

IN-DEPTH GUIDE

CONTROL AND TRANSITIONS

Migrate from a host without breaking everything: the complete guide

The seven steps to a successful hosting migration, the classic corporate email pitfall, and how to plan a drama-free switchover.



GXN

Senior expertise · Digital governance

Quebec First

Quebec business context

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CONTROL AND TRANSITIONS

Migrate from a host without breaking everything: the complete guide

TL;DR

The answer in one minute

A well-planned hosting migration is done without interruption perceptible to your visitors. The method that works follows seven specific steps, in order. The most frequent and costly trap is business emails hosted on the same account as the site, forgotten in planning and lost for several days without anyone seeing it until it is too late.

01 · BACKGROUND GUIDE

Why so many people stay with a bad host

The fear of breaking everything keeps many companies from a host that they have known to be unsatisfactory for a long time. It's an understandable fear, but it's expensive, each month paid for a service that we already know is problematic. Impromptu migration is indeed risky. A methodical migration is not.

02 · BACKGROUND GUIDE

The seven steps to a trouble-free migration

First, the complete inventory. Everything that exists in the current host must be listed, the site itself, databases, email accounts, domain name settings, security certificates, automated tasks programmed. This is the stage that failed migrations have almost always jumped.

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- Second, the full copy. The entire environment is reproduced on the new hosting, while the old one remains active and functional.

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- Thirdly, thorough testing. The copied site is verified in detail on the new environment, pages, forms, payments if applicable, all important features.

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- Fourth, the preparation of domain name settings. These technical adjustments are prepared in advance so that the final shift is as fast as possible.

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- Fifth, the switch itself, done in a pre-planned window, with a rollback plan ready to be activated if an unforeseen problem arises.

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- Sixth, complete verification in production. Everything is retested once the new environment is active, including emails and security certificates.

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- Seventh, close surveillance of the first days. The old environment is only closed once everything is confirmed stable and functional on the new.

DECISION CARD

The four angles to keep together

01

Why so many people stay with a bad host

02

The seven steps to a trouble-free migration

03

The Email Trap, Explained in Detail

04

How long does a migration take well?

GUIDE READING GRID

Angle	Dimension to examine	Use in the decision
01	Why so many people stay with a bad host	Setting the Context
02	The seven steps to a trouble-free migration	Identify dependencies
03	The Email Trap, Explained in Detail	Compare options
04	How long does a migration take well?	Preparing for the next step

03 · BACKGROUND GUIDE

The Email Trap, Explained in Detail

This is the most common disaster of poorly planned migrations. The company's professional emails often live on the same hosting account as the website, but no one thinks about this when planning a migration focused on the site itself. Concrete result, days of incoming messages lost, without anyone noticing until a customer mentions not having had a response to an email sent several days earlier. Treating emails as a separate and explicit project in planning completely eliminates this risk.

INTERACTIVE TOOL

Set your decision

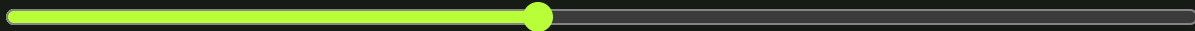
Select the dimensions that describe your situation. The result is to organize the next conversation, not to replace an analysis.

WHAT CONCERNS YOU NOW

- 01 **Why so many people stay with a bad host**
- 02 **The seven steps to a trouble-free migration**
- 03 **The Email Trap, Explained in Detail**
- 04 **How long does a migration take well?**

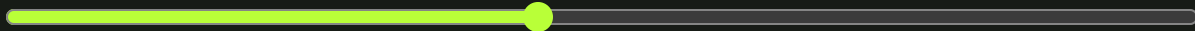
Urgent decision

5



Current control level

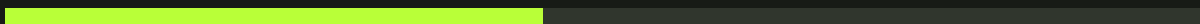
5



RECOMMENDED ANALYSIS

Several dimensions must be treated together

Avoid an isolated decision. Map out the dependencies and agree on an intervention order.



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How long does a migration take well?

Inventory and preparation typically takes a few days to a few weeks depending on the complexity of the current environment. The technical switch itself, once everything is prepared, is often done in just a few minutes, thanks to modern techniques for preparing domain settings.

05 · BACKGROUND GUIDE

What I see on the ground

All the catastrophic migrations I saw shared a common point that was evident after all, the absence of a true prior inventory. We migrate the main site, we forget a sub domain, an automated task, or famous emails. The inventory is a boring step to do conscientiously, which is exactly why it is so valuable when it is well executed.

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When this guide does not apply

If your current hosting works well and your dissatisfaction comes from other things, such as content or site design, a hosting migration will not solve this particular problem. Make sure that the problem really comes from hosting before undertaking this process.

Frequently asked questions

01 **There will be an interruption during migration.**

The goal is zero perceptible interruption, achievable with adequate preparation of domain settings before the cutover.

02 **What become of our emails during migration.**

03 **You can migrate a site you don't control yet.**

04 **How much does a hosting migration cost.**

EDITORIAL METHOD

In-depth guide prepared by GXN based on real business situations. Recommendations remain independent of brands and suppliers.



ABOUT THE PUBLISHER

GXN

Senior expertise directly accessible, supported by specialists when the project requires it.

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NEXT STEP

You know you have to start from your current host, but the idea of breaking everything keeps you.

The free assessment clarifies exactly what the migration would entail for you.

No call required. No sales sequence.