

Continuing Your IT Journey to the Cloud, Part 1

A Guide to Addressing Legacy Applications

Your IT journey to the cloud could be relatively easy – if it weren't for the legacy applications that support major portions of your business. Legacy applications complicate your path in terms of scale and capacity limits, outdated coding, complex dependencies, data usage, cloud choice and more.

As you consider your legacy applications and their impact on your virtualization strategy, here are a few questions you may have about putting your plan into motion.

How do you get started?

If you have a huge legacy estate, use dependency mapping to organize it into manageable chunks to help:

- Determine exactly what applications you currently have
- Identify which applications are mission-critical
- Decide which applications can be decommissioned
- Establish key application dependencies
- Which cloud should you choose for your legacy applications?
- Establish key application dependencies

Which cloud should you choose for your legacy applications?

There is no single answer to this question. In fact, you may need a mix of clouds, which is why companies are adopting hybrid cloud approaches. For example, applications with rigorous security requirements may be best suited for a dedicated environment, such as a private or managed multi-tenant cloud. However, in development environments where agility is a primary requirement, a public cloud might be a perfect fit.

Can you leverage your current IT assets?

The ability to protect legacy investments, while adopting a more agile cloud environment, is what drives the hybrid IT trend. As you consider which existing assets to leverage as you move forward, ask:

- Is it reaching end of life?
- Is it able to keep up with increasing workloads and user populations?
- Are custom integrations between older systems hampering performance?
- Will it scale to accommodate future growth?

What cost factors come into play?

As a general rule of thumb, traditional on-premise infrastructures involve a capital expense (capex) financial model. Virtualization in the cloud moves you to an operational expense (opex) model, where you can pay via subscription or based on utility or usage. That being said, cloud providers are beginning to provide greater flexibility in their cost models, so it is worthwhile to determine your optimal end-state and explore all your options.

Do you need help to make this transition happen?

IT is evolving at a rapid pace, placing new demands on your business and your IT staff. The right partner can provide you with the expertise, global reach and end-to-end portfolio of solutions you need to transition your legacy applications and continue your IT journey to the cloud.

Helping customers navigate through this complex journey is what Sungard Availability Services does best. Our breadth of IT services enables you to focus on the things that matter to your business, as we help you transition to a more efficient and agile hybrid IT world.

To learn more, visit sungardas.com or call 1-888-270-3657.

Watch for part 2 of Continuing Your IT Journey to the Cloud.

About Sungard Availability Services

Sungard Availability Services provides managed IT services, information availability consulting services, business continuity management software, and disaster recovery services.

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