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How to Evaluate a Move to a Vendor Cloud

5 Critical Questions Before You Commit

Guide at a Glance

- T**he Challenge:** Vendor-hosted clouds like those offered by Oracle, Autodesk, and Hexagon offer convenience but can limit flexibility, integration, and data access.
- **Why It Matters:** Losing control of your systems and data can create new silos and unexpected costs.
- **What This Guide Covers:** Five key questions to evaluate before you commit to a vendor's cloud.
- **What You'll Gain:** A clearer picture of your risks, options, and how to keep control of your cloud environment.
- **Read Time:** A few minutes that could save months of migration headaches.

Created by LoadSpring Solutions, the leader in unified project platforms for global project teams.

Overview: The Cloud Move Is Inevitable —But the Trade-Offs Are Real

Across industries, aging on-prem systems are becoming harder to maintain, harder to integrate, and harder to secure, especially as project teams rely on more tools across scheduling, cost, risk, and design.

Many organizations feel pressure to shift quickly to vendor-hosted clouds such as Oracle, Autodesk or Hexagon because they appear simple and convenient. But convenience can mask new constraints. Vendor clouds often come with trade-offs: reduced customization, new data-warehouse requirements, limited integrations, and less visibility into the systems you depend on every day.

This guide walks you through five essential questions to ensure your cloud strategy strengthens, rather than weakens, your project ecosystem.

Before You Move: The 5 Questions That Define Cloud Success

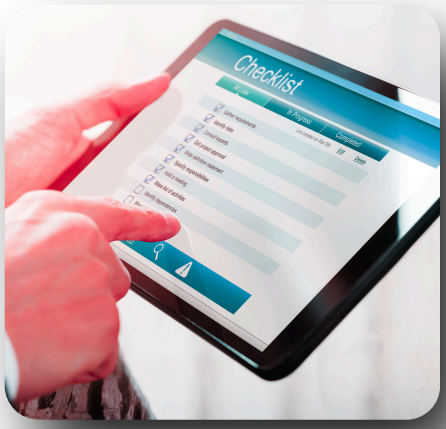
Every migration to a vendor cloud brings new promises—and new pitfalls. The right questions can reveal what you'll gain, what you'll lose, and how to safeguard your project ecosystem from disruption. These five considerations will help you evaluate not just the move itself, but the long-term impact on your data, integrations, and control.

1. Will You Need a New Data Warehouse?

When you move to a vendor cloud, you often lose direct access to the underlying application database. For teams running project controls software or cloud-based project management solutions, that creates an immediate challenge: existing reporting pipelines may stop working.

If you currently extract data from Primavera P6, EcoSys, or G2, those processes may not survive the migration. Vendor clouds typically restrict access to tables, schemas, or APIs, which means organizations suddenly need a separate data warehouse to pull everything together again.

Tip: Map every data source before you move. Confirm how your tech stack will connect once the application is hosted by the vendor. If you rely on blended datasets, budget for a new warehouse or a more unified project platform later.



Mini-Checklist

- Inventory every system that produces or consumes data.
- Test existing connections in a sandbox environment.
- Confirm data refresh frequency and latency post-move.

2. How Much Customization Will You Lose?

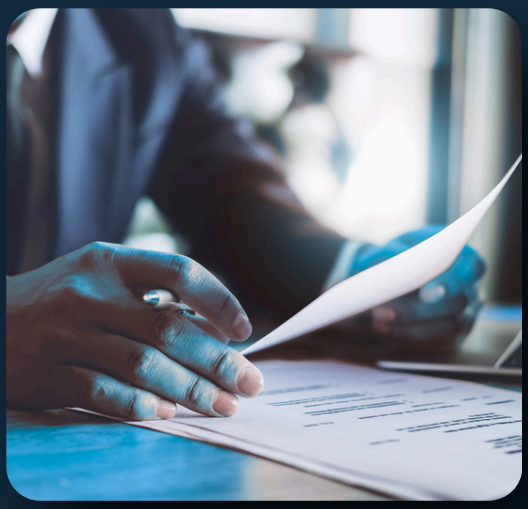
Most on-prem systems evolve over years. Organizations build scripts, workflows, dashboards, and minor extensions that fit the way that business operates—not the way the vendor imagines they should operate. That's a strength of on-prem: you can customize nearly everything.

Vendor clouds work differently. They standardize the environment to simplify support and upgrades. That standardization removes flexibility. When those customizations disappear, teams often feel the impact immediately in delayed processes, reduced automation, and new manual work.

Tip: Audit every script, workflow, and custom field before you migrate. Categorize them as "business-critical," "nice to have," or "replaceable." Anything in the critical column should trigger a deeper migration discussion.

Mini-Checklist

- List all custom scripts, workflows, and reports.
- Rank them by operational impact.
- Check vendor documentation for support or limitations.



3. Will You Still Control Integrations?

Most project organizations don't work in a single system. They stitch together scheduling tools, estimating tools, risk tools, document control systems, BIM platforms, and ERP data. Integrations are the backbone of project delivery.

If you rely on tools such as Primavera P6, Autodesk, EcoSys, Powerproject, or SharePoint, those connections may break in a vendor cloud. Reasons include:

- Limited API access or slower API performance
- Additional fees to unlock integration functionality
- Less restrictive security controls to allow multi-tenant access
- Vendor policies restricting external connections
- Version mismatches between systems
- Siloed hosting that prevents cross-system data flow

When integrations fail, data becomes trapped. Schedules no longer match cost data. Risk logs diverge from real-time progress. Teams start managing projects through spreadsheets—precisely what cloud-based project management solutions are meant to eliminate.

Tip: Ask for a full integration map showing what will continue working, what needs rebuilding, and what is not supported. If integrations are core to your operation, you may benefit from a more open, unified cloud platform instead.

Mini-Checklist

- Map every upstream/downstream integration.
- Test API access and authentication options.
- Document fallback workflows if connections are restricted.

4. How Much Visibility and Governance Will You Have?

When you move to a vendor cloud, you gain convenience—but often lose transparency. The vendor controls the infrastructure, the performance monitoring, and in some cases, the administrative settings.

For project teams needing real-time performance insight, that creates gaps.

Common visibility challenges include:

- Difficulty understanding what's causing slowdowns
- Limited reporting on uptime or root-cause analysis
- Lack of clarity around cost drivers
- No unified view of how applications, data, and integrations perform end-to-end

This is where many organizations look for single pane of glass software—a way to track performance, usage, spend, and governance across their entire environment. But vendor clouds typically give visibility into their application, not the wider ecosystem.

Tip: Consider cloud solutions that give you centralized visibility without forcing you into a restricted vendor-managed setup. Ask vendors what you will—and won't—be able to see once your applications sit in their environment.

Mini-Checklist

- Identify your current performance and spend metrics.
- Verify how vendor dashboards expose those metrics.
- Confirm reporting frequency and data ownership.

5. What's Your Exit Strategy?

Vendor clouds make onboarding simple. Leaving is another story.

Moving out of a vendor cloud often means:

- Extracting data through limited export functions
- Rebuilding lost integrations, dashboards and reports
- Re-establishing identity and access controls
- Re-hosting applications in a new environment
- Untangling licenses, contracts, and dependencies

Most organizations don't realize how hard it is to leave a vendor's cloud until they reach the first renewal. That is the moment when the real limits show up. You only start asking about data exports, integrations, and re-hosting options when you are deciding whether to stay or move. That is when you learn what is possible, what is slow, and what is blocked. It is also the first time you compare costs with other options, which often reveals new fees or hidden effort. With the renewal deadline coming up fast, many organizations find they do not have the time or flexibility to move. As a result, they stay in a cloud that no longer fits the way they work.

A lack of exit flexibility also limits strategic agility. If your organization adopts new systems, restructures programs, or merges with another business, being locked into a closed cloud makes it difficult to evolve.

Tip: Before signing, ask direct questions about, and document in writing, data ownership, export formats, and migration support. Build exit costs into your business case—not just entry costs.

Mini-Checklist

- Review contractual clauses on data access and portability.
- Estimate re-hosting time and cost.
- Define conditions that would trigger an exit plan.

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Common Misconceptions	What to Keep in Mind
“Our vendor already manages integration.”	Vendor APIs often limit cross-platform workflows — confirm scope before assuming full connectivity.
“We don’t have time for audits.”	Start with a one-day data and customization inventory; automate where possible.
“The vendor provides dashboards.”	Check whether those dashboards go beyond basic infrastructure metrics (e.g., uptime) to include project performance, cost, and governance data.
“We can always move later.”	Clarify data-export rights early. Exits get harder once you’re deeply integrated into a vendor ecosystem.

The Bottom Line: Think Beyond the Migration

Cloud migration is inevitable. But where you land matters far more than when you move.

Vendor clouds offer simplicity, but often at the cost of customization, integration freedom, and operational visibility. These trade-offs can slow down project delivery and limit your ability to connect applications such as P6, AutoCAD, and EcoSys into a cohesive, future-ready ecosystem.

A unified project platform gives you a different path—one that blends cloud scalability with full control over integrations, data, governance, and long-term flexibility. It supports the entire project landscape rather than a single vendor’s application.

A Better Alternative to Vendor Clouds: The Unified Project Platform



A vendor cloud solves one problem: where an application is hosted. A Unified Project Platform (UPP) solves the problems vendor clouds create: access, integration, visibility, control, and long-term flexibility.

A UPP sits above every hosted application—on-prem, vendor cloud, private cloud, or hybrid—and gives your organization a unified way to manage them. Instead of isolating each application inside a vendor's silo, the UPP connects them into a single, governed project ecosystem.

Here is what the UPP provides that vendor clouds cannot.

1. Keep all your data connected, no matter where apps live.

Vendor clouds restrict database access and often force you to build new warehouses.
A UPP creates one governed data layer across all your applications, so your reporting continues to work, your data stays unified, and your analytics remain reliable.

2. Preserve your custom workflows and automations.

Vendor clouds standardize everything.
A UPP protects the integrations, scripts, and processes your organization has built over years —so your project operations keep running the way you designed them.

3. Maintain open integration across your entire project ecosystem.

Vendor clouds limit or block integrations across scheduling, cost, risk, and design tools.
A UPP keeps Primavera P6, EcoSys, Autodesk, estimating tools, and BI platforms connected, even when each tool is hosted in a different environment.

4. Regain the visibility and governance vendor clouds remove.

Vendor hosting means vendor rules, vendor reporting, and vendor-defined SLAs.
A UPP gives you a single pane of glass across every application, every environment, every user, and every integration—regardless of who hosts what.

5. Keep your exit options open.

Vendor clouds make onboarding easy and exiting difficult.
A UPP preserves your flexibility, so applications can move between on-prem, vendor cloud, private cloud, or hybrid without breaking your integrations, identity management, or reporting.

6. Build a future-proof project ecosystem.

Vendor clouds only support their own software.
A UPP supports your entire project landscape—schedule, cost, design, risk, field systems, and analytics—so your organization can evolve without being locked into one vendor's roadmap.

In short, a vendor cloud gives you hosting.
A Unified Project Platform gives you control.

Put a Unified Project Platform Behind Your Cloud

Explore how LoadSpring's secure unified project platform delivers the power of the cloud —without the limitations of vendor lock-in. Contact us today.

ABOUT LOADSPRING

For 25 years, LoadSpring Solutions has been at the forefront of transforming capital-intensive projects worldwide, supporting over $1 trillion in project value and serving more than 100,000 users across 6,000 organizations. As the industry's most trusted digital transformation partner, LoadSpring leverages its deep expertise in cloud technology, data modernization, and AI-powered analytics to deliver customized solutions, drive measurable results, and maximize ROI for the world's most complex capital projects.

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