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# Phased Migration Strategies for Modernizing Enterprise Data Warehouses

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ABSTRACT: A data warehouse combines enormous amounts of structured and semi-structured data from varied sources, enabling operational efficiency, analysis of historical trends, and decision-making. Oracle Cloud Database offers cloud-native capabilities like elasticity, auto-scaling, native security, and high availability that give firms a scalable and fault-tolerant foundation minimizing infrastructure cost while supporting real-time analytics, machine learning, and complex data processing. Deploying an Oracle Customer Warehouse Environment (CWE) on a new cloud data warehouse platform has the following benefits: elasticity and scalability, cost-effective, low maintenance, improved performance, improved data integration, strong security and compliance, and faster time to insight. Pay-asyou-go models keep ownership costs minimal by avoiding upfront hardware and license costs. Cloud services with management spare patching, backups, and tuning to reduce administrative effort. Migration of an Oracle Customer Warehouse Environment (CWE) to a modern cloud data warehouse platform offers a new, dynamic, and cost-effective analytics platform that can grow and change with changing firm needs and yield value indefinitely.

KEYWORDS: Data Warehouse, Oracle Cloud Database, Oracle Customer Warehouse Environment

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Data warehouse is a centralized digital repository which simplifies current and historical data processing by organizations efficiently and analyzing them. It brings together and consolidates huge amounts of data from numerous sources and makes it easier to appraise, report, and decide more accurately. Migration of a data warehouse is the process of moving information from various databases, legacy systems, or on-premises solutions into a single, newer solution. The primary goals of such migration include making sophisticated analytics or real-time processing of data possible, enhancing scalability, performance, cost savings, security, and compliance.

Data warehouse is one such corporate intelligence and analytics store containing structured as well as semi-structured data from multiple systems, such as ERP, CRM, transaction logs, and external data. Data warehouses support ad-hoc queries, reporting, and long-term corporate view of data, hence supporting better-informed decision-making by the users. Migration to a data warehouse allows greater scalability, particularly with cloud solutions, which are enhanced in managing data and user spikes. It enables increased performance, lower maintenance cost, strong compliance, and to house new capabilities like machine learning analytics. The highest advantages of a contemporary data warehouse are quicker and better-quality reporting and analysis, ability to join different data sources, fewer maintenance, software, and hardware expenses, better security, compliance, and data governance [1].

A Customer Data Warehouse (CDW) is an internal digital database with customer-related information from disparate sources, such as CRM software, marketing campaigns, e-commerce databases, and customer care systems. It processes and maintains customer details for firms and provides them with an overall picture of customer interaction, behavior, preference, and transactions. Advanced customer lifetime value analysis, segmentation, personalization, retention plans, and marketing are possible with this approach. Key components of a CDW involve a centralized data repository, auto-extraction, transformation, and loading of a warehouse with the assistance of ETL tools. Metadata helps build an understanding and reliance on analytical insights. Data analysis and data access software such as OLAP, dashboards, and data mining enable business consumers, analysts, and data scientists to report, query, and analyze customer information. A CDW enhances the quality and velocity of decision making by providing a "single source of truth" for consumer data. It provides deeper and more consistent data for enabling exact segmentation, marketing with a personal touch, and customer retention programs. It enables analysis across large and complex customer bases and is highly scalable with volume and complexity [2].

A customer data warehouse (CDW) and a customer data platform (CDP) are two distinct types of enterprise data management platforms. A CDP revolves around real-time customer data activation and personalization, while a CDW



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revolves around storing, analyzing, and reporting data. Both platforms are business intelligence hubs and repositories of formal client information, which are used for marketing and activation. CDP processes structured and unstructured data, including email, web usage, and social media. CDP supplies dashboards, output reports, and machine learning analytics, segmented audiences, one-to-one marketing, and real-time customer profiles. CDW is a repeat analytics and data warehouse platform that allows companies to build insights by modeling, reporting, and business intelligence. In comparison to it, the CDP is a marketing and interaction hub that stores data in real-time to provide actionable consumer profiles for real-time interaction and personalization. Most contemporary businesses use both systems simultaneously, with the CDP as the "system of action" to drive data through customer-facing touchpoints and the CDW as the "system of record" for customer information analysis [3].

Agent Data Platform (CDP) would be a better choice for businesses that need real-time, one-to-one agent interaction and activation, particularly for marketing and customer experience departments. CDPs bring together data from various touch points of the consumer, providing single profiles, audience segmentation, and fast deployment of custom campaigns. CDPs are ideal for real-time engagement and personalization, marketing-driven companies, and non-technical users of an audience. They offer efficient workflows for mapping customer data to segments, journeys, and personalized messages to marketing and engagement channels. CDPs can consume, consolidate, and engage semi-structured and unstructured data needs such as social media, web and app activity, and behavioral data [4].

Data warehouses need to be of the highest priority for advanced-level analytics and reports, departmental data integration, and strict data governance. Business intelligence-focused, regulatory reporting, machine learning model, or deep historical analytics-based companies need to have a data warehouse as the top priority. There is a need for cross-functional integration of the data to facilitate control and scalability as the companies scale up and have to consolidate sales, finance, and operations data. Warehouses offer robust solutions to masking data, row-level security, and regulations on a custom basis for compliance-focused companies [5].

Customer Oracle to Snowflake to modernize and make its data management and analytics processes more efficient. The CWE warehouse houses high-value client interactions, financial data, and prospect data for various Fidelity portfolio products, including product relationships, employee engagement, and individual data. Snowflake includes cloud-native architecture that scales automatically based on user traffic and data volume, with enhanced query performance. It is also providing cost savings in the form of the avoidance of Oracle license and hardware maintenance costs. Snowflake is supporting Fidelity's vision to transform its technology by empowering next-generation data workloads and real-time analytics with easy integration with the rest of the cloud stack. Migration process involves "lift-and-shift" data migration and ongoing replication of Oracle data to Snowflake using ETL or CDC technology. Cross-database validation is being used for verification to create complete data parity and integrity across Oracle and Snowflake. The AWS-driven transformation enables Fidelity to keep its competitive edge through nimble data-driven marketing, rollover management automation, and enhanced insurance and annuity products.

Customer Warehouse Environment (CWE) migration from Oracle to Snowflake must be concentrated on mission-critical data areas that are critical to campaign success, customer analysis, and business operations. These comprise Customer Engagement Information, which comprise consumer contact and transaction history in channels, Financial Products Data, which comprise transaction history, contribution plans, and account balances, Participants and Prospects Data, which comprise demographics, employment status, and participation in contribution plans, Product Relationship Information, Campaign Management Data, Transaction Event and Rollover Data, Employee Participant Information, and Risk and Compliance Data. These are the dimensions that are essential to consumer behavior management, campaign performance, asset management, participant and prospect, campaign management, rollover and transaction activity, employee participant information, and risk and compliance. It is in ranking these dimensions that Fidelity becomes efficient at enhancing campaign operation, customer information, and business process.

#### II. RELATED WORK

Oracle to Snowflake data warehouse and Customer Warehouse Environment (CWE) migrations are a multi-step process involving assessment, planning, ETL transformation, testing, and legacy system retirement. Datafold's migration agent performs auto-generated SQL translation and cross-database diffing to verify data consistency. General frameworks prefer tiered approaches where business continuity is guaranteed in the case of complex migrations. Case studies involve bulk migrations of older data warehouses, such as Netezza or Oracle, to Snowflake with intense emphasis on automating ETL, scalability, maintaining compliance, and gaining real-time insights. Migration and automation tools are used to accelerate migration and help in compliance and risk management. Data governance and



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compliance take top priority when dealing with customer data warehouses handling sensitive customer and financial information. The contribution that is being associated brings together governance, technical best practices, and business impact studies into an end-to-end solution for organizations such as Fidelity to effectively carry out Oracle-to-Snowflake customer data warehouse migrations in maximizing analytics potential and reducing operational risks [6].

The Official Snowflake Migration Guide offers a step-by-step nine-step procedure of migrating Oracle databases to Snowflake with focus on workload analysis, dependency mapping, and cross-database validation. Datafold Migration Guide focuses on strategic migration planning, SQL translation through tools such as Datafold's Migration Agent to verify data consistency. To minimize disruption, data consumption endpoints need to be migrated first. Estuary Flow CDC-based real-time migration is applicable for low-latency synchronous continuous synchronization use cases with automatic schema evolution and data replication. Fivetran's migration processes eliminate manual scripting programmatically, thus making data transfers efficient and secure. PHData Migration Planning Guide (2022) [7] identifies the cost and operational benefits of migrating Oracle-based data warehouses to Snowflake by reducing complexity and licensing expenses and improving analytical capabilities. Pertinent articles and sources provide detailed comparisons and reviews of the potential migration tools, including AWS DMS, Talend, Informatica, and Airbyte.

Cloud migration characteristics, citing specifically problems that one is faced with in the migration process of legacy software into cloud environments. From the technical requirements and human facets, the research highlights key barriers in the form of resistance to change, competency gaps, and the need for appropriate communication from stakeholders. This integrated view attempts to provide organizations with a greater awareness of the complexity of cloud migration from legacy systems so that both technical and sociological factors are considered for their successful implementation. All these studies assist in making the cloud migration process an adaptive one by addressing various issues with the process. From applying AI and machine learning to process automation and cost savings to having user strategic planning and control-based models, all researches in its favor. Vendor solution process and socio-technical issues of implementing legacy system migrations also reflect the complexity involved in cloud migration. Along with each other, these innovations not only clarify the concept of cloud migration further but also offer room for better solutions and techniques in the future.

The below outlined earlier research studies are major breakthroughs and issues of concern in cloud migration, each with its own results and approaches to further the comprehension and use of this intricate procedure. Swetha et.al., (2025) [8] explains that future research explores the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) to streamline migration processes. With the automation of workload analysis, resource optimization, and risk forecasting, the research seeks productivity improvement at reduced cost, establishing a benchmark for cloud migration innovations on a larger scale. Danga et.al., [9] focuses on user control throughout the migration process. It proposes a thoughtfully planned five-step approach comprising planning, risk analysis, implementation, validation, and optimization, thus offering an organizational plan for companies that are embarking on cloud migration. Boddapati et.al., [10] article is focused on cloud database migration challenges, including data integrity, downtime reduction, and security threat handling.

Based on an analysis of diverse vendor tools and migration patterns, the study is putting forward the actual pains the organization faces in doing so. Bashair et.al., [11] research paper is a deep analysis of the socio-technical aspect of legacy application migration to the cloud. It also concerns the junction of technical problems and human concerns like user adaptability and company culture. Through traps avoidance and identification, research seeks to simplify organizational migrations for users who are dealing with vintage software systems. Hasan et.al., [12] provides a detailed cost-benefit analysis of different cloud migration paths, enabling organizations to make business-based choices.

It measures direct and indirect costs and savings and the long-term value resulting from cloud adoption and offers stakeholders data for purposes of justification of investment in migration. Kommisetty et.al., [13] The current research, aware of the most vital area of security, delineates best practices to secure data during migration to the cloud. The research entails standard vulnerabilities, compliance issues with the regulations, and the necessity of using strong security for the protection of confidential data during the migration process. Testing, validation, and verification of procedures and data to be migrated are part of the Oracle-to-Snowflake migration process.

Some of these are use of such tools like DataGAPS case study, Oracle-to-Snowflake ETL Validation, which gives indepth information on auto-validation for millions of records, test case generation, and metadata mapping. Oracle to Snowflake Migration Guide (Snowflake official) presumes a nine-step process to migrate including planning, schema



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translation, data validation, and cutover. Cross-database best practices for validation, data consistency checks, and real-time validation in staged migrations are prominently presented in the guide. Datagaps case studies highlight automated ETL validation, cross-environment test, and high test coverage to give confidence around data trust after conversion. Tool-based validation arguments include data on validation time saved, decreases in defect rates, and TCO implications. Verification is most often part of systematic cloud data migration researches and studies with recommendations for data governance, lineage, and integrity checks prior and post-migration [14]. Database diffing techniques preserve data integrity through equivalence matching of the target and source data at high granularity, structure and content verification, and continuous auditing of differences throughout the migration lifecycle.

Critical techniques include value-level parity checks, schema-aware checks, lineage and metamodel extensive and thorough, a highly scalable and automated tooling, time-window and incremental checks, end-to-end checks of data quality, sign-off ready and governance, and high-level practical validation workflow. Value-level parity checks are employed in order to identify low-level transformation, truncation, or data corruption problems that are otherwise left undetected by checksum-based checks. Schema-aware validation aligns and validates schemas between systems in a manner such that structural inconsistencies likely to invalidate data or corrupt following queries are avoided. Third-end data quality validation keeps data quality measures in place after exact row matches, assuring accuracy and completeness of the migrated dataset. Governance sign-off and readiness include submitting auditable parity reports prior to cutover, logging data parity for reduced post-migration risk and meets governance needs.

There is also a high-level practical verification process that includes the generation of acceptance criteria and parity measurements, correlating inventory, mapping, and schema, using time-window checks in real-time replication setups, running persistent diffs and verifications as it sends the data, constructing a formal acceptance package to be signed off, verifying significant business keys and measurements, and running extensive lake-wide parity checks. Continuous validation is subsequently applied after cutover to locate and correct any drift between source and target. Methodology The Snowflake architecture model is simple and includes an on-premises or cloud Oracle database with possible replication access.

#### III. METHODOLOGY

Cloud object storage is utilized for initial load. The objective is to implement a Snowflake data warehouse with governance controls, secure object storage integration, and virtual warehouses of the appropriate size. The orchestration layer facilitates loading, validation, extract, and transform by way of ETL-ELT workflow orchestrators. Change data capture (CDC) minimizes downtime and goal alignment during cutover. Data governance consists of audit trails, data lineage, access controls, and metadata management. The BI/consumption layer permits analysts and applications to natively connect to Snowflake after validation. Data migration patterns include planning, extract, transform, load, validation, cutover, and decommissioning phases. Hybrid staging features an Oracle environment executing in parallel for validation and rollback operations [15].

The Oracle-to-Snowflake migration architecture is a tiered stack involving governance, validation, source, transit, and target environments. It includes a procedure, important factors, and an organized template for modification.

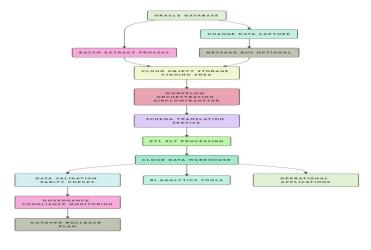


Figure 1: Oracle Database Migration Overview

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## 1. Source Layer:

- Oracle databases with ETL/ELT logic, schemas, stored procedures, and production data.
- Near-real-time replication enabled by change data capture (CDC) logs or components.
- Audit trails, backups, and security measures meet legal standards.

## 2. Ingestion and Staging Layers:

- Message queue or cloud-based data bus for separate load processes from source updates.
- Tools for extracting data from Oracle.
- Raw dumps and compressed data files stored in the staging area.

## 3. Transformation and Load Layers:

- ETL/ELT orchestration layer overseeing data-type conversions and schema mapping from Oracle to Snowflake.
- Idempotent actions combined with incremental loading logic.
- Pipeline incorporates validations and tests for data quality.

## 4. Snowflake Target Layer:

- Snowflake's account with business domain-aligned databases, schemas, and tables.
- Virtual warehouses adjusted for concurrent and anticipated demands.
- Clustering keys, semi-structured data management, and suitable data formats.
- Data governance includes audit logs, lineage, masking, access restrictions, and metadata catalogs.

## 5. Planning and Observation:

- Jobs for extraction, loading, transformation, and validation coordinated by a central orchestrator.
- Tracking dashboards for cost, latency, data parity indicators, and job health.

#### 6. Validation and Parity Layers:

- Automatic comparing source and target data at the row and aggregate levels through cross-database validation.
- Continuous validation during the migration process, followed by a thorough parity audit.

## 7. Compliance and Security:

- Access restrictions, secure credential management, end-to-end encryption.
- Audit traces for every migration activity.
- Regulation-based compliance mapping.

## 8. Transition and After-Migration:

- Phased cutover strategy with rollback routes to reduce downtime.
- Legacy system decommissioning, performance optimization, and post-cutover validation.

The below Table 1 will provides a comparison of cloud warehouse platforms and traditional Oracle configurations, highlighting operational differences, architectural differences, and migration expectations, allowing readers to understand their operating procedures, prices, security, tooling effects, and capabilities.

Comparison Aspect	Oracle Environment	Cloud Data Warehouse Environment
<b>Deployment Model</b>	On-premises, hybrid cloud option	Fully managed cloud-native service
Data Storage & Format	Block storage, row/columnar formats	Columnar, semi-structured (JSON, Parquet)
Scaling & Elasticity	Manual scaling with hardware constraints	Automatic elastic scaling and resource pooling
Data Integration Tools	Oracle Data Pump, GoldenGate	Cloud-native ingestion, CDC, ELT/ETL tools
Schema Management	Manual versioning and migration	Automated schema evolution support
Performance Tuning	DBA-intensive indexing, partitioning	Auto clustering, micro-partitioning
Security & Compliance	Enterprise-grade, customer-managed	Cloud provider managed, built-in compliance
Cost Model	License-based, upfront costs	Pay-as-you-go, consumption-based



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Data Validation	Manual and custom scripts	Automated cross-database diffing and monitoring
Cutover Strategies	Planned downtime or manual cutover	Phased, near-zero downtime with CDC

Table 1: Comparing Oracle-to-Cloud Data Warehouse Migration Architectures and Methodologies

Snowflake properties, including micro-partitioning, automated clustering, and semi-structured data, can be used in data modeling for optimal storage and performance. Automated parity and integrity tests can be integrated into CI/CD workflows for repeated validations. A minimally disruptive cutover plan and stakeholder alignment during migration are essential. This strategy focuses on operational continuity, validation, governance, and an end-to-end approach for Oracle-to-Snowflake migration, suitable for major business migrations in financial services environments, incorporating best-practice patterns from practitioner resources and industry recommendations is shown in below figure 2[16]:

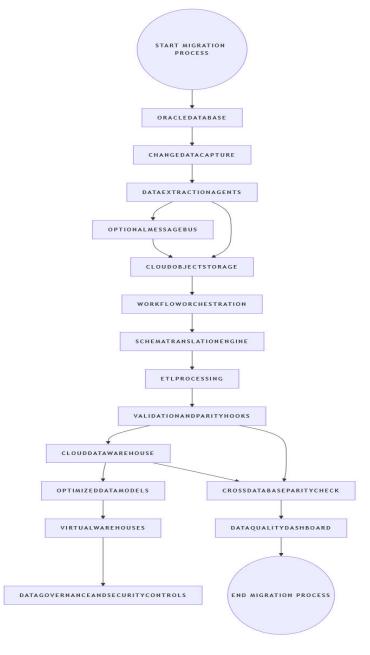


Figure 2: Data Flow and Staging Tailored to Oracle-to-Cloud Data Warehouse Migration



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## 1. Planning, Governance, and Scope for Data Migration:

- Establishing goals, success criteria, and acceptable levels for performance, downtime, and data parity.
- Mapping business domains and cataloging all source objects and dependencies.
- Creating a phased cutover strategy including risk registers, rollback alternatives, and stakeholder sign-off points.
- Creating a data governance strategy addressing compliance standards, lineage, metadata management, access restrictions, and sensitive data masking.

## 2. Data Transfer and Migration Strategy:

- Initial bootstrap (full load): Use efficient bulk loads to move baseline data to Snowflake.
- Hybrid strategy: Gradually decommission Oracle components after validation is finished.

## 3. Schema Translation and Data Modeling:

- Convert Oracle data types to their Snowflake counterparts.
- Re-architect to take use of semi-structured data (JSON, Avro, Parquet), micro-partitioning, and clustering.
- A rollback strategy for schema regressions and version control for schema modifications.

#### 4. Consumption, Conversion, and Loading:

- Select a load pattern, such as a large initial load followed by incremental loads.
- Use idempotent loading for retries without data duplication.

## 5. Assurance of Quality and Validation:

- Row counts, aggregate checks, null counts, comparisons at the row and column levels, and key integrity checks.
- Schema validation: confirm post-mapping alignment of data types, constraints, and default values.
- Automation: include automatic parity reports and alerts into CI/CD workflows.

## 6. Governance, Security, and Compliance:

- Implement data masking, encryption, and role-based access restrictions.
- Keep track of data lineage and audit trails.
- Set up security baselines for secret rotation and credential management.

# 7. Cost control and Performance Enhancement:

- Scale Snowflake warehouses to achieve performance and concurrency goals.
- Implement cost governance dashboards and monitor data egress, storage, and computation expenses.

#### 8. Cutover and Post-Migration Stability:

- Cutover by domain or function and move all downstream processes to Snowflake.
- Apply ongoing governance and data quality enforcement.

# 9. Risk Management and Validation Framework:

- Parity dashboards: give stakeholders unambiguous, auditable evidence of parity.
- Automated notifications for processing error or data drift.
- Store backups and a rollback in place for quick recovery.

Data parity entails verification of sample data and accurate row counts for key tables. Schema parity includes data type, nullability, constraint, default value, and index/constraint equivalency. Transform accuracy guarantees metrics and business rules align with source system requirements. CDC/real-time validation provides fast implementation and ensures ordering guarantees. Security and compliance are guaranteed through audit logs, masks, and access controls. Architecture diagrams deliver data flows, components, and lineage. Migration runbooks consist of pre-checks, cutover, and rollback. Validation artifacts consist of parity measurements and reports. Artifacts of governance such as data dictionaries, lineage maps, and metadata catalogs must also be included. Cost and performance reports are also needed.

In migrating Oracle to cloud data warehouse, performance metrics like data load, queries, parity check pass percentage, error percentage, schema check, resource usage, operations metrics, cost metrics, and user and business effect need to be monitored and measured. These measures assist in risk and downtime avoidance and confirmation of the migration to be according to performance, cost, and quality objectives. Data load performance consists of bulk load time initially, incremental load latency, loaded rows per second, and throughput. Queries performance consists of average query time



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consumed after migration, concurrency level, success rate, and error rate, data validation and integrity, resource consumption, and network capacity consumption. Operation metrics are cutover downtime duration, ETL or CDC task failure or retry counts, and validation and automation coverage cycle times. Cost measurements are cost per gigabyte of data stored or processed, pre- and post-migration cost fluctuations, and productivity gain through resource optimization and auto-scaling. They are monitored to minimize risks and downtime while the migration meets performance, cost, and quality targets.

Cloud data warehouse migration needs to be monitored for some of its most critical performance metrics. These include data load, concurrency of queries, resources consumed, validation and data quality, operations, cost, and business impact. Data load metrics include initial bulk load time, incremental load latency, data throughput, concurrency of queries, and query success/failure rate. Resource usage metrics include memory, CPU, warehouse space, rate of growth, usage of storage, and network bandwidth usage. Validation and data quality metrics consist of data parity success ratio, ETL/CDC process errors and retries, and correctness and completeness indicators. Operations metrics consist of migration outages, successful and scheduled cutovers, rolled back and failed migrations, and validation and migration automated streams. Cost metrics consist of total cost of ownership, which can be minimized by resource optimization and auto-scaling. Business impact measurements are user query times, SLA realization, and enhanced operation productivity and return on investment. It is through the monitoring that the migration operates successfully, meets corporate objectives, and maintains data integrity [17].

The dataset offers the most important performance measures (KPIs) of a 2020-2025 cloud data warehouse migration project. The performance measures are data ingestion, query performance, utilization of resources, validation success, operational impacts, and cost-effectiveness. The time to complete the load is shown as initial load duration, and declining trend is shown as increased parallelization and load processing. Incremental load latency is a measure for the amount of time it takes for changes in source data to be perceptible in the target system, indicating increased real-time synchronization capability. Average query run time captures the performance with which operational or analytical queries execute within the target system post-migration, and optimization minimizes this. Compute usage (%) offers cost control in the form of percentage virtual compute resources consumed to execute the workloads from available capacity. Cost per terabyte (USD) is a metric of processing and storage expenses per terabyte of data. This data supports decision-making for ongoing optimization, risk management, and ROI testing for migration is shown in Figure 3 below:

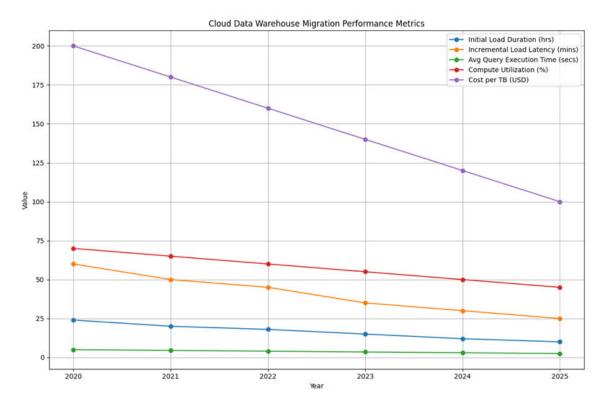


Figure 3: Key Performance Metrics over the last five years during a Cloud Data Warehouse Migration



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## IV. CONCLUSION

Migration from a cloud-native data warehouse to Oracle is inevitable for organizations requiring scalability, cost benefits, and business responsiveness in the data infrastructure. It requires strategic planning, strong validation frameworks, automation-based orchestration, and sound governance in order to achieve data integrity and compliance. Automation, AI-powered data quality monitoring, and intelligent schema evolution will characterize migrations in the future. New technology like advanced change data capture, cloud-native serverless data processing, and real-time analytics platforms will minimize downtime and enhance corporate responsiveness. Greater integration of compliance and security controls within the cloud data platform will also be beneficial to organizations. Organizations must embrace fast iterations, cost-effective scalability, improved data observability, and constant migration and modernization initiatives in order to compete. A blend of machine learning and cloud data management can rejuvenate data migration from a business driver to an IT project. Migration from Oracle to a new cloud data platform would unleash businesses with unprecedented value and versatility if done cautiously and with future innovation.

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