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IBM Systems Migration Assurance

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As past IT investments reach the end of their design life, the need to refresh them becomes inevitable. The decision to update the computing environment provides organizations an opportunity to bolster their competitive advantage through state-of-the-art IT technologies. Simply updating or refurbishing what is in place locks in past limitations and forgoes the opportunity to leapfrog the competition. Rather than embracing the status quo, an organization would be well advised to assess the efficacy of its IT strategy, even if it entails migrating to a different platform.

The Need for IT Refresh

Many factors can drive the need for an IT solution refresh. IT investments such as servers and storage have an optimum lifespan, and aging equipment is more prone to service disruption and failure. Legacy IT investments that are loaded beyond original design and nearing end-of-life can yield low customer satisfaction while escalating maintenance and operating costs. Server vendor consolidation can impact the viability of maintaining current IT investments, given uncertain future roadmaps. As workloads and user expectations continue to rise, software-licensing fees also increase, especially when multiple older systems are needed to support the workload. In addition, these systems tend to suffer a general inflexibility in meeting the increasingly dynamic nature of today's highly competitive marketplace.

In an increasingly more competitive economic environment, corporate business objectives are intensifying the drive towards improved efficiency and competitive prowess. Businesses continually seek ways to improve their operating efficiency while keeping a competitive edge; IT plays a major role in this. Yet most organizations have a heterogeneous IT environment due to mergers, siloed IT approaches, diverse ISV applications, etc. that leads to inherent inefficiencies. This confluence of corporate goals frequently drives IT organizations to reassess how their IT strategy can keep their business competitive while containing costs. For many IT managers, greater efficiency and investment safety might be achieved by migrating legacy systems on to new and state-of-the-art hardware and software platforms.

Lock in the Status Quo or Migrate to State of the Art?

Organizations that are facing end of life for a portion or all of their IT infrastructures have to choose their next strategic path. Inaction is not an option as the inevitable breakdowns and increased maintenance costs will become intolerable. Corporate pressures to reduce costs and improve efficiency as well as users' rising expectations will not permit inaction. Besides, who wants to take the late-night call that the sky is falling?

Updating the status quo locks an organization into the past capabilities and severely limits the ability to respond to competitive pressures, let alone establish a leading position in the market. Further, some organizations' platforms are already near their vendor's planned end of life. A technological dead end is a competitive dead end.

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Refreshing IT infrastructure to a contemporary solution is essential to limit technology risk and enhance the organization's market position. It will be necessary to execute strategic IT planning to assess future needs, and capitalize on consolidation, simplification, and efficiency. Although this will require a strategic commitment, the result can meet several corporate financial objectives. The state of art in IT advances quickly; why get left behind?

Any infrastructure update is a significant undertaking where outside expertise can be indispensible. This is especially true when dedicated in-house resources are not available or have limited migration expertise. A third-party migration expert can offer deep experience in planning and implementation and laying out how IT investments can decrease TCO and improve ROI. Making the decision to refresh technology is a difficult one and it is worth involving experienced and objective personnel.

The IBM Migration Assurance

The IBM Systems Migration Assurance program is focused on helping organizations overcome the challenges of migrating end-of-life IT systems onto state-of-the-art solutions with minimal business risk. The Migration Assurance helps organizations analyze how to reduce IT costs and build an IT infrastructure that will drive business innovation. IBM offers a suite of migration planning tools, services, experts, and financing to analyze the current IT environment, build a business case and a roadmap to move to IBM Systems to increase efficiency and reduce costs.

The IBM Systems Consolidation Evaluation Tool analyzes today's environment and calculates a range of savings with a move to IBM solutions The IBM Server Makeover Analysis offers a migration roadmap for organizations seeking to simplify and consolidate their existing non-IBM infrastructure onto IBM. In addition to hardware platforms, organizations can also benefit from assessment of their application environments. IBM Systems Makeover Analysis for SAP helps customers understand how they can optimize their SAP environment by assessing workload distribution and performance levels. IBM Systems Makeover Analysis for Oracle provides recommended migration paths and an estimated transformation process for Oracle environments. Further, IBM Project Financing can provide a variety of financing options to align the IT investment with the financial returns it can offer the organization.

Once a migration decision has been made, any platform strategy must also assure that the migration is executed without disrupting operations. Organizations can take advantage of the breadth and depth of expertise afforded by the IBM Migration Factory. IBM has over twenty-five years of experience in handling complex mission-critical migrations and has at its disposal more than 300 migration experts, many with vertical industry expertise.

What It All Means

IBM is a trusted partner with a clear technology roadmap for its server and storage product families, and multiple platform choices to deliver solutions that are the right fit to meet business needs. Migration Assurance brings together hardware, software, services, and financing to make systems migration a low-risk, high-return undertaking while providing sound IT investment choices. This demonstrated expertise from an established industry leader allows organizations to make important migration decisions with the assurance that their technology partner will be there whenever the need arises.

Organizations that are considering refresh of their IT assets are well advised to consider the value and competitive differentiation afforded by the IBM Systems Migration Assurance program.