

# Continuing Your IT Journey to the Cloud

## A Guide to Addressing Legacy Applications, Part 2

In part 1 of this guide, we covered a range of questions you may have about starting or continuing your move to the cloud – from choosing the right type of cloud to leveraging your current IT assets and considering the cost factors involved. Now, we cover other key questions to further ease your cloud adoption.

### How do you determine the portability of legacy applications?

Some applications can be moved to the cloud more easily than others. Some factors impacting the ease of migration include how many dependencies the applications have, the way the code is written and in which language, the degree of support with migration tools, and whether you have the internal expertise to virtualize the application. Portability is a continuum: The greater the complexity, the more planning, time, and resources you will need to virtualize an application.

### What do you need to know about your data?

Ask these questions about your data to decide which legacy applications you can virtualize, how the migration process can be conducted, and how to optimize performance in the cloud.

- How do you prepare your legacy environment for the transition?
- Do you need to upgrade to a new operating system?
- Do you need to upgrade your licenses?
- Are you running out of storage capacity?
- Do your servers provide sufficient RAM for your compute-intensive applications, or is it time for a memory upgrade?

### How should you manage your applications in the cloud?

It may make sense to have some of your applications self-managed by your internal team, and others fully managed by a provider. What you manage may be determined by finances, control and transparency needs, service level requirements, and the in-house expertise on hand. There may be maintenance tasks you want to assume vs. those you want to automate. For example, self-management increases your control over cloud resources, but fully-managed solutions enable you to focus on other business priorities.

### How do you ensure users have easy access to your applications?

The fewer barriers to adoption there are, the more success you will have with your application deployment. With that in mind, you will want to drive toward uniformity in how you enable access to your applications, regardless of where they reside. This includes virtualized access, common credentials, single sign-on processes and subscribing to user-centered design principles.

### How fast can you move to the cloud?

Your timeline depends on many variables. If you need to rewrite code for optimal performance in a virtual environment, that requires time for development and testing. If you need uninterrupted availability during the transition, you will need redundancy built into your migration plan, adding to the timeline. Further, if you need geographical diversity or globalization for your applications, that will add to the schedule, as well.

Attempting shortcuts to meet a deadline isn't worth it in the long run. It is best to move the launch date out to accommodate all the tasks that need to be done to ensure a smooth transition.

**If you need help getting started with your journey, the consulting team at Sungard Availability Services can assist you by assessing your applications' readiness for the cloud and planning a successful transition. Let us streamline your path, so you can get the most from a hybrid IT environment.**

**To learn more, visit [sungardas.com](http://sungardas.com) or call 1-888-270-3657.**

**See part 1 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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