

Checklist for Taming Cloud Application Lifecycle Management

Cloud applications — like Oracle, Workday, Salesforce and others — change several times a year, and many IT teams struggle to keep up without blowing budgets or breaking production. This checklist gives you a practical starting point to understand your current situation and take concrete steps toward safer, faster, and more automated cloud changes.

Action Item	Owner	Target Date	Status
1. Clarify your top three pain points Identify where cloud apps hurt you most today: integration breakages, failed changes in production, slow updates, or budget overruns on partners and testing.			
2. Map your critical business flows List the 5–10 most important processes that run through your cloud apps (for example, payroll, hire-to-retire, order-to-cash, financial close, customer support) and note which ones have broken in the last 12–18 months.			
3. Count how many major releases you actually face For each major cloud app, note how many significant updates you get per year and where you’ve had to cut corners on testing to meet deadlines.			
4. Assess how manual your testing is For a typical release, estimate what percentage of test design, test maintenance, and execution is still manual versus automated, even if you have some scripts or tools.			
5. List where you depend on consultants Note the activities where you rely most on external partners (for example, regression testing, configuration validation, post-release support) and roughly how much you spend there.			
6. Sketch an initial automation/AI use case Choose one high-value, repeatable area (such as regression testing for a key process) and describe how automation or agentic AI could help — discovering real user flows, generating tests, or validating changes before they hit production.			
7. Decide how you’d use freed-up time If automation or AI gave you back 1–3 FTEs worth of capacity, decide in advance where that time would go: reducing backlog, improving employee experience, building new capabilities, or cutting consulting spend.			
8. Define 1–2 concrete next projects Based on the answers above, pick one near-term initiative (for example, “automate regression for our top 3 processes” or “reduce consultant-run testing by 20%”) and one slightly longer-term initiative (like “move toward an 80/20 in-house/consultant model”).			

Ready to take the next step?

Read [The 2026 State of Enterprise Testing and Cloud Application Lifecycle Management](#) to learn how over 200 IT leaders are tackling these challenges.

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