Propel Your Business

Accelerate Growth With "Smart" Data Migration From Egnyte

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Data Migration – Introduction

In today's digital age, data is the lifeblood of any business. It fuels decision-making, drives performance, and influences strategic direction. However, as businesses grow and evolve, so does their data's volume and complexity.

Managing this increasing amount of data can be a daunting task, and this is where the concept of data migration comes into play. Data migration is not just a technological requirement, but a business necessity for your business to grow and succeed, delivering numerous benefits, including:

- **Centralized data**: It consolidates information into a single platform, eliminating silos and ensuring seamless access for employees and decision-makers.
- **Enhanced security**: It provides robust encryption, automatic updates, and advanced threat monitoring to protect against evolving cyber risks and ransomware attacks.
- **Scalability and flexibility**: It supports growth by scaling storage and processing power as needed, without requiring additional on-prem infrastructure investment.
- **Streamlined compliance**: It simplifies regulatory compliance by leveraging providers that adhere to stringent industry standards.

Egnyte Migration App – Making Your Transition to Cloud Simpler

Designed to simplify the transition to the cloud, the Egnyte Migration App allows for seamless migration of content and permissions to Egnyte from:

- On-premises systems, or
- Storage systems that can be presented as mapped drives or with a UNC (Universal Naming Convention) path, such as \\DATA\Projects
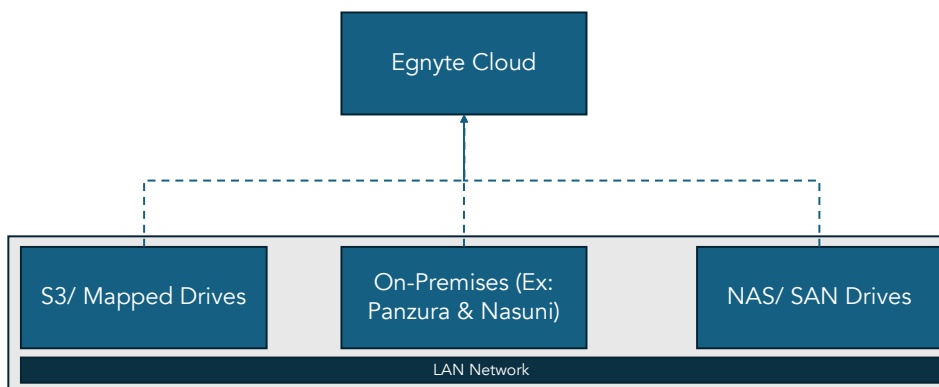
Pic 1. Illustration of migration to Egnyte Cloud from various storage sources

The Egnyte Migration App seamlessly migrates all folders, files, metadata, and permissions. Administrators can easily create migration jobs and track their progress in real-time using the intuitive Migration Dashboard.

While this whitepaper focuses primarily on the Egnyte Migration App and the source storage systems, as noted above, it is worth mentioning that Egnyte's Professional Services also leverages sophisticated in-house tools to migrate data from various other cloud-based storage systems like Microsoft SharePoint, Microsoft OneDrive, Box, Dropbox, Citrix ShareFile, Google Drive, and others.

The Egnyte Migration App is self-service enabled for all Platform Plan domains. Admins can activate it by selecting Migration from the application picker menu.
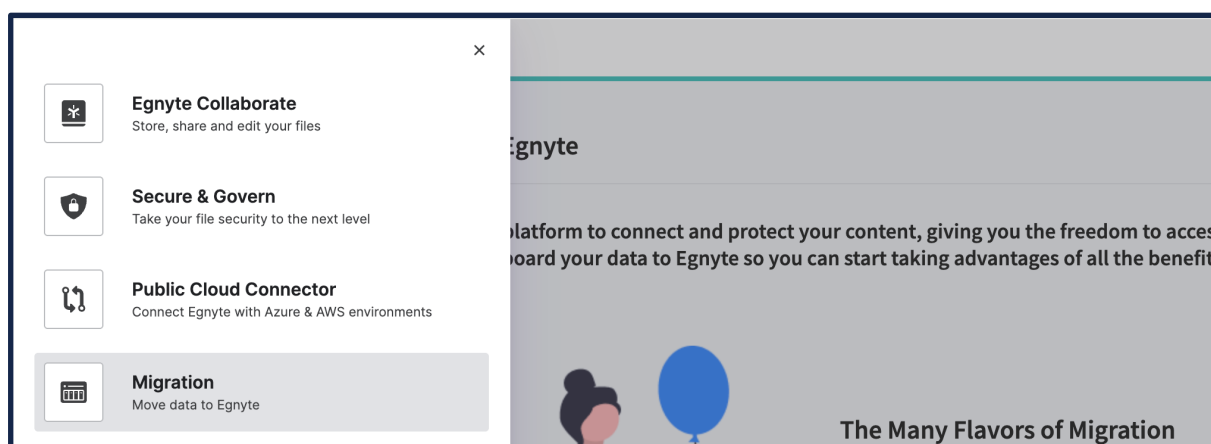
Pic 2. Egnyte Migration App Launcher

The Egnyte Migration App includes powerful features like detailed migration reports and logs, file and folder name sanitization, and functionality to sync source and destination files for large or complex projects. These capabilities ensure a smooth, reliable migration process.

Although designed for simplicity, admins with reasonable technical expertise are best suited to use the app. Whether migrating files, folders, or permissions, the Egnyte Migration App helps organizations modernize their workflows, consolidate data, and fully embrace the benefits of the cloud with ease and efficiency.
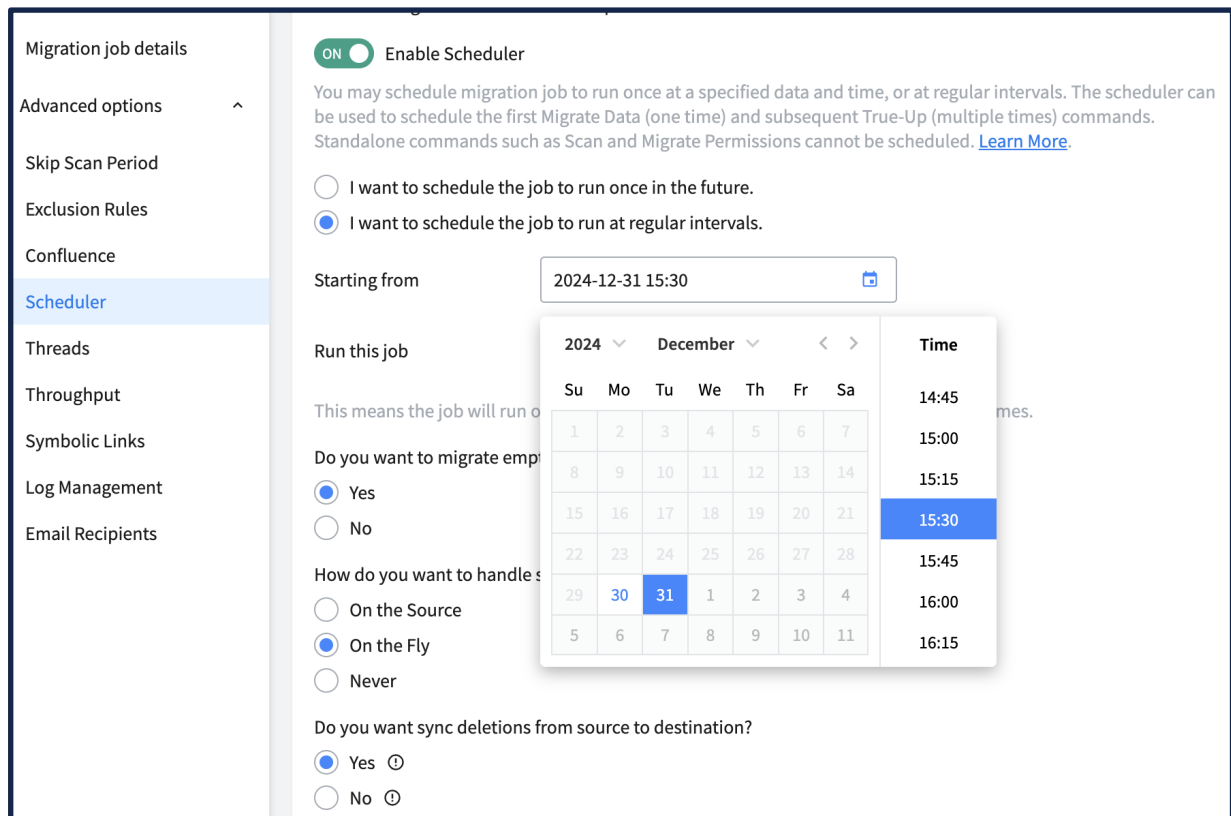
Pic 3. Egnyte Migration App Scheduler Screen

Egnyte Migration App – Supported Use Cases

- **Local disk migration:** Seamlessly move data from local disks, mapped drives, AWS S3, or any cloud-based storage systems mounted as mapped drives or accessible via UNC paths, to Egnyte domains (currently available on Windows and soon on macOS).

- **Data scanning**: Scan source data on local disks, mapped drives, AWS S3, or any cloud-based storage systems mounted as mapped drives. This ensures compatibility

and data integrity before migration and reduces errors during migration by validating source data.

- **Permissions migration**: Migrate user access permissions along with data from local disks, mapped drives, and cloud sources presented as mapped drives to the destination to ensure consistent security policies and compliance throughout migration.

- **Data true-up (Final data sync)**: Sync and update data from source to destination after the initial migration, ensuring consistency across local disks, mapped drives, and cloud sources presented as mapped drives.

- **Parallel transfers**: Transfer data in parallel with the ability to support up to four concurrent jobs per Migration Agent VM set up from various sources like mapped drives and local disks, reducing downtime and enabling faster large-scale migrations.

Pic 4. Egnyte App Migration App Job Details Overview

Best Practices for Successful Data Migration

A successful data migration process needs to ensure the complete migration of all data and its properties while minimizing any risks and work disruption for users. Therefore, the best way to use the Egnyte Migration App is a four-phase process before the actual cutover:
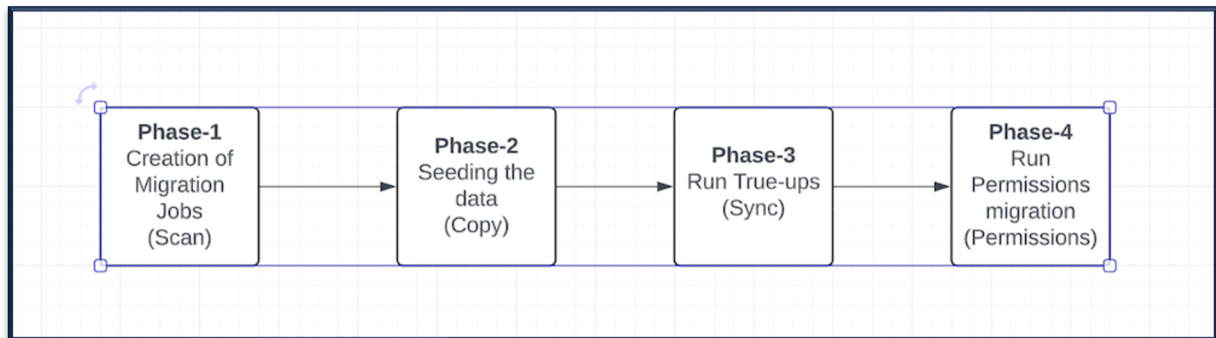
Pic 5. Phases of successful data migration

1. **Create migration jobs**: The Egnyte Migration App automatically scans the source, providing insights into the job's size and nature, advising whether to proceed or restructure. It identifies unsupported characters and incompatible files, such as those with invalid timestamps. After scanning, review the Migration Details page, download the Migration Report for further insights, and determine what remediation is needed to migrate the file in a future true-up.

2. **Seed data**: Seed the data from the source during the initial migration to copy data to Egnyte. This phase may take the longest and helps identify unsupported filenames or long pathnames. Users can continue working with content, as changes will be synced later during the true-up phase.

3. **True-ups**: Run true-ups to sync data after the initial migration to migrate only new or changed files ("deltas"). This also estimates data changes at the source, helping plan for the final true-up and cutover.

4. **Migrate permissions**: This process does not recognize previously migrated permissions, requiring a fresh migration each time. It can take a while, so it's recommended as the final step in the migration project before cutover to ensure a smooth transition.

5. **Cutover**: As the final phase, teams usually plan for the cutover during the weekend. Users must stop using the source file system while the final sync **runs**. This is typically done by disabling access to the source system or setting it too "read-only". After that, a final true-up will capture the last set of changes. Once the final true-up is complete, permissions are applied, and **teams can restructure** data or make folder moves.

You should validate the migrated data and needed access before announcing the "Go Live".

Free Access to Migration App:

All domain admins have full access to the Egnyte Migration App. The app is enabled for the entire domain, and admins can grant access to Power Users on request, ensuring flexibility in managing migration tasks.

Egnyte Professional Services

Egnyte Professional Services ensures a seamless, efficient migration with expert support tailored to your specific needs, especially for more complex data migration projects. A typical engagement covers a comprehensive review of your data and permissions layout, and a recommended strategy to migrate to Egnyte in the most seamless manner—often over multiple data set phases, split by department or region.

Each Professional Services engagement has dedicated technical consultants and a project manager assigned for the project's duration. The project manager is responsible for delivering all items outlined in a Statement of Work. Project teams, including Professional Services and key customer points of contact, typically sync up at least once weekly to ensure progress, review status, and triage any open issues.

Egnyte's Key Migration Related Service Offerings:

- **End-to-end handling of data and permissions migration across multiple phases as needed** – from initial strategy to data seeding, true-ups, file remediation, and final cutover for on-premises and cloud-based storage systems.
- When in scope, **permission migration includes permission dry runs and detailed review sessions** to ensure that all needed users and groups are provisioned and permissions are applied on the Production Egnyte Cloud File System exactly as intended during the cutover phase.
- **Proven expertise in migrating massive data sets** of up to hundreds of TBs (see use case later in this whitepaper). These massive data set migrations cover complex data layouts with deeply nested folders and permissions.
- Egnyte Professional Services also offers Egnyte Platform integration for key **third-party integrations, such as Microsoft O365,** and has a development team on hand for custom integrations, metadata migration, or other complex scripting needs.

- Proficient in managing migration projects with **strict time constraints and tight deadlines**, focusing on seamless end-user change management. Experience working around **low bandwidth and limited compute resource scenarios**.
- Experience with migration from hybrid cache servers like **Panzura or Nasuni**.

Customer Case Study

The Challenge

A large media company had to migrate nearly 500TB of actively changing data from Nasuni storage to Egnyte within a tight three-month timeline. The data was actively accessed by hundreds of end-users across 10 countries, requiring seamless coordination and minimal disruption to daily operations.

Project Approach

- **Localized and cloud infrastructure setup**: Egnyte offered a local and cloud-based approach using filers and virtual machines. Each country's specific data set was accessed locally, and the full 500TB dataset was accessed in the cloud.
- **Phased migration plan**: Egnyte Professional Services designed a 5-phase migration plan to transfer and cut over 50–120TB of data per phase, prioritizing countries based on business and operational needs.
- **Initial data seeding**: The full dataset was seeded initially, with the Professional Services team actively configuring and managing hundreds of jobs across all migration agents.
- **Pre-cutover true-ups**: Before each phase cutover, multiple true-ups **allowed Egnyte to i**dentify and remediate files with invalid characters or timestamps and estimate the time required for an end-to-end final true-up.
- **Permission validation**: Permission dry runs were executed and reviewed with the customer to ensure accuracy. Adjustments were made as needed, leveraging Egnyte's folder permission inheritance features.
- **Weekend cutovers**: Each migration phase was completed successfully over a weekend, ensuring minimal disruption to the customer's operations.

Realized Benefits

- **Phased migration efficiency**: A structured approach ensured seamless alignment across business unit stakeholders, maintaining clarity on cutover timelines and priorities. It also allowed the customer's IT team to provide focused end-user support as each data set went live on Egnyte.

- **Optimized infrastructure utilization**: The team efficiently addressed bandwidth limitations and maximized server capacity by dynamically shifting migration jobs between local and cloud-based infrastructure.

- **Accelerated data transfers**: Parallel processing enabled simultaneous management of data seeding and final cutover phases, achieving migration speeds of up to 15TB per day.

- **Proactive issue resolution**: Close collaboration with the customer's IT team allowed for fast resolution of infrastructure challenges, minimizing downtime.

- **Smooth, on-time delivery**: The strong partnership between Egnyte and the customer ensured successful weekend cutovers and timely project completion with minimal disruption.

Customer Testimonials
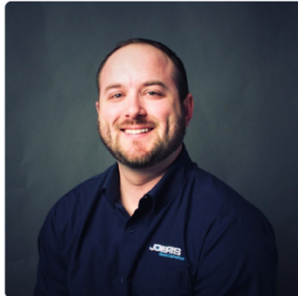
"In the past, if we ever had to update the file server or if it was having problems, there would be a lot of downtime for file access. With Egnyte, users have access to all their files in the cloud. Having 100% file access no matter where you are is the biggest benefit."

Tom Crews
IT Manager • Joeris

[How Joeris provides 100% file access for remote teams](#)

"Egnyte brought us back to a more streamlined way of working. We can now complete tasks as quickly as we could when we were all physically together."

Matt Richmond
Chief Technology Officer • RIOS

[RIOS Pivots to the cloud Without Disrupting How Its Team Works](#)

Additional Resources

- [Overview of Migration App](#)
- [Accessing Migration App](#)
- [Guide to Data Migration](#)
- [An Admin's Guide to Choosing a Migration Method](#)
- [Best Practices for Migrating Data into Egnyte Using Migration App](#)
- [Migration App FAQs](#)
- [Infosheet: Egnyte Professional Services](#)