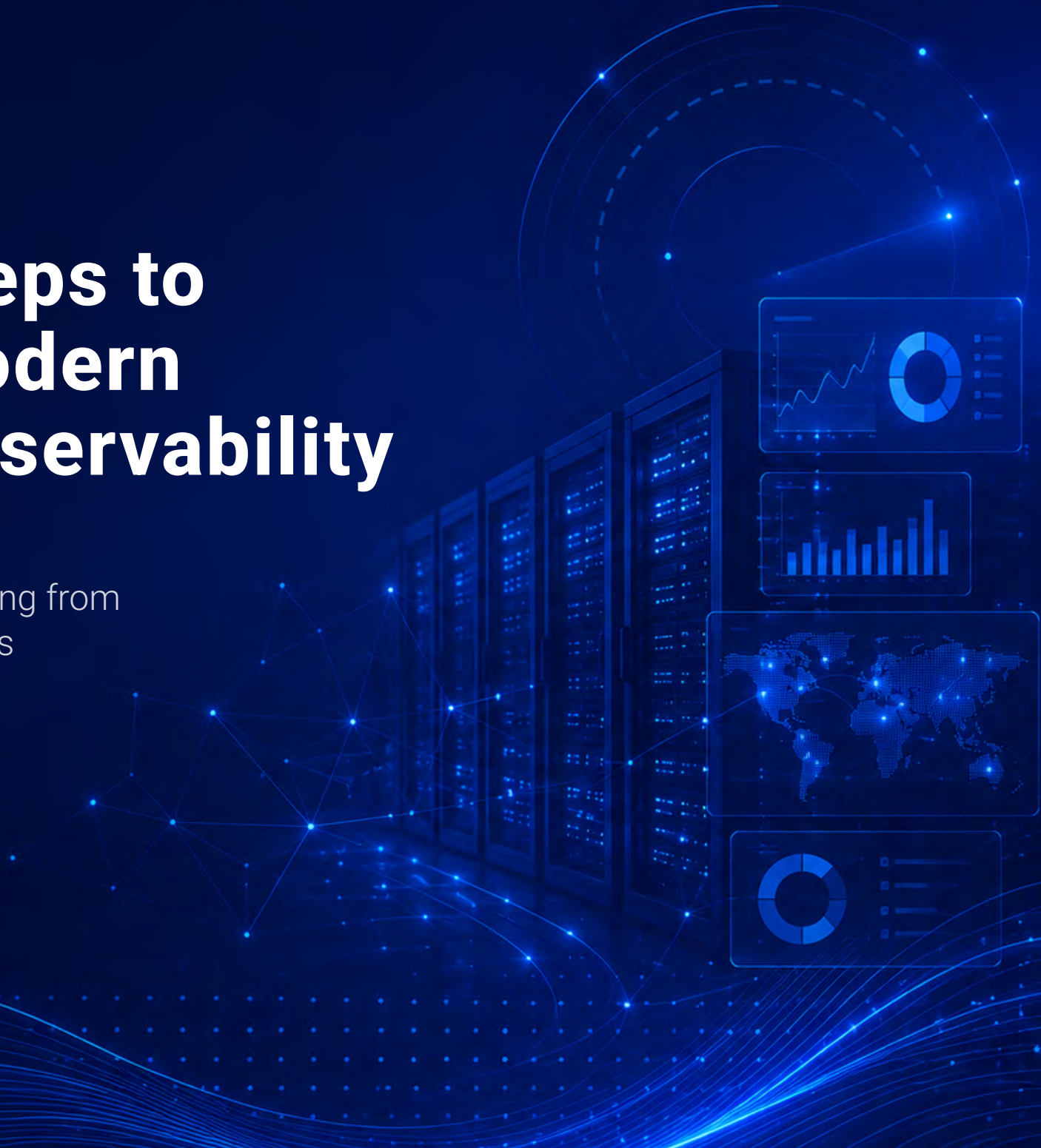




10 Steps to Modern Observability

A Practical Guide for Migrating from Legacy Monitoring Platforms

- ✓ Reduce Migration Risk
- ✓ Avoid Common Pitfalls
- ✓ Accelerate Time-to-Value



10 Steps to Modern Observability

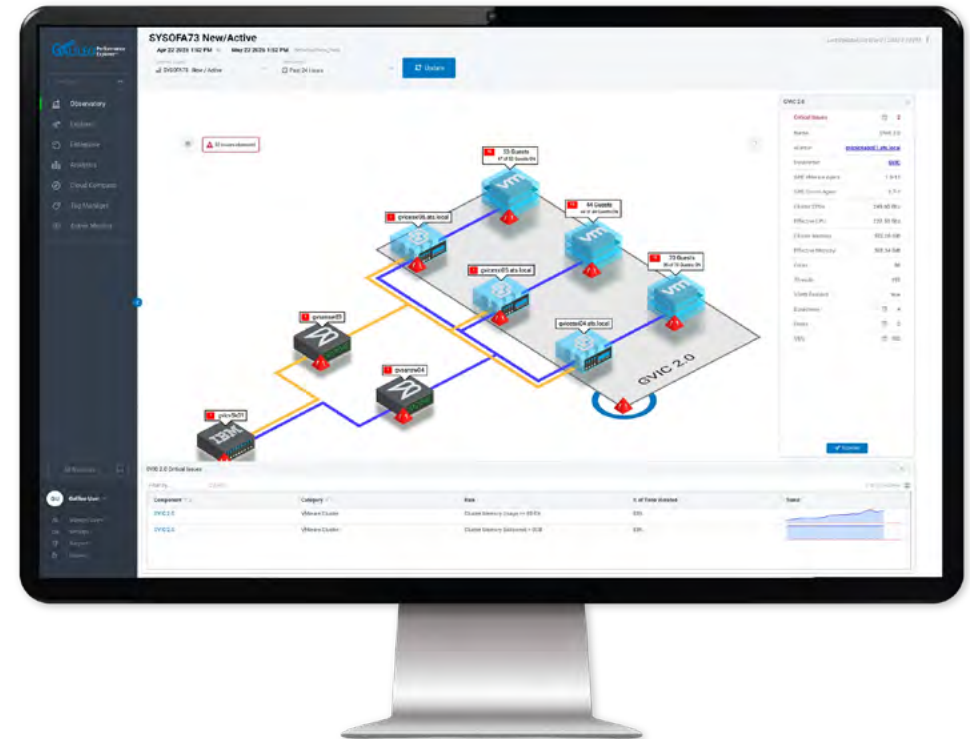
A Practical Guide for Migrating from Legacy Monitoring Platforms

Replacing a legacy monitoring platform can seem daunting, but organizations that approach the migration with a clear plan often discover the process is far less disruptive than expected.

Since 2007, the Galileo team has helped organizations modernize their monitoring environments, migrate from legacy platforms, and establish observability practices that deliver greater operational insight. While every environment is unique, the most successful projects tend to follow a common set of principles and milestones.

The guidance in this playbook is based on lessons learned from real-world monitoring migrations and is designed to help organizations reduce risk, accelerate adoption, and achieve value more quickly.

Whether you're replacing SolarWinds, PRTG, Datadog, or another monitoring solution, these ten steps can help you plan and execute a successful transition to modern observability.



Step 1: Start Planning Earlier Than You Think

One of the most common mistakes organizations make is underestimating the planning effort required for a successful migration. While some projects can be completed in as little as 6–8 weeks, most organizations benefit from beginning the planning process several months before their intended cutover date.

Considerations

- Begin evaluating alternatives well before contract renewal dates.
- Allow time for requirements gathering, discovery, and stakeholder alignment.
- Larger environments typically require additional planning and validation.
- Establish a realistic timeline that includes deployment, testing, and user adoption.

KEY TAKEAWAY:

The earlier you begin planning, the more flexibility you'll have to ensure a smooth migration.



Proven migration methodology

Based on lessons learned from real-world monitoring migrations, these 10 steps provide a practical framework for reducing risk and accelerating success.

Use them as a roadmap to avoid common pitfalls and achieve faster time-to-value.

Step 2: Decide Whether You're Migrating or Modernizing

Before implementation begins, determine whether your goal is to replicate your current monitoring environment or use the migration as an opportunity to improve visibility and operational insight. While Galileo can support a lift-and-shift approach, many organizations find greater value in taking a fresh look at how they monitor their environment.

Step 2: Decide Whether You're Migrating or Modernizing

Legacy monitoring platforms often evolve over many years, resulting in thousands of metrics, alerts, and reports that may no longer align with current operational priorities. A migration project provides an opportunity to simplify monitoring, eliminate noise, and focus on the information that helps teams make faster, more informed decisions.

Rather than simply recreating existing dashboards and alerts, many organizations use the transition to adopt a more modern observability framework.



Considerations

- Overall system health and service availability
- Resource utilization and capacity trends
- Application performance and user experience
- Business-critical services and dependencies

This approach often results in better operational outcomes than simply reproducing what existed in the previous platform.



KEY TAKEAWAY:

A migration project is an opportunity to rethink what matters most. Modern observability focuses less on collecting every metric and more on delivering meaningful insight into system health, service status, and resource utilization.



Modernize with intention

A migration is the right time to rethink what matters most.

Galileo helps teams reduce noise, preserve what works, and build a monitoring strategy focused on meaningful operational insight.

Step 3: Build a Complete Monitoring Inventory

Before deploying a new platform, document everything that is currently being monitored as well as systems that should be monitored but aren't today. A complete inventory helps ensure nothing critical is overlooked during migration.

Considerations

- Servers, storage, network devices, virtualization, cloud resources, and applications.
- Document custom monitors, integrations, reports, and dashboards.
- Identify monitoring gaps and blind spots.
- Validate ownership and responsibility for monitored assets.

KEY TAKEAWAY:

You can't successfully migrate what you haven't fully documented.

Step 4: Preserve Asset Context and Tagging

Monitoring becomes significantly more valuable when assets are organized and aligned to business context. Existing tags, ownership information, and organizational structures should be carried forward wherever possible.

Considerations

- Export existing tags and metadata from the current platform.
- Preserve ownership assignments and business-unit alignment.
- Maintain application and service relationships.
- Leverage tagging to simplify reporting and operational accountability.

KEY TAKEAWAY:

Don't just migrate devices. Migrate the context that makes the data meaningful.



Preserve asset context

Tags, ownership details, and business-unit alignment help turn monitoring data into useful operational insight.

Galileo helps carry forward the context that makes your environment easier to manage, report on, and optimize.

Step 5: Define Monitoring Standards and Collection Policies

Not every device, application, or service requires the same monitoring frequency. Establishing standards early helps ensure the platform delivers useful insights without creating unnecessary noise or consuming excessive resources.

Considerations

- Define polling intervals by technology type.
- Review retention requirements for operational and reporting needs.
- Establish alert thresholds and escalation policies.
- Identify metrics that provide meaningful business and operational value.



KEY TAKEAWAY:

Effective monitoring focuses on collecting the right data, not simply more data.



Plan Beyond the Technology

Successful migrations require more than deploying a new platform. Monitoring policies, data collection standards, and contract considerations all influence project success.

Addressing these items early helps prevent delays and unexpected surprises later.

Step 6: Understand Your Current Contract and Exit Requirements

Contract terms can significantly impact migration timelines. Before committing to a project schedule, understand the requirements and limitations of your current agreement.

Considerations

- Review contract expiration and renewal dates.
- Understand notice requirements for termination.
- Identify any early termination fees or penalties.
- Determine whether software can continue operating without support after expiration.



KEY TAKEAWAY:

Your contract may dictate when you can migrate, so understand your options early.

Step 7: Run Both Platforms in Parallel

A parallel deployment period is one of the most important steps in reducing migration risk. Rather than immediately replacing your existing monitoring platform, organizations should operate both environments simultaneously while validating that the new platform is delivering the visibility, performance data, and operational insight required for a successful cutover.

The objective isn't simply to confirm that Galileo is collecting data but it's to ensure teams have confidence in the platform before the legacy system is retired.

Considerations

- Establish baseline performance metrics from your existing monitoring platform before migration begins.
- Plan for approximately 6–8 weeks of parallel operation.
- Compare alerts, dashboards, reports, and monitored assets between systems.
- Validate that critical infrastructure, applications, storage, network, virtualization, and cloud resources are being monitored appropriately.
- Confirm that performance trends, capacity metrics, and historical reporting provide the visibility needed for operational and planning decisions.
- Test reporting, dashboards, and stakeholder workflows prior to cutover.
- Identify and address any monitoring gaps before retiring the legacy platform.

The parallel run period also provides an opportunity for operational teams to become familiar with the new platform, validate reporting requirements, and fine-tune alerts and dashboards based on real-world usage.

KEY TAKEAWAY:

Use the parallel run period to validate monitoring coverage, establish confidence in the new platform, and ensure a smooth transition before cutover.



Parallel-run deployment approach

Running both platforms in parallel gives teams time to compare alerts, reports, dashboards, and monitoring coverage before cutover.

Galileo helps validate the new environment while the legacy system remains in place, reducing risk and building confidence.

Step 8: Assemble the Right Team

Monitoring impacts multiple technology disciplines, making cross-functional participation critical to success. The most effective projects include both business and technical stakeholders.

Considerations

- Identify an executive sponsor and project manager.
- Include SMEs from networking, storage, servers, virtualization, cloud and applications.
- Establish clear responsibilities and decision-making authority.
- Ensure both customer and Galileo resources are aligned throughout the project.

KEY TAKEAWAY:

Successful migrations require both technical expertise and organizational alignment.



Migration Is a Team Sport

A monitoring migration is most effective when business stakeholders, technical teams, and implementation experts work toward a common goal. Galileo works alongside your team throughout the project, helping ensure alignment, reduce risk, and keep the migration on track.

Step 9: Accelerate Success with a Proven Deployment Approach

Migrating from a legacy monitoring platform doesn't have to be complicated. Galileo's implementation methodology is designed to make the transition smooth, predictable, and low risk. Our team works alongside yours to help ensure a successful deployment and rapid time-to-value.

Step 9: Accelerate Success with a Proven Deployment Approach

Considerations

- Establish monitoring coverage across critical systems and applications.
- Preserve important context such as tags, ownership, and business alignment.
- Validate alerts, reports, and dashboards before cutover.
- Enable operational teams through knowledge transfer and best practices.
- Focus on delivering meaningful visibility quickly rather than waiting for perfection.

KEY TAKEAWAY:

A structured implementation process helps reduce risk, accelerate adoption, and deliver value faster.



White-glove implementation. Lifetime support.

Galileo's implementation team works alongside your organization to establish coverage, validate dashboards and reports, and support knowledge transfer.

After deployment, Galileo continues to help teams refine monitoring, improve alerts, update reporting, and expand visibility as environments evolve.

Step 10: Establish an Ongoing Optimization Process

Modern observability is not a one-time project. As infrastructure evolves, monitoring strategies should evolve as well. Organizations that continuously refine their observability practices achieve greater long-term value.

Considerations

- Regularly review monitoring coverage and performance.
- Update templates, dashboards, and reporting as requirements change.
- Continuously improve alert quality and operational workflows.
- Expand visibility into new technologies and business services.

KEY TAKEAWAY:

Observability is an ongoing discipline that grows with your environment.

Common Migration Challenges

(and How to Avoid Them)

Even with a well-defined plan, monitoring migrations can encounter unexpected challenges. The good news is that most issues are avoidable when teams understand what to watch for and address them early in the project.

Challenge #1: Inconsistent Project Cadence

One of the biggest threats to a successful migration is competing priorities. Most stakeholders and project team resources are balancing multiple projects and operational responsibilities, making it easy for momentum to slow if communication and accountability aren't maintained.

How to Avoid It

- ✓ Establish a recurring project meeting cadence from the start.
- ✓ Assign clear owners for action items and deliverables.
- ✓ Review progress, risks, and dependencies regularly.
- ✓ Escalate roadblocks quickly before they impact timelines.

Projects that maintain consistent communication tend to stay on schedule and achieve faster adoption.



KEY TAKEAWAY:

A predictable meeting cadence keeps the project moving forward and prevents migration timelines from slipping.

Challenge #2: Waiting for Perfection Before Moving Forward

Many organizations attempt to perfect every dashboard, report, and alert before expanding deployment. While the intention is good, this approach often slows progress and delays value realization.

A more effective strategy is to establish broad monitoring coverage first and then refine configurations over time.

How to Avoid It

- ✓ Focus on achieving approximately 80% coverage early in the project.
- ✓ Prioritize critical systems and business services.
- ✓ Validate functionality before fine-tuning every detail.
- ✓ Iterate and improve based on operational feedback.

Most organizations gain value faster when they focus on progress first and optimization second.



KEY TAKEAWAY:

Don't let perfect become the enemy of good. Establish visibility first, then refine and optimize.

Common Migration Challenges

(and How to Avoid Them)

Challenge #3: Bringing Forward Poor Monitoring Hygiene

A migration project is the ideal time to evaluate what data is being collected and why. Many legacy environments contain years of templates, thresholds, alerts, and metrics that no longer serve a clear purpose.

Recreating everything in a new platform can increase noise, consume resources, and make troubleshooting more difficult.

How to Avoid It

- ✓ Review polling intervals and collection frequencies.
- ✓ Eliminate duplicate or unnecessary metrics.
- ✓ Retire outdated devices and unused templates.
- ✓ Focus on collecting data that supports operational decisions.
- ✓ Ensure monitoring policies align with current business requirements.

The goal is not to collect the most data; it's to collect the most useful data.



KEY TAKEAWAY:

Better monitoring comes from better data strategy, not larger volumes of data.

Challenge #4: Underestimating Change Management

While the technology migration may be straightforward, user adoption can take longer than expected. Teams often become accustomed to specific dashboards, workflows, and reporting structures within their existing platform.

How to Avoid It

- ✓ Communicate project goals and expected outcomes early.
- ✓ Involve operational teams throughout the migration process.
- ✓ Provide training and knowledge transfer before cutover.
- ✓ Give users time to validate reports and dashboards during parallel operations.

Organizations that invest in user adoption often realize value much faster after deployment.



KEY TAKEAWAY:

Successful migrations focus on people and processes as much as technology.

Getting Started

Every successful migration begins with a conversation.

The first step is understanding your current monitoring environment, identifying operational challenges, and defining what success looks like for your organization. From there, you can determine whether a lift-and-shift migration or a broader observability modernization effort makes the most sense.

Galileo offers migration assessments designed to help organizations inventory existing monitoring coverage, evaluate modernization opportunities, and develop a phased transition plan. With a clear roadmap in place, teams can move forward confidently and avoid many of the common pitfalls that delay monitoring projects.

Modern observability isn't just about replacing a tool. It's about creating a stronger foundation for visibility, performance optimization, and informed decision-making across your IT environment.

If you're evaluating alternatives to your current monitoring platform, schedule a conversation with a Galileo engineer to discuss your environment, migration requirements, and modernization goals.

A circular icon containing a stylized line graph with a gear and a magnifying glass.

Migration Assessment

Start with a clear roadmap.

Galileo's migration assessments help you evaluate your current environment, identify opportunities, and build a phased plan for success.

A circular icon containing a speech bubble with three horizontal lines inside.

Talk to an Engineer

Get expert guidance on replacing your legacy monitoring platform.



Or visit:

galileosuite.com/talk-to-an-engineer/

