MethodHub™

WHITEPAPER

VMWARE TO NUTANIX MIGRATION AS A SERVICE (MAAS)

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"VMware to Nutanix Migration as a Service" is emerging as a highly sought-after offering, with many organizations moving away from proprietary platforms toward open and cost-effective alternatives. MethodHub delivers professional migration and consulting services for Nutanix, providing a comprehensive, end-to-end transition from VMware environments (such as vSphere, ESXi, and vSAN) to Nutanix Hyperconverged Infrastructure (HCI) or hybrid/cloud solutions like Nutanix Cloud Clusters (NC2) on AWS and Azure.

The service is designed to minimize downtime, optimize costs, and ensure scalability while addressing post-Broadcom acquisition concerns such as price increases and vendor lock-in. Delivered as a fully managed service, it encompasses consulting, execution, and post-migration support. Engagements are typically customized through tailored quotes but can also take advantage of programs such as Nutanix's "Broadcom to Nutanix Migration Promotion" for eligible new customers.

1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

Objective

Migrate existing VMware vSphere workloads to Nutanix (AHV or ESXi on Nutanix) with minimal downtime.

Scope

Discovery, planning, design, migration execution, testing, and handover.

Stakeholders

Customer IT, Application Owners, Nutanix Architects, Migration Service Team.

2. SERVICE PHASES

The migration follows a structured, phased approach to ensure low risk and efficiency.

2.1. ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING (1-4 WEEKS):

- Inventory VMware workloads, dependencies, and risks using tools like Nutanix Collector (for metrics gathering) and Nutanix Sizer (for right-sizing infrastructure).
- Map applications and infrastructure with partner tools like Faddom (for dependency mapping) or ReadyWorks (for automation and visibility).
- Evaluate migration paths: On-premises to Nutanix HCI, or to cloud (e.g., NC2 on AWS for disaster recovery).
- Output: Migration roadmap, TCO analysis, and risk mitigation plan.

2.2. Preparation and Testing (2-6 weeks):

- Set up Nutanix environment (e.g., AHV hypervisor as ESXi alternative).
- Test migrations in a sandbox using Nutanix Move for VM portability.
- Handle data migration, potentially using DiskInternals VMFS Recovery for VMware file system access if needed.
- Best practices: Phased pilots, backups, and compatibility checks.

2.3. Execution and Cutover (1-4 weeks):

- Perform live migrations with Nutanix Move, supporting "lift and shift" with minimal downtime (often under 2 hours per workload group).
- Use automation tools like ReadyWorks for orchestration.
- For cloud: Integrate with AWS Direct Connect or Azure ExpressRoute.

2.4. Optimization and Support (Ongoing, 1-3 months post-migration):

- Tune performance, implement Nutanix Prism for unified management.
- Provide training via Nutanix University.
- Monitor with tools like Nutanix Flow for security and micro segmentation.

3. Relevant and Available Tools

The service utilizes a mix of Nutanix-native and third-party tools for automation, assessment, and execution:

Tool	Description	Availability	Key Use in Migration
Nutanix Move	Cross-hypervisor VM migration tool with automated syncing and cutover. Supports minimal downtime (e.g., live migration).	Free with Nutanix subscriptions; included in Professional Services.	Core for executing VM transfers from ESXi to AHV.
Nutanix Sizer	Web-based planning tool for sizing Nutanix clusters based on workloads.	Free online tool from Nutanix.	Assessment phase for infrastructure design and cost estimation.
Nutanix Collector	Agentless tool for gathering VMware workload metrics (CPU, memory, storage).	Free download from Nutanix.	Data collection in planning to optimize resources.
ReadyWorks	Digital platform for automating migrations, providing visibility and orchestration.	Licensed via ReadyWorks (pricing quote-based; often bundled in partner services).	End-to-end automation, reducing manual effort.
Faddom	Application dependency mapping tool.	Subscription-based (starts ~$10K/year for small setups, per vendor estimates).	Mapping VMware dependencies to avoid migration pitfalls.
DiskInternals VMFS Recovery	Tool for recovering/migrating data from VMware file systems.	Commercial license (~$199 one-time per user).	Data handling if VMFS issues arise.
Nutanix Prism	Unified management console.	Included in Nutanix licensing.	Post-migration operations and monitoring.

These tools are widely available and integrate seamlessly, with Nutanix emphasizing open-source compatibility to avoid lock-in.

4. Typical Duration

Durations depend on scope (e.g., 50 VMs vs. 1,000+)

- Small-Scale (50-200 VMs): 4-8 weeks total, with execution in 1-2 weeks.
- Mid-Scale (200-1,000 VMs): 8-16 weeks, phased to minimize disruption.
- Enterprise-Scale: 3-6 months, including extensive testing.
- Per-Workload: Individual VM migrations via Nutanix Move: 1-2 hours with near-zero downtime.

5. Phases & Timeline

Phase	Activities	Deliverables	Approximate Duration
Phase 1 – Initiation & Discovery	• Kick-off meeting • Confirm business objectives, scope, SLAs • Inventory current VMware environment (vCenters, ESXi hosts, clusters, storage, networks, VM details, dependencies) • Identify critical workloads, licensing, and compliance requirements	• Project Charter • High-level Migration Strategy • Inventory & Dependency Report	1–2 weeks
Phase 2 – Assessment & Design	• Assess capacity requirements on Nutanix cluster(s) • Network and storage mapping • Identify migration approach (Lift & Shift, P2V, Replatforming, AHV conversion) • Risk assessment and mitigation plan • Change & communication plan	• Detailed Migration Plan • Design Document (target topology, security, backup & DR strategy) • Test Plan	2 weeks
Phase 3 – Build & Pilot	• Prepare Nutanix environment (prism, networking, storage containers, replication) • Deploy migration tooling (Nutanix Move, Platespin, Double-Take, or custom) • Run pilot migrations for non-critical VMs • Validate performance & cutover processes	• Configured Nutanix environment • Pilot Migration Report • Updated Runbooks	1–2 weeks
Phase 4 – Migration Execution	• Schedule migration waves by business priority • Perform pre-checks (backups, snapshots, dependency validation) • Execute migration per runbook • Validate VMs and applications on Nutanix • Rollback procedures if required	• Wave Migration Checklists • Daily Status Reports	2–6 weeks (depends on volume)
Phase 5 – Testing & Optimization	• Functional and performance testing • Fine-tune cluster resource allocation • Verify backup & DR integration • Security & compliance verification	• Test Results Document • Optimization Report	1 week
Phase 6 – Handover & Closure	• Knowledge transfer & documentation • Update CMDB / asset records • Final sign-off from stakeholders • Post-migration support (hypercare)	• Handover Document • Final Acceptance Certificate	1 week

6. Work Breakdown Structure (WBS)

6.1. Project Management - Kick-off, weekly calls, risk tracking, change control.

6.2. Discovery - VM inventory, app dependency mapping, network diagrams.

6.3. Target Design - Nutanix cluster sizing, network/storage design, security policies.

6.4. Tooling & Pilot - Deploy Nutanix Move / migration tools.

6.5. Wave Planning - Group VMs by criticality, downtime tolerance.

6.6. Migration Execution - Pre-migration checklist, migration, cutover validation.

6.7. Testing & Sign-off - Application owner verification.

6.8. Documentation & Training - Runbooks, operational guides, handover.

7. Roles & Responsibilities (RACI Example)

Task	Customer IT	MethodHub	Nutanix Support
Environment Discovery	A/R	C	C
Target Design	C	A/R	C
Migration Execution	C	A/R	C
Validation Testing	A/R	C	C
Knowledge Transfer	C	A/R	C

(A = Accountable, R = Responsible, C = Consulted)

8. Common Risk & Mitigation Examples

- Insufficient Capacity on Target → Pre-migration sizing & pilot test.
- Application Downtime → Plan migration windows, enable rollback snapshots.
- Tooling Limitations → Test multiple migration tools early.
- Networking/Firewall Mismatches → Pre-approve firewall rules, VLANs

9. Deliverables Summary

- Project Charter & Scope Document
- Migration Strategy & Design Document
- Runbooks & Checklists
- Pilot Migration Report
- Final Migration Report
- Knowledge Transfer Pack

About Us

MethodHub is a global Information Technology services provider offering next-gen business solutions to enhance the digital transformation journey of its clients across the globe. With 30+ customers and over 500 employees globally who bring domain expertise and experience in advanced technologies, MethodHub is in the USA, India, Canada, and Thailand. With capabilities in Cloud Engineering, Data Services, Cyber Security, and ERP/CRM integration, MethodHub aspires to service large enterprises across the globe through a combination of consulting, delivery, fulfillment, support services, and execution capabilities.

MethodHub serves verticals such as BFSI, Health care and life sciences, Oil & Gas/Energy, Telecom/Tech Infra, Automotive & Transport, and Platform Engineering. We offer a unique blend of expertise and innovation that helps companies revolutionize technology, reimagine processes, and transform experiences to stay ahead in this fast-changing world.

With a widespread network and a team of seasoned professionals, we deliver results on a large scale. Our solution experts understand the nuances of local presence and tailor our offerings according to the client's specific needs. Look no further than MethodHub for your digital transformational needs.