migration, Birlasoft upgraded the PLM from Windchill 10.x to 12.x in two steps. By employing the best practices, we built a robust, scalable, and secure infrastructure in AWS for supporting the PLM deployment. Simultaneously, we harmonized the cloud PLM with other systems like Creo CAD and established efficient data management and synchronization for lasting benefits.

Next steps

Cloud PLMs can bring much-needed continuity and agility to the product life cycle, and facilitate true collaboration between engineering, production, and service functions. When the transition to cloud PLM is carried out with a trusted technology partner, organizations can expect significant TCO reduction, better product quality and functionality outcomes, and assured success in the market.

Migrate your PLM to the cloud to experience these benefits at your organization - get in touch with our cloud PLM experts to start now.

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