

Navigating the Equinix Metal Sunset

Choosing the Right Cloud Partner for Your Future

Executive summary

By 2026, Equinix will have sunsetted its bare metal offering as part of a strategic shift toward colocation, interconnection, and hyperscale solutions.¹ For the many enterprises that have traditionally relied on Equinix Metal, this transition presents both a challenge and an opportunity—forcing IT leaders to rethink their infrastructure strategy while ensuring performance, security, and cost efficiency.

Bare metal servers remain a foundational component of infrastructure-as-a-service (IaaS), offering dedicated, physical hardware with full control—critical for complex workloads, real-time analytics, and other compute-intensive applications.² Unlike virtualized environments, bare metal eliminates overhead, delivering the raw performance and customization enterprises need to drive innovation at scale.

With the demand for high-performance, single-tenant compute growing stronger than ever, selecting a new bare metal provider is about more than just replacing Equinix Metal. Enterprises need a partner that ensures a seamless migration and provides enhanced capabilities, cost efficiency, and long-term value to support next-generation workloads.

This guide is designed to support Equinix customers through this transition, equipping infrastructure and platform engineering teams with the insights they need to navigate change and determine the optimal path forward.

This guide explores:



Key considerations for migration

Performance, scalability, cost, and compliance factors to evaluate



What to seek in a new partner

Critical capabilities that ensure a smooth transition and a future-proof, AI-ready infrastructure



Why Vultr is the ideal choice

How Vultr's global cloud infrastructure, competitive pricing, and developer-friendly approach deliver superior performance and flexibility

Why bare metal?

Bare metal servers provide dedicated physical hardware, delivering the control, performance, and security needed for demanding workloads like AI, deep learning, and high-throughput computing. Unlike virtualized environments, bare metal eliminates hypervisor overhead, ensuring faster processing, lower latency, and full hardware-level customization for mission-critical applications.

Bare metal cloud services offer the best of both worlds for platform engineering teams—the single-tenant performance of on-prem infrastructure with the flexibility of cloud automation and APIs. This hybrid approach enables businesses to optimize workloads globally while maintaining security and compliance without virtualization trade-offs.

The challenges of metal migration:

Risks and considerations

Business continuity risks

Any infrastructure change introduces the potential for downtime, service disruptions, or performance degradation. Enterprises must ensure seamless workload migration, maintain SLAs, and implement redundancy strategies to minimize operational risks. A structured transition plan with thorough testing and phased deployment is critical to avoiding costly interruptions.

Performance and scalability

Not all bare metal providers offer the same level of compute power, networking capabilities, or scalability. Ensuring workloads run optimally in a new environment requires careful benchmarking, workload assessments, and compatibility checks. Businesses must validate that their new provider can meet both current and future performance demands—especially for AI, high-performance computing, and low-latency applications.

Cost implications

A poorly planned migration can lead to unexpected expenses, from hidden infrastructure costs to prolonged transition timelines. Studies show that only 16% of data migration projects are completed on time and within budget, with 64% failing to meet deadlines and 37% exceeding budgets.³ This is often due to inadequate pre-migration planning, lack of technical expertise, and improper cost estimation.

Conducting a detailed cost analysis—accounting for direct infrastructure costs and potential impacts on operations, data transfer fees, and ongoing management expenses—is a smart step. Choosing a provider with transparent pricing and flexible scaling options helps maintain cost efficiency.

Security and compliance

Regulatory and security requirements don't disappear when switching providers—indeed, they can become even more complex. Data residency, encryption standards, and compliance frameworks (e.g., GDPR, HIPAA, SOC 2) must be carefully evaluated in the new environment. Ensuring the provider meets enterprise-grade security standards and compliance mandates is essential for protecting sensitive data and avoiding legal risks.

Vendor lock-in concerns

While migrating to a new provider, it's crucial to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past—such as getting locked into proprietary solutions that limit future flexibility. Enterprises should prioritize open standards, interoperability, and multi-cloud/hybrid-cloud compatibility to maintain long-term agility. Choosing a provider with flexible infrastructure options ensures organizations can adapt as technology evolves.

Security
and compliance

No room for error

Bare metal migration doesn't eliminate risk—it magnifies it. Ensure airtight data residency, encryption, and compliance frameworks. The right provider keeps you protected and audit-ready.

What to look for in a new bare metal provider

With Equinix sunsetting its bare metal offering, finding the right provider is more than just a swap—it's an opportunity to upgrade. The best providers go beyond raw infrastructure, offering seamless automation, global reach, and intuitive tools that make cloud management effortless. Look for a partner that simplifies complexity, ensures top performance, and delivers cost-effective, scalable solutions to keep your infrastructure future-ready.

Global reach and scalability

A provider with a worldwide network of data centers ensures that businesses can deploy workloads closer to their users and expand seamlessly. Scalable infrastructure is essential for handling growing AI, high-performance computing (HPC), and real-time analytics demands.

High-performance computing

For AI/ML training and inference, simulations, advanced analytics, and other demanding workloads, dedicated, silicon diverse compute resources are essential. Look for a provider that offers the latest hardware, including AMD and NVIDIA GPUs, high-core-count CPUs, and high-speed networking to support intensive processing needs.

Full control and customization

Bare metal should provide the flexibility to tailor configurations to specific operational, security, and compliance requirements. Enterprises should seek providers that offer complete control over their infrastructure, from storage and networking to security policies.

Flexibility and automation

API-driven infrastructure and automation capabilities streamline deployment, management, and scaling. Providers that integrate seamlessly with existing DevOps and cloud-native tools enable greater agility and efficiency.

Cost-effective, transparent pricing

Hidden fees and unpredictable pricing models can drive up costs. Look for a provider that offers transparent, competitive pricing that optimizes total cost of ownership (TCO) without sacrificing performance.

Security and compliance

Security is paramount, especially for industries with strict regulatory requirements. Enterprise-grade security features—including customizable firewalls, encryption, access controls, and compliance certifications (e.g., GDPR, HIPAA, SOC 2)—are non-negotiable.

Customer support and reliability

Choose a provider that acts as a true partner, offering expert guidance throughout your migration and beyond. Look for a team with deep experience in Equinix Metal and hands-on support to ensure a smooth transition and lasting operational stability. Access to skilled engineers means you're never alone, even after the migration is complete.

"Having architected Equinix Metal's offering, I have witnessed firsthand the multifaceted challenges of scaling IaaS services globally. Beyond the technical hurdles, providers must navigate a complex web of financial, supply chain, logistics, legal, tax, compliance, and security considerations. The real differentiator lies in building a software platform that makes cloud infrastructure feel effortless — combining an intuitive portal with robust APIs and SDKs. This, however, is no small feat and separates true innovators from the rest of the field."

Nathan Goulding, Senior Vice President, Engineering at Vultr

Why Vultr is the right choice for Equinix Metal customers

Vultr is the ideal partner for Equinix customers looking for a seamless, flexible, and cost-effective migration.

Vultr is more than a mere replacement for Equinix Metal—it's a future-proof solution built for the next generation of AI, high-performance computing, and cloud-native workloads. With 32 data center regions and Console Connect integration, Vultr ensures high-speed, low-latency performance and secure connectivity across the globe. Our team, including industry veterans from Equinix, offers specialized migration support to guarantee a smooth, efficient transition.⁴ Vultr's flexible infrastructure and transparent pricing model ensure you're positioned for long-term success, making us the ideal partner for enterprises seeking an upgraded bare metal solution.



Global footprint and secure connectivity

With Console Connect present in over 150 Equinix data centers, Vultr ensures seamless interconnection and secure, private connectivity. This reduces risks of data exposure and cyber threats, providing a smooth transition and high-performance access across global regions.



Flexible infrastructure for growth

Vultr's infrastructure doesn't just replace Equinix Metal—it positions enterprises for future growth with easy scalability, from AI workloads to real-time analytics. Vultr Bare Metal is designed to support custom infrastructures, giving businesses direct access to hardware for tailored performance, security, and compliance. Beyond metal, Vultr offers a comprehensive suite of services—including networking, storage, GPU, and VMs—enabling you to scale and adapt as your needs evolve.



Enhanced security

Vultr provides robust security with customizable firewalls, DDoS mitigation, encryption, and integrations with tools like Fail2Ban and Cloudflare. These features ensure secure data transmission and enable your organization to build a compliant, customized environment with confidence.



Expert migration support

Our experienced customer success team, including professionals familiar with Equinix Metal, is committed to guiding you through every step of the migration, ensuring minimal disruption and a smooth transition to Vultr's infrastructure.

Why migrate from Equinix Metal to Vultr Bare Metal?

- ✓ Effortless migration backed by white-glove support
- ✓ Scalable, reliable infrastructure for growth
- ✓ The power and flexibility your projects demand
- ✓ AI-ready for all your future innovations
- ✓ 100% success guarantee
- ✓ 4 months of free migration

Vultr Bare Metal: The flexibility of cloud computing with the raw power of physical servers

	 VULTR	 EQUINIX
Bare Metal	✓	✓
Load Balancers	✓	✓
Advanced Networking	(BYO IP, Provision without Public IP, BGP)	(BYO IP, Provision without Public IP, BGP)
Private Interconnect	(Direct Connect)	(Interconnection)
Storage	(Object, File, and Block + 3rd Party Appliances)	(3rd Party Appliances)
Custom iPXE	✓	✓
Private Networking	(VPC + Firewall)	(Layer 2 + Layer 3)
Customizable Hardware	✓	✓
Cloud VMs, Kubernetes, Databases, CDN	✓ ✓ ✓	

Tips for a smooth migration

Vultr's global infrastructure delivers reliable, high-performance solutions with flexible billing options and transparent pricing—without hidden fees. And our industry-leading customer support is always ready to provide expert migration assistance and ongoing guidance, making Vultr the right partner for Equinix Metal customers navigating this transition.



Assess your needs

Begin by evaluating current and future infrastructure needs, from compute power to networking. Vultr's team can help guide this process.



Leverage Vultr's support

Use our expert resources, migration tools, and Console Connect platform to ensure a smooth, seamless transfer with minimal downtime.



Plan the migration

Create a detailed migration plan with a timeline, risk assessments, and a phased approach to minimize disruption.



Optimize for the future

Once migration is complete, continuously optimize your infrastructure to stay ahead of evolving demands and capitalize on future growth.

Power your future with **Vultr Bare Metal**.
Migrate seamlessly to Vultr Bare Metal
for unmatched power and control.

[VULTR.COM](https://vultr.com)[CONTACT](#)

1. Equinix.com, "Sunsetting Equinix Metal," Nov. 2024.
2. IBM.com, "What is infrastructure as a service (IaaS)?" Dec. 2024.
3. Journal of Information Security, "Data Migration Need, Strategy, Challenges, Methodology, Categories, Risks...," Jan. 2021
4. Platform Engineering, "Navigating the Bare Metal Crossroads: A Platform Engineering Perspective," Feb. 2025