

Choosing an Enterprise-Class IT Platform: A 10-Step Checklist

Selecting the right enterprise-class platform is a crucial decision that can significantly impact your organization's modernization and growth strategies. With numerous factors to consider, it's essential to examine your organization's current position, strategic goals, and specific requirements. We developed this checklist to help.

1

Assess your modernization journey: To begin, it's vital to understand where your organization stands in its modernization journey. Is your organization's modernization just starting, in progress, or have you finished? Alternatively, you might be continuously evolving or even a digital native company. Identifying your current position will help shape your platform selection strategy.

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Define organizational priorities: Next, evaluate the considerations that are important to your organization. Some common considerations include pricing parameters, data protection requirements, sustainability needs, technical debt reduction, performance improvements, and agility specifications. You may also have other unique factors specific to your enterprise's needs.

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Identify modernization strategy components: Determine the elements that are part of your business modernization strategy. This could involve software upgrades, leveraging big data, automation, adopting cloud services, and embracing as-a-service models. Understanding your modernization goals will guide you towards suitable platform options.

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Determine platform deployment options: Evaluate where you plan to run your enterprise-class platforms. Options include on-premise infrastructure, cloud environments, or a hybrid cloud approach that combines both. Understanding your preferred deployment model will help narrow the available platform choices.

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Prioritize core workload requirements: Identify the key requirements for your core enterprise workloads. Is performance the utmost priority, or do you prioritize reliability and security? Alternatively, you may have other specific needs that should be considered during platform selection.

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Top initiatives for enterprise-class platforms: Determine your organization's top three initiatives for enterprise-class platforms. For example, do you need to connect with edge platforms and devices, perform advanced analytics, embed AI into processes, integrate with DevOps, build an API ecosystem, transition to hybrid cloud, or enable microservices? Prioritize initiatives aligned with your organization's strategic goals.

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Evaluate compelling platform features: Consider the enterprise-class platform features that align with your organization's needs. Does it need to be compatible with hybrid cloud environments, offer built-in AI inferencing capabilities, provide redundancy, agility, and scalability, offer self-healing capabilities, enable memory-level encryption for increased data security, deliver performance boosts, or provide flexible pricing options? Identify the features that are most compelling for your organization.

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Prioritize platform footprint consolidation: Determine if platform footprint consolidation is a priority for your organization. This involves streamlining and consolidating multiple platforms into a unified and efficient infrastructure. Assess the benefits and challenges associated with consolidation before making a decision.

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Consider consumption-based models: Evaluate if your organization is considering consumption-based models. This approach allows you to pay for services based on usage rather than a fixed cost. Determine if this model aligns with your organization's financial goals and explore its potential benefits.

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Address concerns regarding new technology investments: When considering new technology investments, address specific concerns such as alignment with strategic direction, integration with existing systems, and reliability. Ensure the selected platform aligns with your long-term goals and can seamlessly integrate with your current infrastructure.