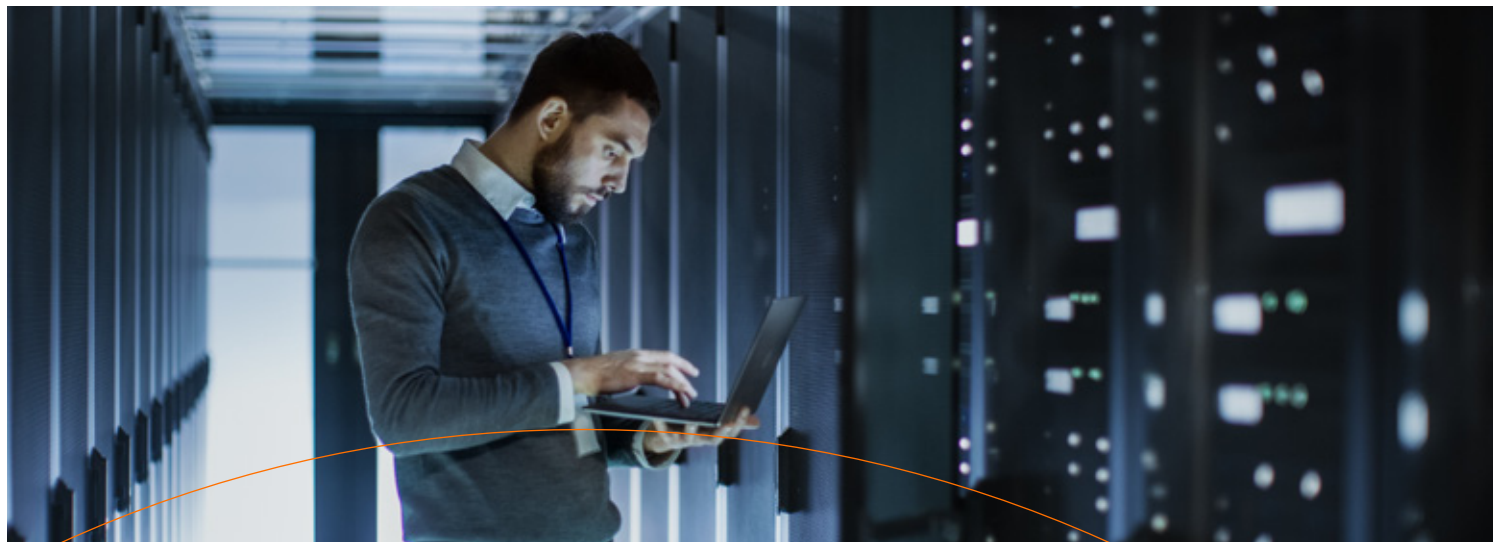


AWS migration checklist: step-by-step guide

Moving to AWS in 2026 looks different than it did even two years ago. Agentic tooling now handles much of the discovery and rehosting work. Cost governance starts on day one. Every migration decision also has to account for the AI workloads you plan to run next. This checklist walks through each phase of a modern migration, from planning through ongoing management, so you can move with less risk and fewer cost surprises.





1. Pre-Migration Planning (Assess)

- ☐ Define migration goals, including cost savings, scalability, performance, and readiness for future AI workloads
- ☐ Identify business, compliance, and data-residency requirements
- ☐ Assess organizational readiness using AWS Cloud Adoption Framework (AWS CAF), including its AI/ML lens
- ☐ Map your application and infrastructure inventory, using AWS Application Discovery Service or the AWS Transform discovery tool
- ☐ Conduct a Well-Architected Review of the workloads in scope
- ☐ Choose a migration strategy using the 7 Rs (rehost, replatform, repurchase, refactor, relocate, retain, retire) and flag anything that needs refactoring
- ☐ Set KPIs for migration success using AWS Cloud Value Framework
- ☐ Decide between a hands-on migration and an agentic workflow (AWS Transform for migration) for discovery, wave planning, network conversion, and rehosting
- ☐ Create a project timeline with milestones
- ☐ Assign roles and responsibilities across teams, including data ownership
- ☐ Build the business case with an evidence-based TCO estimate (Migration Evaluator) and check eligibility for AWS Migration Acceleration Program (MAP) funding
- ☐ Review the AWS Cloud Financial Management Framework and define the controls required from day one

2. AWS Environment Setup (Mobilize)

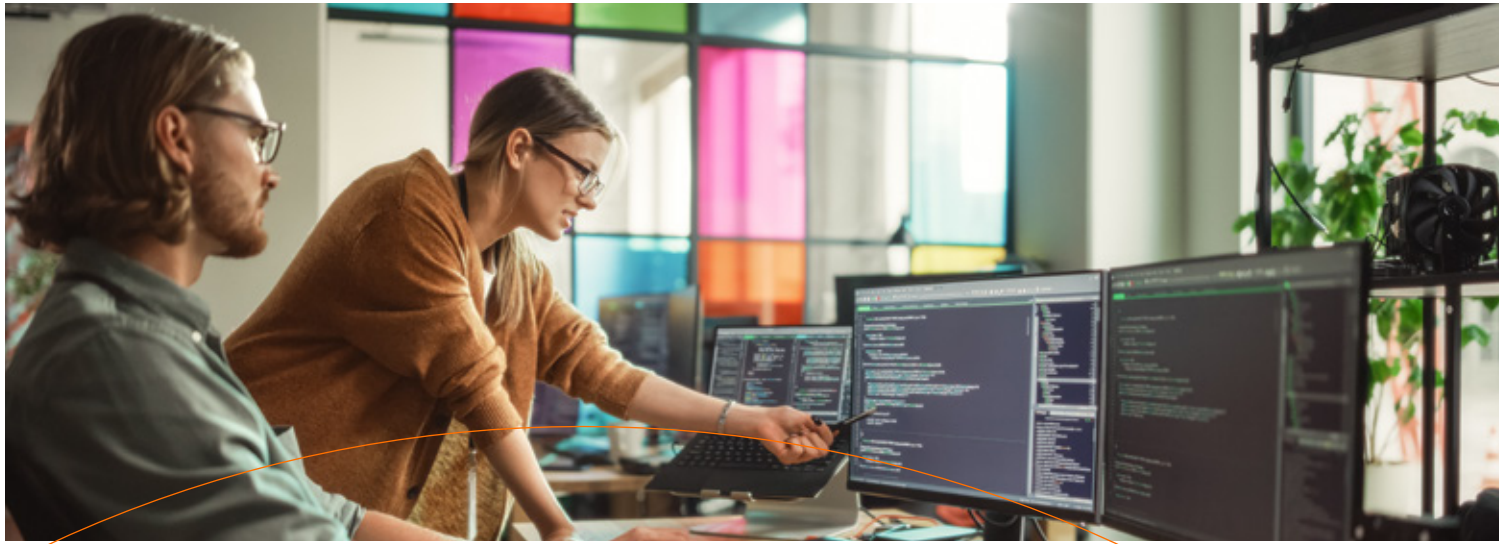
- ☐ Create or validate your AWS account structure and billing setup (AWS Organizations)
- ☐ Use AWS Control Tower for multi-account landing zone with purpose-devoted accounts;
- ☐ Consider Landing Zone Accelerator on AWS for regulated environments
- ☐ Secure root user in every account and use Organizations' centralized root access management
- ☐ Set up AWS IAM Identity Center federated with your identity provider
- ☐ Set up IAM roles and policies on a least-privilege basis, with service control policies (SCPs) and resource control policies (RCPs) as organization-wide guardrails
- ☐ Standardize on infrastructure as code (AWS CloudFormation, AWS CDK, or Terraform) and a CI/CD pipeline
- ☐ Design AWS network infrastructure and establish security baselines : security groups, network ACLs, and encryption at rest and in transit
- ☐ Turn on logging and monitoring (Amazon CloudWatch, AWS CloudTrail)
- ☐ Enable Amazon GuardDuty for threat detection, AWS Config for compliance monitoring, and AWS Security Hub as the aggregation point
- ☐ Configure AWS Backup with defined RPO/RTO targets Baseline operations tooling: AWS Systems Manager (Patch Manager, Inventory)
- ☐ Implement cost monitoring controls, including AWS Budgets, Cost Allocation Tags, AWS Cost Categories, Anomaly Detection, and AWS Data Exports feeding Cloud Intelligence Dashboards
- ☐ Confirm your support plan unlocks the full AWS Trusted Advisor check set
- ☐ Stand up the governed data layer with a catalog and fine-grained access controls before data starts landing
- ☐ Define data classification tiers and residency rules; enable Amazon Macie for sensitive-data discovery
- ☐ Decide model-access policy and how AI/inference spend will be tagged

3. Application and Data Migration

- ☐ Select appropriate AWS migration tools (e.g., AWS Transform MGN, DMS, DataSync)
- ☐ Group workloads into migration waves based on your dependency map, sequencing data that unblocks planned AI use cases early
- ☐ Classify and tag datasets (sensitivity, residency, owner) before they move
- ☐ Test network connectivity and latency
- ☐ Migrate test/dev environments first and validate application behavior
- ☐ Pilot the target AI/analytics workflow on migrated data to surface gaps early
- ☐ Migrate production workloads in batches
- ☐ Ensure data integrity and quality during and after transfer
- ☐ Monitor for performance issues and adjust resources accordingly

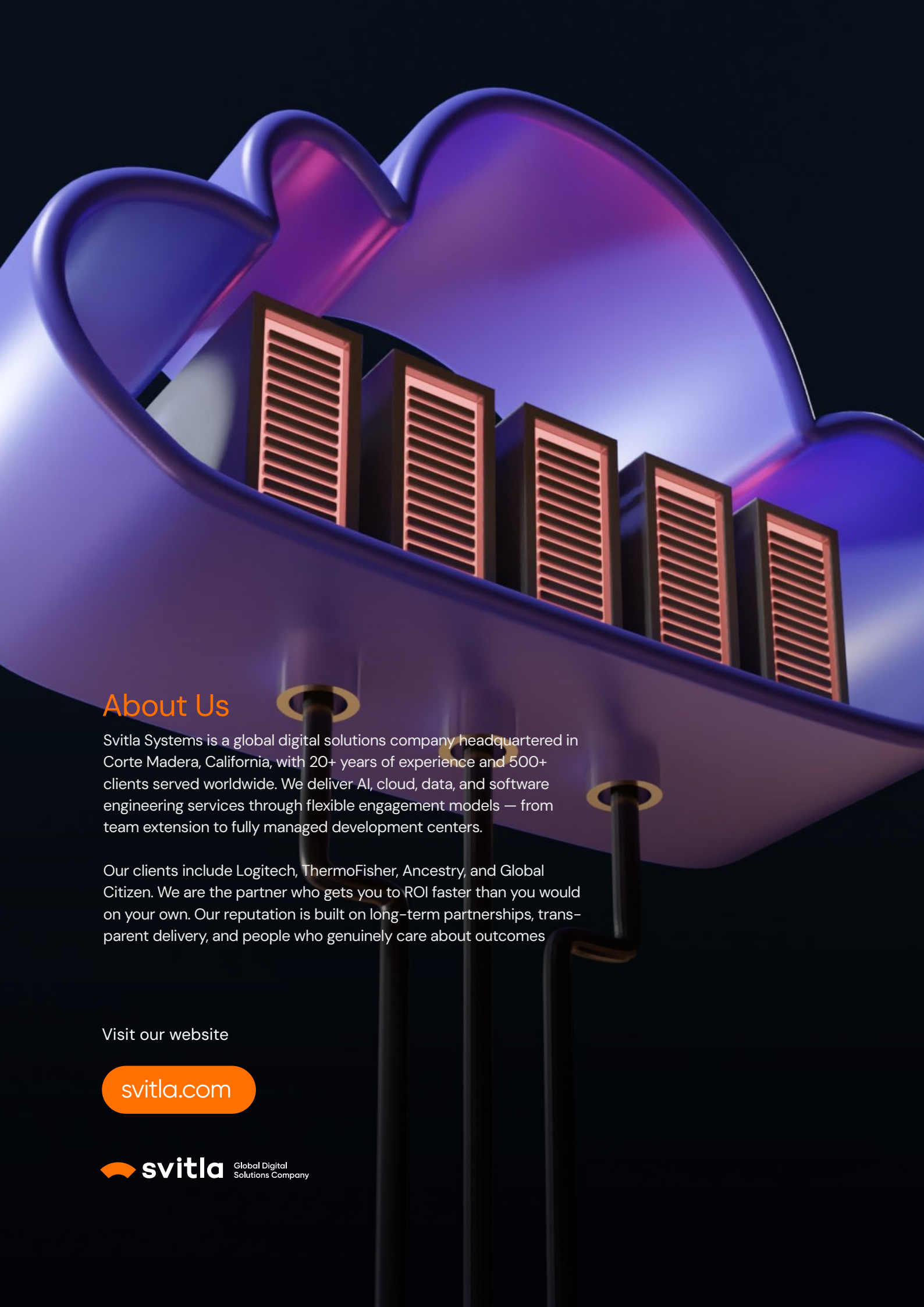
4. Post-Migration Validation

- ☐ Run full application functionality tests
- ☐ Confirm security policies and compliance standards are met
- ☐ Verify IAM policies and data access boundaries, including catalog-enforced access
- ☐ Compare pre- and post-migration performance and cost metrics
- ☐ Review CloudWatch dashboards for system health
- ☐ Validate data lineage and quality for workloads feeding AI or analytics pipelines
- ☐ Confirm responsible-AI controls (guardrails, model logging) are active
- ☐ Remove unused resources to avoid cost sprawl
- ☐ Create documentation for the new AWS environment and its data catalog
- ☐ Train teams on cloud and data operations



5. Optimization and Ongoing Management

- ☐ Commit to Reserved Instances/Saving Plans once usage stabilizes
- ☐ Automate patching, scaling, and backups
- ☐ Run a monthly cost review (see/save/plan/run), tracking inference and token spend as its own category
- ☐ Continuously monitor usage, performance and right-sizing opportunities
- ☐ Keep data governance active: periodic access reviews, catalog stewardship, lifecycle enforcement
- ☐ Govern AI workloads as products: model/agent inventory, drift monitoring, cost per inference
- ☐ Re-run Well-Architected Reviews on a fixed cadence or after major change
- ☐ Review outcomes against KPIs and CAF maturity, and feed findings into the roadmap
- ☐ Establish a feedback loop for ongoing improvements



About Us

Svitla Systems is a global digital solutions company headquartered in Corte Madera, California, with 20+ years of experience and 500+ clients served worldwide. We deliver AI, cloud, data, and software engineering services through flexible engagement models — from team extension to fully managed development centers.

Our clients include Logitech, ThermoFisher, Ancestry, and Global Citizen. We are the partner who gets you to ROI faster than you would on your own. Our reputation is built on long-term partnerships, transparent delivery, and people who genuinely care about outcomes

Visit our website

svitla.com

