SOFTENGER
Strive to Excel

Cloud vs. Legacy: Smart Tech Investment Checklist for Singapore BFSI CIOs

Evaluate **cloud ROI, reduce technical debt,** to and modernize your IT portfolio with confidence.



A Cloud-First Strategy Matters

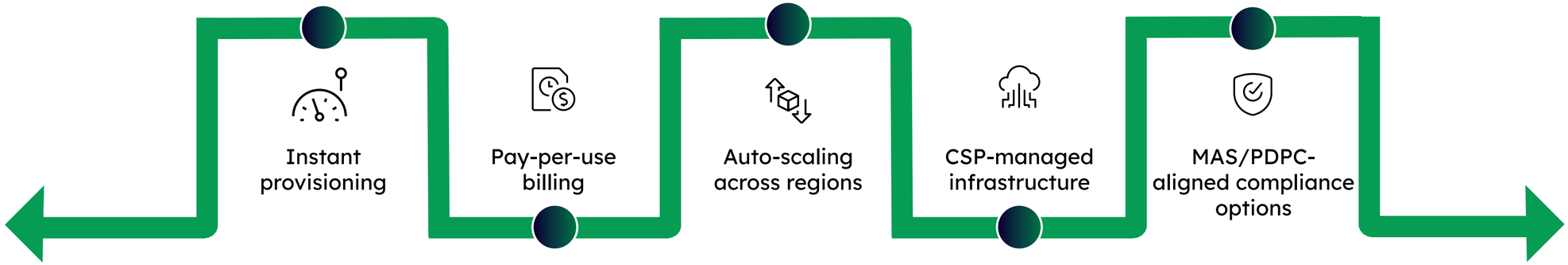
Singapore's BFSI sector is under increasing pressure to **deliver faster, scale smarter, and cut infrastructure costs. A cloud-first approach**—where workloads are built, deployed, or migrated to public cloud platforms—is essential to stay competitive.

Proof Point:

Over 60% of Singapore financial institutions aim to be cloud-native by 2026
– Source: MAS Tech Stack Transformation Report

Singapore's BFSI sector is under increasing pressure to **deliver faster, scale smarter, and cut infrastructure costs. A cloud-first approach**—where workloads are built, deployed, or migrated to public cloud platforms—is essential to stay competitive.

Cloud-First = Agility + Cost Savings



Legacy vs. Cloud: Key Decision Criteria

Use the table below to assess each major system across key evaluation criteria:

Criterion	On-Premises (Legacy)	Cloud-First (Modern)
CapEx	High (hardware, data center)	Low (no hardware purchase)
OpEx	Fixed, predictable	Variable; FinOps required
Scalability	Limited by infra	Auto-scaling, regionally redundant
Time-to-Market	Slow (weeks)	Fast (minutes)
Resilience	Site-level recovery	Multi-zone failover
Maintenance	Manual (patches, backups)	CSP-managed under shared model
Compliance	Full internal control	CSPs MAS/PDPC-certified
Integration	Monolithic, tightly coupled	Microservices + APIs



Recommendation:

Use this side-by-side view when evaluating whether to migrate, modernize, or sunset each workload.

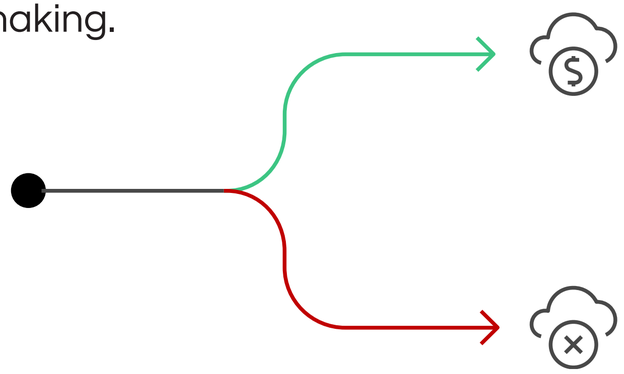
Sample Investment Evaluation Matrix (Template)

Here's a sample scoring sheet CIOs can use to evaluate modernization priorities:

Project/Asset	Business Criticality (1–5)	Cloud Cost (S$/mo)	Legacy Cost (S$/mo)	% Savings via Cloud	Comments
Customer Portal	5	8,000	12,000	33%	Cloud offers elasticity during traffic spikes
Core Banking (Legacy)	4	15,000	20,000	25%	Consider gradual refactoring to services
Risk Analytics	5	3,000	3,500	4%	High-value, time-sensitive workload
Compliance Reporting	3	1,000	800	–25%	Higher cost on cloud; may retain on-prem

Use real internal data for precise decision-making.

Cloud ROI = (Legacy – Cloud) / Legacy × 100%



Strong Cloud Candidates:
High value + strong ROI

Deprioritize or Decommission
Low value + poor ROI

Checklist: Decommissioning Legacy Systems

After identifying which systems to modernize or retire, follow this structured decommissioning checklist:

Legacy Decommissioning Plan

Step	Action	Sample Question
Identify Candidate	Select low-value or outdated systems	Is the app business-critical or redundant?
Map Dependencies	Document all app interfaces	Are APIs or file feeds connected to other systems?
Archive or Migrate Data	Ensure audit logs are retained	Can logs be moved to Glacier-class storage?
Validate Compliance	Check MAS/PDPC compliance in cloud	Does new platform support encryption & audit?
Plan DR and Resilience	Ensure HA/DR readiness	Is the new infra multi-AZ or backed by SLA?
Train & Transition	Prepare users for new workflows	Do end users understand the new UI/tools?
Cutover & Retire	Sunset the legacy system	Can infra be decommissioned + licenses reclaimed?

Tip

Run this process in quarterly waves—one platform at a time.

Conclusion

This checklist empowers CIOs to make smarter, data-backed tech investment decisions. While cloud should be the default for new systems, legacy modernization must balance **ROI, risk, and readiness.**

Cultural note: Organizations that pair IT and business leads (a “two-in-a-box” model) accelerate transformation. DBS Bank, for instance, has implemented this model to drive agile modernization across its platforms.



SOFTENGER
Strive to Excel

Need Help

Aligning tech ROI with cloud strategy?

Contact Softenger

Cloud TCO Assessment and Legacy Decommission Workshop:

Our Singapore-based teams help BFSI institutions modernize securely, reduce tech debt, and build cloud-native road-maps aligned with MAS and PDPC.