

Tip sheet

Six tips to ensure database migration success



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If like most developers you are using a relational database as part of your digital landscape, then you will likely be required to manage the migration of data from a legacy system to a new platform at some time in your career. Be aware, as many of these go wrong. Poor planning, lack of attention to detail, too many assumptions, and minimal testing are just some of the reasons why many data migrations fail and cause costly disruption to the business. Here's six tips to keep your data migration project on track.

1. Start with a Data Assessment

Start with a data assessment to identify any issues, resolve data relationships, and ensure you have the facts at hand. Using a 3rd party for this can be helpful to create an "assumption-free" zone and help you manage communication across the group.

2. Validate data specifications

Validate your data specifications with actual data, not lightweight sample one. You need to deal with the real world as early in the migration process as possible. Consider data masking to protect sensitive data while retaining genuine data structure in this process.

3. Utilize error handling

Build error handling into the migration process to call out unexpected discrepancies between source and target data structures. This is a critical step to avoid significant issues later.

4. Set up a cross-functional team

Set up a cross-functional team led by a 3rd party to connect and challenge your technical and business teams to ensure everyone is included, informed and all requirements are ultimately met.

5. Turn changes around quickly

Turn changes as quickly as possible to enable adequate time for testing and an ability to keep moving forward. Make sure you track all change requirements in a project management system, or with a 3rd party migration consultant, to keep everyone in the loop and report on the project at conclusion.

6. Conduct test cycles

Conduct documented test cycles and shorter unit tests at every stage of the project as soon as possible. These tests will validate and confirm data migration progress throughout the project and identify potential issues while you have time to resolve them without too much pressure.

Need help with your Database Migration?

Our **Migration Assessments** can help you gather the facts to ensure the project is feasible from the start. We will analyze all data issues and help you create a plan to resolve. Error handling is designed and documented based on the unexpected discrepancies we find between the source and target data structures. With this in hand, our team of experts can then manage or conduct the **Database Migration** itself.

Visit fast.fujitsu.com/support or contact us at enterprisepostgresql.fujitsu.com