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End of Atlassian Data Center: three ways forward for your test tool

What the end of Data Center means for test management, and how to carry your test content into the next phase safely and without loss of quality.

ICCO LTD · Quality management for complex IT transformations
www.icco-online.com · info@icco-online.com

WHITEPAPER

Starting point

Atlassian is phasing out Data Center. For teams that keep requirements, test cases and test results in Jira, Xray and Confluence, this is more than a licensing question: it decides where your test knowledge will live.

30 March 2026
New Data Center subscriptions are no longer available to new customers.

30 March 2028
Last day on which existing customers can still expand Data Center.

28 March 2029
End of life. After this date Data Center is read-only.

Source: Atlassian, Data Center end of life (as of November 2026). Atlassian mentions exceptions in individual cases and a migration programme with trial phases.

What is affected

- Jira Software, Confluence and Jira Service Management running as Data Center.
- Apps from the Atlassian Marketplace, for example test management apps such as Xray. Whether and how a Cloud version is offered must be clarified directly with the app vendor.
- Everything built on top of these systems: dashboards, automations, interfaces and reports.

> **Important for planning:** Atlassian points out that the cost per user is higher in the Cloud than with Data Center. An economic assessment should therefore be part of the decision from the start.

TEST CONTENT

What has to be carried over for testing

A move succeeds if nothing essential is lost. Take stock of these six areas before you decide anything.

Area	What it includes	Typical risk
Requirements	Epics, stories, acceptance criteria, estimates	Links to test cases are lost
Test cases	Steps, BDD scenarios, preconditions, test data, versions	Structure and folders are not carried over cleanly
Test plans and executions	Cycles, results, evidence, history per release	History is missing later for audits and comparisons
Defects	Defects with status, attachments, comments and history	Workflows and statuses do not fit the target system
Traceability	Links from requirement to test case to defect	Gaps only show up at acceptance
Documentation and automation	Confluence pages, automation connection, dashboards	Scripts and reports point to old addresses

What follows

Most problems do not arise when copying the data but in the relationships between the data. Plan time for clean-up and for checking the links before you migrate.

THREE WAYS

Three ways forward for your test tool

WAY A

Atlassian Cloud

You stay in the Atlassian environment and change the platform.

Fits when	Jira, Confluence and Xray are firmly part of daily work and your Marketplace apps are available in the Cloud.
Effort and risk	Medium. Migration with Atlassian tools; functional differences and app availability must be checked.
Watch out for	Cost per user, data residency, functional differences, version of the test app in the Cloud.

WAY B

Another test tool

You use the move to re-evaluate the tool, for example SAP Cloud ALM, OpenText ALM, OpenText Core Software Delivery Platform or Octane.

Fits when	Your project is close to SAP anyway or a group standard for test tools exists.
Effort and risk	Higher. Data model, roles and reports are rebuilt, in return you get a clean restart.
Watch out for	Mapping of links, training needs, connection to automation and development tools.

WAY C

Make test content AI-ready

Independent of the target system, you clean up and structure requirements and test cases so that AI-supported methods can work with them.

Fits when	Content has grown historically, is duplicated or inconsistent. The move is the chance to tidy up.
Effort and risk	Low to medium. Complements Way A or B, does not replace them.
Watch out for	Review by the team. AI suggests, people decide. Clarify data protection and confidentiality.

DECISION

How to decide and proceed

Five questions before you decide

- Which apps and interfaces depend on your test tool, and do they exist in the target system?
- How much history do you need for audits and comparisons?
- Who maintains test cases: business unit, test, development? Which permissions will they need?
- What does it cost per user and year compared with today?
- By when must the switch be complete, and which releases fall in between?

Six steps to the switch

1. **Inventory.** Record all content, apps, interfaces and users.
2. **Clean up.** Remove outdated and duplicate items before they move.
3. **Target picture.** Map data model, fields and statuses to the target system.
4. **Trial migration.** Practise with a small, representative part and compare the results.
5. **Check links.** Trace requirements, test cases and defects by sampling.
6. **Cut-over.** Choose a point between two releases, with a quality gate before the start.

SOURCES

Sources and notes

- Atlassian: Data Center end of life, www.atlassian.com/licensing/data-center-end-of-life (accessed November 2026)
- Atlassian: migration programme and trials (see the same page)

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Let's talk about your situation

If you would like to know which way suits your project, get in touch. We will give you a first, non-binding assessment.

ICCO LTD · Quality management for complex IT transformations
info@icco-online.com · www.icco-online.com
Peiraios No. 16, Office 201, 3016 Limassol, Cyprus