

How to Organize a Cloud & Data Center Migration Project Team

How to organize a cloud and data center migration project team is often an afterthought, but results show it to be a key success factor. Complex, matrixed organizations with various towers and conflicting interests often find themselves at odds with one another and facing different priorities. Teams that are well aligned with unified reporting and communication chains consistently outperform their siloed counterparts.

These organizations structure their cloud and data center migration project teams into 3 groups:

1. Core team
2. Technical subject matter experts
3. Business organization

This model reduces the organizational friction that can cause delays and muddle focus, and it creates a nimble team that leverages resources judiciously.

As illustrated in diagram 1, the core team includes the project manager, virtualization architect, network engineer, migration analyst, and a storage architect. They have experience with cloud and data center migrations and are the force du jour, architecting the right solution and keeping the project on schedule and on budget. The core team are full time resources for the cloud and data center migration project.

While the core team provides continuity, technical SMEs may or may not be dedicated full-time resources. They matriculate into the core team when their expertise is required. They are essential to your migration strategy.

The role of the business organization is to identify potential risks and offer insights into the systems they run. Their interaction provides transparency across the organization and can help assuage any concerns.

With only a few exceptions, neither the core team nor technical SMEs must originate within the organization. Sometimes resource availability is limited due to day-to-day IT operations and projects. Often, an enterprise will have organizational strengths in some areas and less so in another. It is important to determine what resources are available in-house and which require the help of outside expertise.

Nonetheless, there are 4 in-house resources whose availability is necessary:

1. Project manager
2. Disaster recovery coordinator
3. Data center services/operations expert
4. Executive sponsor

While each of their roles is distinctly different, their corporate knowledge is vital to the overall success of the project.

A data center migration affects every part of your organization and external customers. With so many stakeholders affected, strong executive leadership is a must. Their strategic role drives the team to a successful finish.

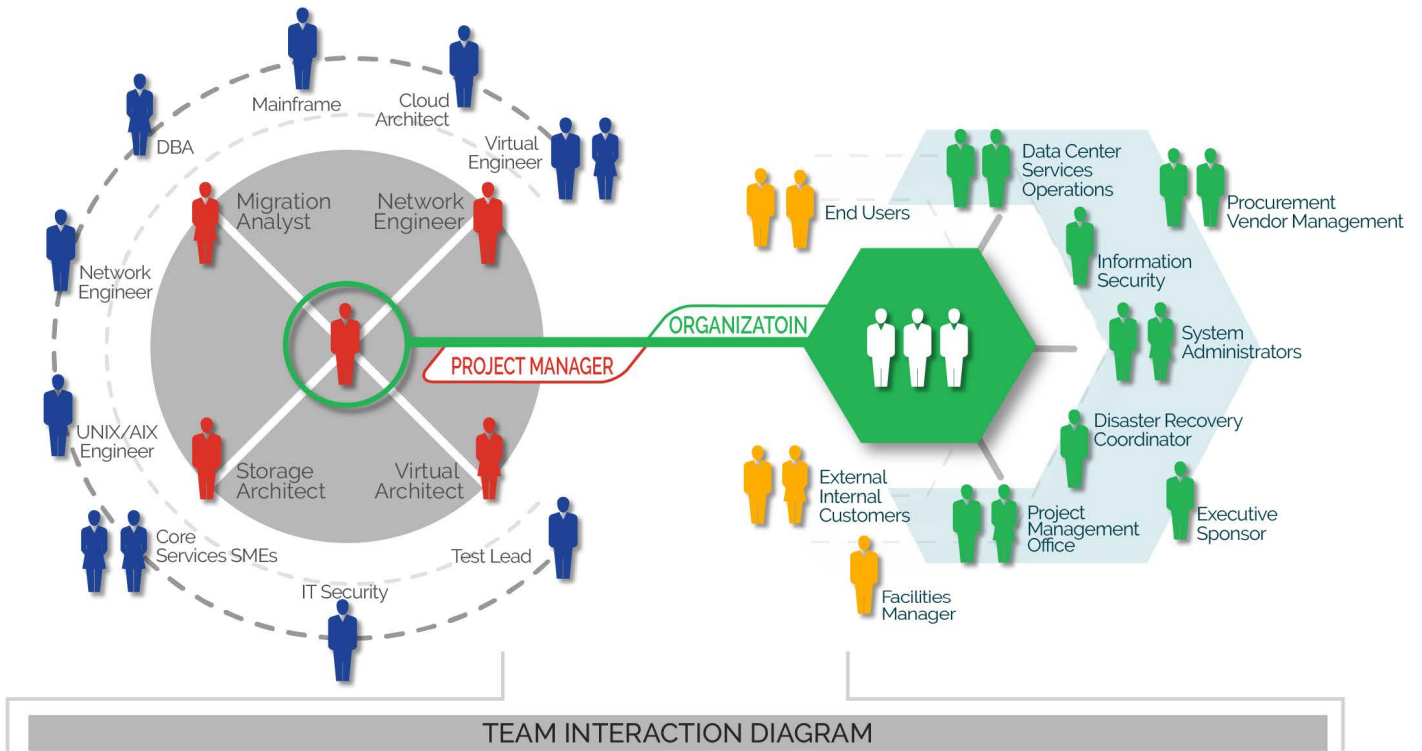


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DIAGRAM 1

TEAM INTERACTION DIAGRAM



Data Center Migration Project Team



Business Organization

