

CHECKLIST

Preparing for Cloud Modernization

Though a move to the cloud may not be the immediate next step in your organization's IT strategy, it is likely that such a migration will eventually be critical to long-term success. If you're contemplating (or already planning on) a move to the cloud and need to modernize your applications, then you need to be prepared. Use this checklist to give you a head start on your modernization journey to ensure success from the beginning!

Technical

DISCOVERY ON YOUR EXISTING MAINFRAME

Conduct a technical assessment to help understand your existing systems to set a baseline for a transformation.

CODEBASE

- Existing languages (primary sub-languages)
- Lines of code and comments
- Readability and completeness of application documentation
- Blackbox libraries

SCREEN (user interface)

- Types (graphical or text-based)
- Interoperability between applications
- Usability
- Feature assessment

DATABASES

- Database platform(s) & version(s)
- Database Metrics (size, Tables, Columns, etc.)
- Database type(s), e.g., flat file, relational, mid-range, etc.
- Connection nodes to application codebase & other services

SERVICES

- Licensing agreements
- Tool feasibility
- Assessment of needs

OTHER METRICS

- MIPS consumption
- Transactions & transaction volumes
- Third-party tools & services
- Customized tools
- Undocumented tools (may be discoverable via an application blueprint process)

Technical

PHYSICAL MAINFRAME REVIEW

Examines system architecture, technical services in use, and analysis of both internal and external services/applications.

- Existing architecture survey
- Architecture diagram evaluation
- External applications assessment
- Utilities and services assessment
- Services overlap within the full application portfolio
- Performance, quality, and security baselines and metrics

SMEs/PERSONNEL

Have an understanding of who on the team is able to maintain and develop on your existing systems.

- Survey of staffing (existing and future)
- Assessment of team's working knowledge of applications
- Talent assessment within market

Business

Once you have completed a technical analysis and your IT leaders understand your existing systems, establish your organization's business cases to modernize your applications and support a modern environment.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- Timeframe for project phases and project completion
- Market and internal demands
- Then vs. now: evolution of your customer and business needs
- Modern workflows and accessibility
- Security posture

CURRENT FINANCIAL STATE

- Total cost of mainframe and application ownership
- Mainframe operating expenses
- Capital expenditures
- Amortized costs

INTANGIBLE COSTS BEYOND PRICE

- Market agility
- Business requirement agility
- Availability of developers that support legacy systems