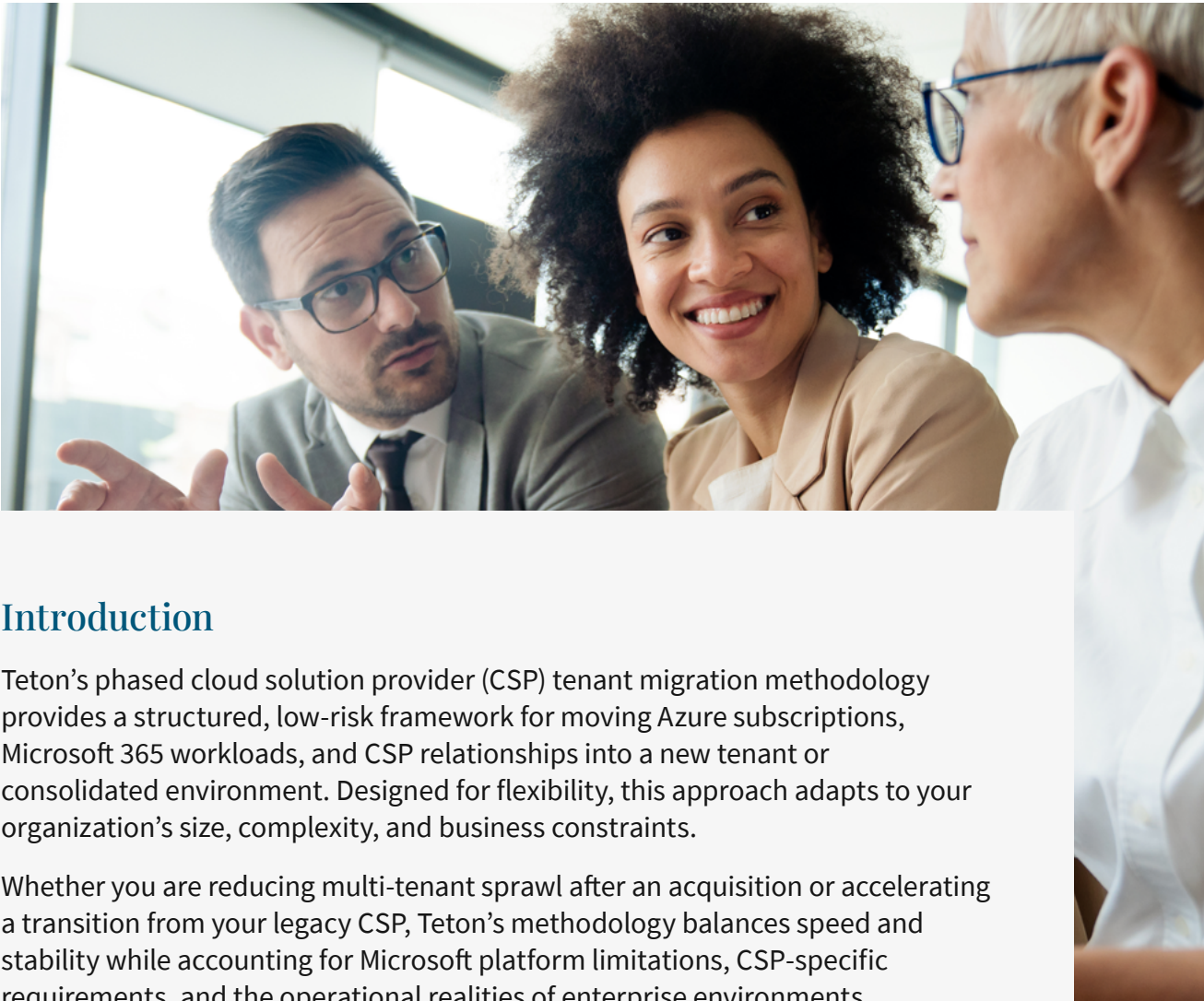




Microsoft CSP Tenant Migration and Consolidation

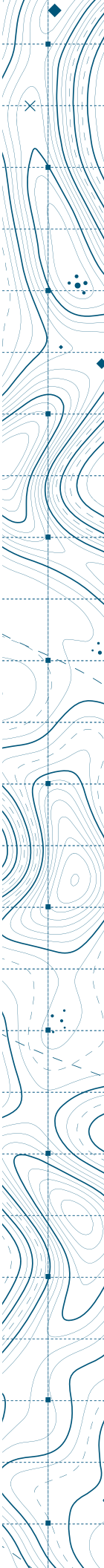
Teton Cloud Consulting offers a phased, low-risk approach to Azure and Microsoft 365 tenant transitions.



Introduction

Teton's phased cloud solution provider (CSP) tenant migration methodology provides a structured, low-risk framework for moving Azure subscriptions, Microsoft 365 workloads, and CSP relationships into a new tenant or consolidated environment. Designed for flexibility, this approach adapts to your organization's size, complexity, and business constraints.

Whether you are reducing multi-tenant sprawl after an acquisition or accelerating a transition from your legacy CSP, Teton's methodology balances speed and stability while accounting for Microsoft platform limitations, CSP-specific requirements, and the operational realities of enterprise environments.



Support for common challenges

Before any migration begins, it's critical to acknowledge some of the constraints that often derail tenant transitions:

- **Not all Azure resources support cross-tenant moves** (e.g., some managed identities, Key Vault configurations, marketplace images).
- **Subscription transfers reset** RBAC, policies, and locks, requiring careful reconfiguration.
- **Identity-dependent services** (Entra ID, Conditional Access, B2C, AD DS) often require rebuild or re-establishment.
- **Microsoft 365 workloads** (Exchange, SharePoint, Teams) typically require specialized tooling and staged migration.
- **Downtime and integration risks** can arise from service principals, automation, and identity bindings.
- **CSP billing and tenant ownership** are separate constructs, often requiring coordination with Microsoft and Partner Center.
- **Legacy CSP subscriptions** may require manual migration or recreation.
- **DNS, domain, and email cutovers** must be precisely coordinated to avoid disruption.

Teton's approach is built specifically to address these realities from the beginning and not mid migration.



An overview of migration strategy options

While a pure “lift and shift” or complete rebuild is possible, most environments adopt a pragmatic hybrid strategy. This approach involves migrating transferable components, rebuilding what cannot be moved, and maintaining temporary coexistence to minimize disruption and downtime. The following approaches are commonly leveraged in these engagements:

1 Subscription/directory transfer (“lift and shift”)

Move eligible Azure subscriptions between tenants while preserving resources. Best for minimizing re-architecture where Microsoft supports cross-tenant moves.

2 Rebuild and migrate (phased or cutover)

Recreate services in the target tenant and migrate workloads and data in waves. Ideal when resource transfer is unsupported or risk is too high.

3 Hybrid or dual-tenant coexistence

Run source and target tenants in parallel while workloads transition incrementally. Common in M&A and divestiture scenarios.

4 CSP tenant consolidation

For CSP partners consolidating multiple customer or regional tenants, follow Microsoft-documented consolidation workflows.

Teton's phased migration methodology

PHASE 0:

Discovery and planning

Estimated duration:

2–6 weeks
(small/medium environments)

Up to 6–12 weeks
(large/complex environments)

Objective: Establish clarity, reduce uncertainty, and eliminate surprises.

Key activities:

- Confirm stakeholder alignment, success criteria, and business constraints.
- Prepare full inventory of Azure, Microsoft 365, identities, applications, and dependencies.
- Conduct resource eligibility assessment (move vs. rebuild).
- Map identity, DNS, domain, and federation.
- Determine migration strategy selection per workload.
- Plan cutover, rollback, and risk mitigation.
- Coordinate CSP eligibility validation and Microsoft support.

PHASE 1:

Target tenant build and preparation

Estimated duration:

1–4 weeks
(dependent on complexity)

Objective: Create a secure, ready-to-receive target environment.

Key activities:

- Provision target tenant, subscriptions, management groups, and naming standards.
- Configure identity, roles, conditional access, and federation.
- Recreate service principals, enterprise apps, and certificates.
- Deploy shared services (e.g., Bastion, jump hosts).
- Prepare migration tooling (Azure Migrate, database tools, third-party solutions).
- Verify domains and prepare DNS for transition.

PHASE 2:

Pilot and test migrations

Estimated duration:

1–2 weeks

Objective: Validate assumptions and uncover hidden dependencies.

Key activities:

- Select non-critical or dev/test workloads.
- Execute pilot subscription transfer or workload migration.
- Validate identity, access, automation, monitoring, and integrations.
- Document issues and refine migration approach.

PHASE 3:

Full migration

Estimated duration:

2–6 weeks
(mid-tier environments)

Several months
(large environments)

Objective: Execute production migration with minimal disruption.

Key activities:

- Migrate workloads in controlled waves.
- Transfer eligible subscriptions between tenants where supported.
- Perform resource-level migrations where transfer is not supported.
- Reassign RBAC, policies, locks, and governance controls.
- Migrate Microsoft 365 workloads using specialized tooling.
- Execute DNS, endpoint, and public access cutovers.
- Monitor, validate, and remediate issues in real time.

PHASE 4:

Stabilization and cutover

Estimated duration:

1–2 weeks

Objective: Ensure operational stability before decommissioning the source.

Key activities:

- Conduct post-cutover monitoring (3–7 days minimum).
- Resolve identity, automation, and integration issues.
- Validate business workflows, backups, and failover.
- Confirm operational readiness.

PHASE 5:

Post-migration cleanup and optimization

Estimated duration:

1–2 weeks

Objective: Finalize transition and optimize the new environment.




Key activities:

- Decommission source tenant resources.
- Retire final DNS and service.
- Reconcile licensing, billing, and CSP relationships.
- Remove unused resources and apply governance standards.
- Document architecture, runbooks, and lessons learned.
- Transition operations fully to the new tenant.

Please note: Contingency buffers of 20%–30% are recommended for all size projects.

CSP-specific considerations

For CSP- and partner-led migrations, Teton manages additional complexities, including:

-  Microsoft-documented CSP tenant consolidation workflows
-  Subscription transfer coordination between partners and Microsoft
-  New Commerce Experience (NCE) eligibility validation
-  Legacy CSP subscription handling
-  Subscription and regional limits within CSP tenants

Risk mitigation best practices

- Start with a pilot to expose hidden dependencies.
- Back up configurations, data, and workloads.
- Maintain parallel operations until final cutover.
- Automate RBAC, validation, and testing wherever possible.
- Use staged DNS and IP transitions.
- Maintain rollback plans and decision checkpoints.
- Update documentation and runbooks post-migration.

Recommended next steps

- 1**
Schedule a discovery workshop with Teton to assess your current environment.
- 2**
Review resource eligibility to determine what can be transferred versus rebuilt.
- 3**
Align on a migration strategy tailored to your business goals and constraints.
- 4**
Define your target architecture with Teton's guidance.
- 5**
Plan identity, DNS, and domain transitions to minimize disruption.
- 6**
Run a pilot migration to validate the approach and uncover hidden dependencies.
- 7**
Scale to production through phased, controlled migration waves.

Request an assessment today.

Visit www.tetoncloudconsulting.com

