AGILITY & INNOVATION

GUIDE

HEADLESS COMMERCE MIGRATION GUIDE & CHECKLISTS

The key to effectively implementing a headless architecture for your Salesforce Commerce Cloud

FROM LEGACY TO CUTTING EDGE - THE TOP-LINE STEPS TO HEADLESS MIGRATION

Get ready to move beyond the limits of a monolithic platform and gain the full potential of headless commerce! This guide offers a roadmap for migrating your SFCC platform to a headless architecture. By following the strategies and best practices outlined, you can successfully plan your migration,

Outline business objectives & goals

Consult all stake holders on the following points:

- Pain points
- Pre-existing roadblocks
- Must-stay features
- Predicted ongoing costs
- Initial build costs

1

Visualize and map out your ideal e-commerce architecture

- Users
- Products
- Orders
- Integrations
- Existing services

2

Risk assessments

- Data migration mapping
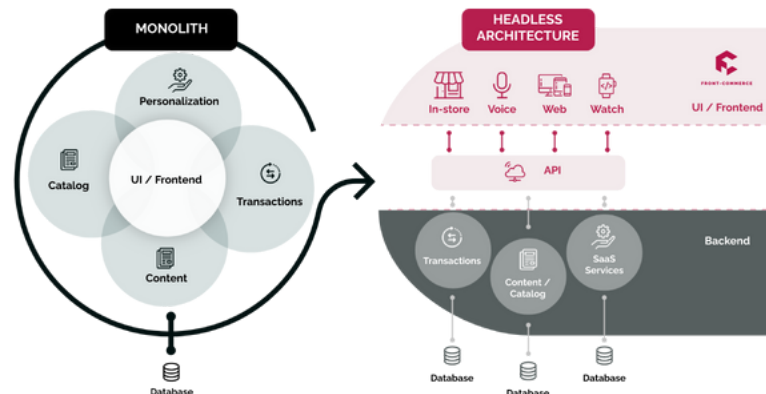- Traffic impact
- Content & SEO audit
- API Hosting & infrastructure
- UX & design specifications

3

"Before and after" migrating to headless commerce

Set priorities & create roadmap

- Prioritisation & migration order strategy
- Define changes to the backend
- Business urgency
- Develop & build internally or externally
- Time-to-build

4

Pre-launch

- Backup data
- Test everything

5

Consider a progressive migration as it may be the most adapted option.

IN-DEPTH MIGRATION CONSIDERATIONS

Discovery session with an external partner

Set your business goals, rank them by importance, and use clear measures to track progress.

Choose a project leader who knows your online selling plan, can smoothly handle the change, and can easily oversee each step of the project.

Audit your current tech stack

Audit your current technology stack including your existing infrastructure and processes, to identify critical systems and potential issues.

Integration with existing SFCC systems

Plan a strategy to smoothly link the headless solution with the existing SFCC system.

Reduce work interruptions with a phased roll out, parallel, and full training for your teams.

Set up clear communication methods and backup plans to deal with any problems that might come up.

Leverage headless commerce capabilities

Fully embrace everything that headless commerce has to offer by implementing personalization, omnichannel and leveraging newer technologies like PWAs and voice-enabled shopping.

Audit your team's expertise

Ensure that your team has the necessary expertise in headless architecture, front-end development, back-end integration & SFCC configuration.

Consider partnering with an experienced headless commerce agency.

SFCC API complexities

SFCC's API structure can be complex, requiring careful consideration during integration with a headless platform.

Ensure your team has expertise in SFCC API development and identify any potential compatibility issues beforehand.

Data migration strategies

A comprehensive data migration plan is critical, including: cleaning, transforming & mapping data from SFCC to the new headless platform.

Leverage migration tools and conduct thorough testing to minimize data integrity issues.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT MIGRATION APPROACH

It's important to select a migration method that best aligns with your business goals, technical capabilities & budget.

Approach	Pros	Cons	SFCC Considerations	Key Recommendations
Big-Bang Replatform	· Clean break from legacy systems · Potentially simplified future maintenance	· High complexity and risk · Significant resources required	· Requires strong understanding of headless architecture · Suitable for large-scale migrations	· Suitable for businesses with resources and expertise in headless architecture & migration planning. · Consider thorough risk assessments and developing contingency plans.
Progressive Approach	· Lower risk and more manageable · Easier to adapt to changes	· Extends overall migration timeline · Requires careful integration planning	· Popular choice for SFCC users due to familiarity and control	· Ideal for businesses prioritizing risk management & phased migration. · Develop a detailed roadmap with clear milestones and integration points.
Hybrid Approach	· Seamless transition with familiar backend · Extends life of SFCC investment	· Requires managing two systems · May limit some headless commerce benefits	· Ideal for leveraging headless features while preserving SFCC functionality	· Prioritize seamless integration between SFCC and headless systems to ensure a cohesive customer experience. · Consider allocating resources for ongoing maintenance & support for both platforms.

TOOLS AND RESOURCES FOR MIGRATION

A successful migration will depend not only on strategy but also on leveraging the right tools and resources. These can help with development, data management, API integration, and project management.

Here are some of the leading tools and resources available to facilitate your migration:

When selecting the right tools, consider:

- Your business requirements
- In-house technical expertise
- Compatibility with your existing ecosystem
- Total cost of ownership

Developer Frameworks

React **Vue.JS**

Headless frontends

Front-Commerce **Alokai**

Headless e-Commerce

Commercetools

Elastic Path **BigCommerce**

SFCC specific API Management Solutions

Salesforce Managed Runtime: For managing the runtime environment & APIs for headless implementation
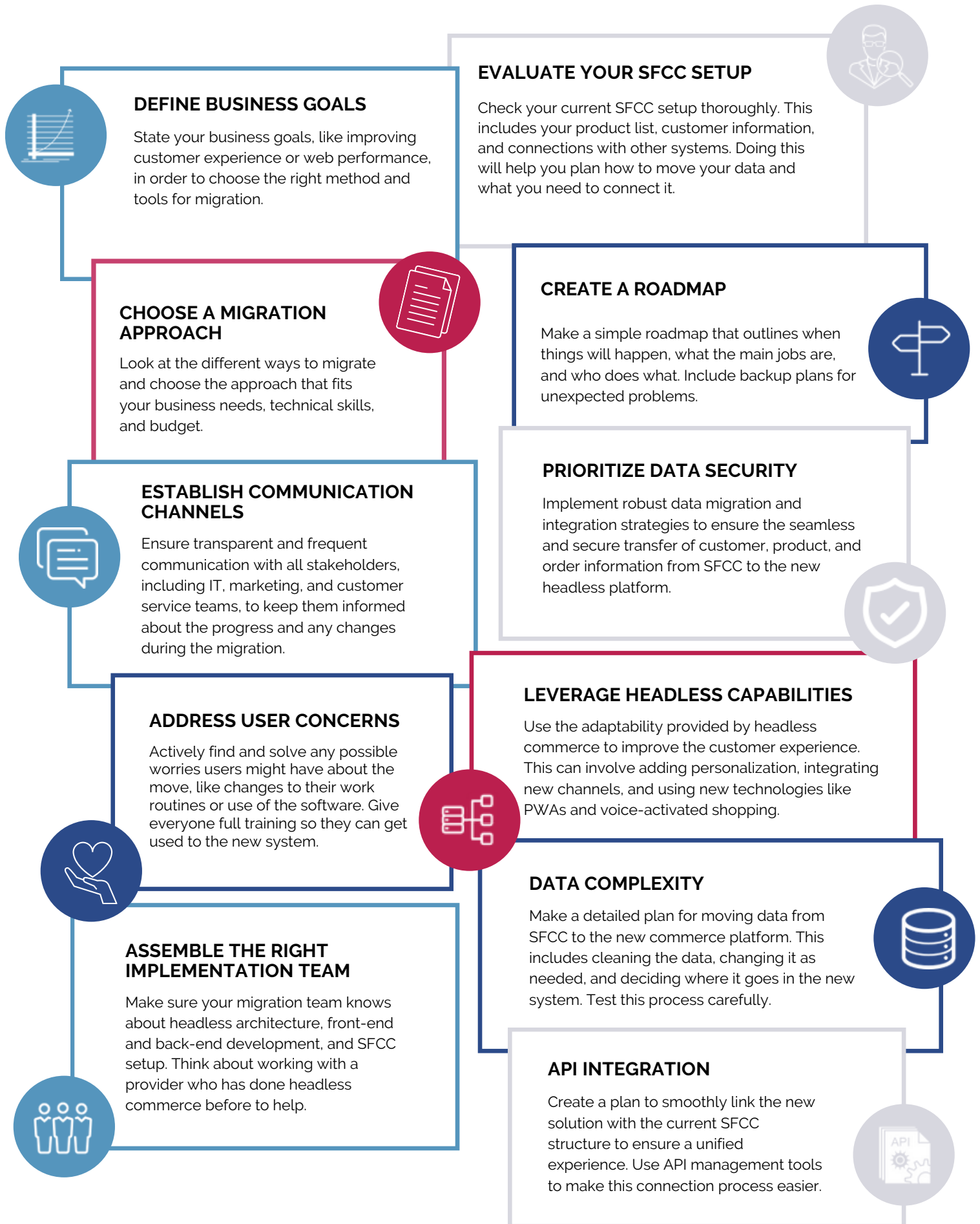
API gateways Apigee, Amazon API Gateway or Azure API Management can help streamline the integration of SFCC with other systems.

Headless CMS

Contentful **Contentstack**

BEST PRACTICES FOR A SMOOTH MIGRATION

DEFINE BUSINESS GOALS

State your business goals, like improving customer experience or web performance, in order to choose the right method and tools for migration.

EVALUATE YOUR SFCC SETUP

Check your current SFCC setup thoroughly. This includes your product list, customer information, and connections with other systems. Doing this will help you plan how to move your data and what you need to connect it.

CHOOSE A MIGRATION APPROACH

Look at the different ways to migrate and choose the approach that fits your business needs, technical skills, and budget.

CREATE A ROADMAP

Make a simple roadmap that outlines when things will happen, what the main jobs are, and who does what. Include backup plans for unexpected problems.

ESTABLISH COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

Ensure transparent and frequent communication with all stakeholders, including IT, marketing, and customer service teams, to keep them informed about the progress and any changes during the migration.

PRIORITIZE DATA SECURITY

Implement robust data migration and integration strategies to ensure the seamless and secure transfer of customer, product, and order information from SFCC to the new headless platform.

ADDRESS USER CONCERNS

Actively find and solve any possible worries users might have about the move, like changes to their work routines or use of the software. Give everyone full training so they can get used to the new system.

LEVERAGE HEADLESS CAPABILITIES

Use the adaptability provided by headless commerce to improve the customer experience. This can involve adding personalization, integrating new channels, and using new technologies like PWAs and voice-activated shopping.

DATA COMPLEXITY

Make a detailed plan for moving data from SFCC to the new commerce platform. This includes cleaning the data, changing it as needed, and deciding where it goes in the new system. Test this process carefully.

ASSEMBLE THE RIGHT IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

Make sure your migration team knows about headless architecture, front-end and back-end development, and SFCC setup. Think about working with a provider who has done headless commerce before to help.

API INTEGRATION

Create a plan to smoothly link the new solution with the current SFCC structure to ensure a unified experience. Use API management tools to make this connection process easier.

READY TO TAKE YOUR ECOMMERCE HEADLESS?

Would you like to seamlessly migrate to a headless architecture? Contact us to define your business objectives, priorities, and set realistic expectations

Front-Commerce is the only headless storefront that improves the customer, merchant & developer experience, at the same time. An ultra-fast front-end based on PWA & MACH standards, we help brands evolve their current e-commerce platform to a headless commerce approach by integrating the back-end of their choice with Front-Commerce's best of breed technical stack based on React, Remix, NodeJS & GraphQL.

Front-Commerce does the decoupling of the frontend and backend for its clients to provide a state of the art front-end experience and a headless commerce architecture. Our solution is compatible with most backends, allowing us to integrate easily into your systems. You can stay in touch with your customers and we keep all technical considerations up to date.

Schedule a meeting

Contact Front-Commerce
contact@front-commerce.com

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