Application rationalization necessitates cross-organizational buy-in from key stakeholders, and every department involved in support, development and operations of the applications. It helps simplify business processes for increased performance and eventually cost savings and increased productivity. A critical process required for maintaining the hygiene of the app portfolio. With the right framework organizations can continuously improve without unnecessary bottlenecks.
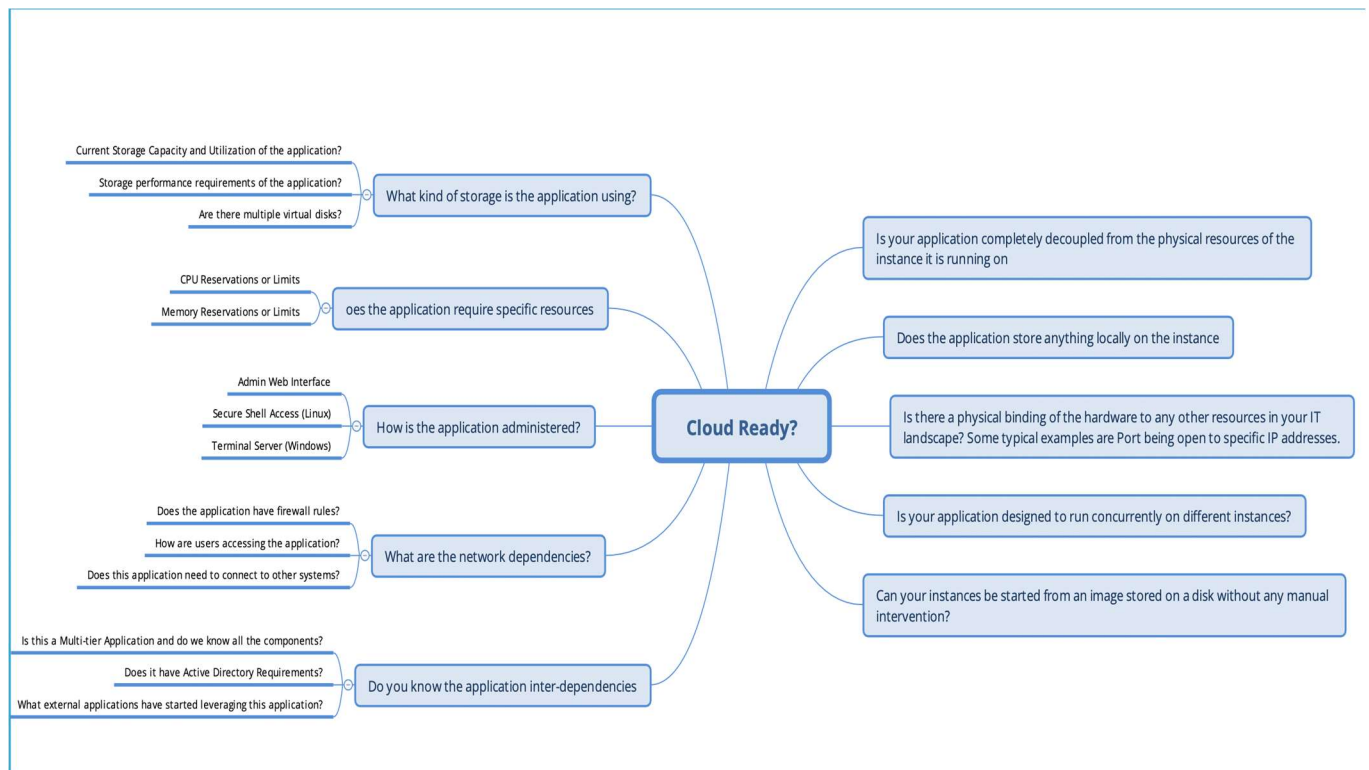
Focus

A well-targeted application rationalization initiative saves money while enhancing support for line-of-business teams. A streamlined infrastructure and the availability of capital are both advantages, enabling companies to concentrate on value-driven initiatives.

Approach

Rationalization follows the following steps.

1. Identify: Gathering information of applications across the organization is key to the process. Industry standard tools such as Application Discovery Service, Stratozone, windows assessment, and linux assessment tools, Splunk, Newrelic and others can be utilized for gathering the first level of inventory if one does not already exist. App assessment tools for specific workloads can be used to identify dependencies of applications.

2. Grouping: This is the process of grouping applications based on their risk, criticality and business continuity. Interviewing the appropriate App stake holders to gather in-depth understanding of the working and then grouping them into buckets. Each App is scored based on business value and technical fit. . Total cost to Company is also calculated to help understand the Return on Investment based on the paths chosen. Each Bucket is a cycle of migration that can be done independently of others to ensure business continuity is maintained.
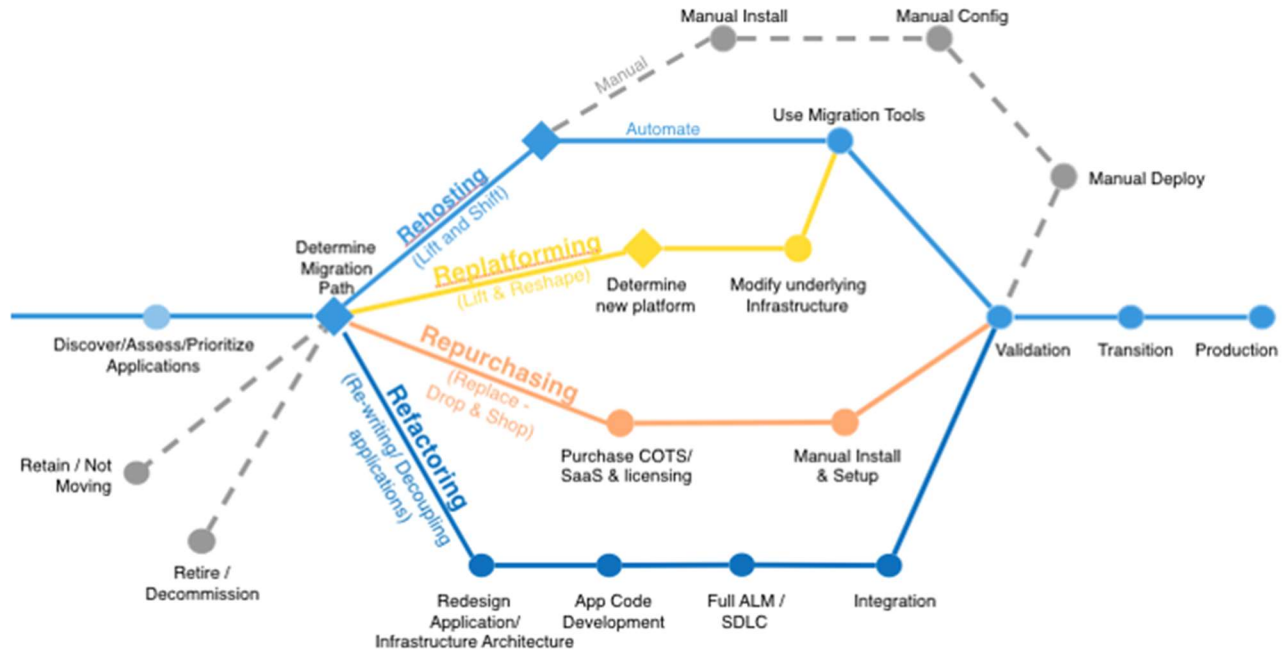

3. Map the R's: Based on the interviews start mapping the apps to the appropriate R's that define the migration journey

   ▪ Re-host - Migrate it similar compute elsewhere
   ▪ Re-platform - Upgrade the application and re-install on the target
   ▪ Repurchase – Find Similar optimized modern software to replace the current.

- Reimagine - Re-architect and rewrite
- Refactor - Make changes to the application to move towards cloud native traits
- Retire - Decommission the application and compute at source
- Retain / wrap / expand - Keep the application as is, i.e. host it in the current environment

4. Execute: You have gathered enough information to put forward an execution plan with Engineering, DevOps, and operations teams. Your plan will include resource augmentations. The plan will include augmentation to current Business critical systems to allow for Subject Experts to contribute to the new migration project. Some plans may have multiple iterations to get to the Cloud Native state if chosen. Each Application Migration plan is tracked and executed independently to ensure optimal continuity and productivity.

5. Recommended migration plan activities include: (Taken from AWS)
    - Review of project management methods, tools, and capabilities to assess any gaps.
    - Define project management methods and tools to be used during the
    - migration.
    - Define and create the Migration Project Charter/Communication Plan, including reporting and escalation procedures.
    - Develop a project plan, risk/mitigation log, and roles and responsibilities matrix (e.g., RACI) to manage the risks that occur during the project and identify ownership for each resource involved.
    - Procure and deploy project management tools to support the delivery of the project.
    - Identify key resources and leads for each of the migration work streams defined in this section.
    - Facilitate the coordination and activities outlined in the plan.
    - Outline resources, timelines, and cost to migrate the targeted environment to AWS.

What You Can Expect

An actionable roadmap for every Bucket. Each sprint includes one or more applications to be released. Each individual action plan will be assessed on its benefits and constraints as well as costs and time-lines. Accordingly, once the right decision for the organization is taken, the low impact low cost changes will be continuously implemented while detailed planning continues for high impact and high cost changes.