

The Comprehensive APM Checklist: From Scope to Solution.

A properly implemented application performance management (APM) solution can provide significant value by improving application performance, efficiency and end-user satisfaction. With so many products on the market, it can be difficult to know where to start. Here's a checklist of things to consider when selecting and implementing a solution.



Step 1: Scope Your Project

Any APM project should begin with a clear definition of its scope.

- What exactly will the project entail?
- What are the specific goals that need to be achieved?
- What applications need to be monitored?
- What **performance metrics** will need to be collected?

Once you have a clear understanding of your objectives, you can break them down to more milestones, and begin building your project roadmap. Identify the tasks that need to be accomplished and the resources required for each phase.

- Develop a timeline for completing the project.
- Ensure that all stakeholders are on the same page.
- Determine the budget, including both hard costs like software licensing fees, and soft costs such as staff time spent on onboarding, training and maintaining the solution.

Once the scope has been defined, it is time to start looking at potential solutions.



Step 2: Research APM Vendors

Once you have determined the specific needs of your organization, it is time to start evaluating potential APM vendors, such as [Dynatrace](#), [DataDog](#), or [AppDynamics](#).

When evaluating vendors, there are a number of different criteria to consider.

- Cost and budget parameters, and expected ROI from implementation.
- Application integrations needed to work with your existing IT environment.
- Features and capabilities required to make the business case.
- Customer support and satisfaction ratings.



Step 3: Test & Evaluate APM Tools

Once you have a shortlist of potential solutions, it is time to start testing and evaluating them. This is where you will really be able to see how each solution performs in your specific environment. Be sure to run a variety of tests and compare the results.



Step 4: Select an APM Vendor

After you have tested and evaluated the different solutions, it is time to make a final decision. Choose the solution that best meets the needs of your organization and provides the best value for your team. This will require getting feedback from all the relevant stakeholders.



Step 5: Deploy Your APM Solution

After the solution has been selected, it is time to deploy it. This includes installation and configuration. It may be helpful to engage an outside consulting firm to assist.

This is an area where Windward has been able to assist many of our clients, providing that extra set of hands and wider net of experience which can be the difference between a smooth, successful launch and a protracted, painful one.



Step 6: Monitor & Measure

Once the deployment is complete, it is important to monitor the performance of your APM solution. This will ensure that it is working correctly and providing the desired results.

If you follow this simple APM checklist, you can be sure that your application performance management solution will be successful.