Cloud service providers play a pivotal role in aiding end user organizations relocate their workloads from on-premises to the cloud through jointly engaging in a proof of concept, says, Sachin Bhardwaj, Director Marketing & Business Development, eHosting DataFort.

Migration of data to the cloud is the process of moving business processes, business elements, data and applications, from on-site premises to a cloud environment. It has its own share of project management and change management challenges.

Migrating to the cloud has a unique challenge of its own. Once successfully migrated to the cloud, the end user's IT environment and its data are no longer under the direct control of the end user and is under the control of the cloud service provider and hence needs to be managed primarily by the end user.

In addition to the other operational considerations that need to be overcome are concerns around privacy, interoperability, data and application portability, data integrity, business continuity, and security. Migrating to the cloud has its share of benefits and hitches and end user organizations should work with their cloud service provider to identify what is in their best interests.

The cloud is meant to provide environments that are scalable, reliable, and highly available, amongst others. Migrating workloads to the cloud brings with it various benefits. The cloud platform can scale with the demands of user access and the connectivity is much better than an on-premises installation.

This means end users no longer need to depend on investing in internal resources to manage performance as the demands scales up. When the demands scales down, the investment does not become idle and suffer a loss in return on investment

opportunity.

By migrating database, applications, and data to the cloud organizations can effectively manage the costs of organizational IT operations, while anticipating the demands of seasonal periodicity, and geographic and business expansion.

Increasing demands in terms of compute and storage resources linked to business expansion and increasing application workloads is another strong driver for end user organizations to bring in a cloud service provider. End users and business decision makers are increasingly impatient for the IT organization to produce these resources on demand and drive adoption of the cloud.

Application development cycles being managed by internal teams also need to be

Importance of cloud service providers in cloud migration

shortened to match business expectations in terms of time to market. Adoption of cloud helps to reduce application complexity and reduces time to market.

On the other hand, migrating to the cloud does raise its fair share of questions, primarily whether the move is justified or not. If the application manages sensitive, confidential, and country specific data, that is controlled by highly governed procedures of risk and compliance, it may not be possible to move such data and applications to the cloud. An end user organization that has outsourced a significant portion of its hardware and software operations to a third-party will find it increasingly

challenging to move those parts to the cloud in the early phases of migration.

Similarly, those applications that are proprietary or have undergone significant customization on-premises will be challenged in the initial phases of cloud migration. If the applications being used on-premises are not cloud-ready, there will be similar obstacles in the initial phases of the migration.

A healthy partnership between the end user organization and a cloud service provider can therefore go a long way in ensuring success of the cloud migration journey.