With 70 percent of the typical organization’s transactions running on legacy applications, CIOs are taking a close look at how well their application portfolios are driving business results and supporting innovation while keeping costs in check.

In many cases, the current situation is far from optimal. Inflexible applications are complex and costly to maintain. Many present performance issues that aren’t easily remediated with hardware upgrades or application coding changes alone. And legacy systems likely can’t scale or adapt in lockstep with changing business needs and opportunities.

In short, it has become clear that many application portfolios are holding businesses back—not moving them closer to greater speed, agility and value creation.

Optimizing the application portfolio

While most organizations are understandably averse to uprooting all of their legacy systems, maintaining the status quo significantly hinders a CIO’s ability to deliver greater agility, flexibility and cost efficiencies. What they need is a fresh approach that allows them to extract greater value from their application portfolios through strategic use of application portfolio optimization, legacy modernization, data modernization, and unobtrusive performance enhancements. Such an approach should not only help trim costs associated with managing and upgrading the portfolio but also improve overall performance and reliability, and prepare them for cloud-scale application deployments.

Organizations can derive greater value from new and existing investments—and position themselves for the future—by:

- Migrating legacy applications using the Spring framework and the VMware vFabric™ Cloud Application Platform—shifting to open source, lightweight, less expensive and more efficient platforms designed for the cloud
- Remediating applications to enhance performance and scalability through the use of a real-time distributed data management platform that scales horizontally
- Mitigating the risks inherent in relying on obsolete technology or specialized IT professionals who are nearing retirement
- Preparing the application portfolio for future deployment models—including private and public clouds
- Modernizing and streamlining application development using open source frameworks and development tools that reduce complexity and maintenance costs
- Improving the scalability, speed and user experience for custom web applications by decoupling application components and enabling asynchronous inter-application communications
Application enablement

Accenture, a leader in large-scale, industry-specific IT transformations and IT service excellence, and VMware, a provider of cloud-aware application frameworks and runtime platforms optimized for virtual systems, have joined forces to help clients realize the full potential of their application portfolio—preparing them for cloud while reducing total cost of ownership.

The application enablement solution brings together Accenture’s proven solutions to modernize applications with the power and flexibility of VMware’s vFabric Cloud Application Platform and Spring framework capabilities. With this solution, we guide an organization through the process of redesigning the application portfolio for high performance and optimizing it for efficiency—while achieving rapid cost takeout.

Accenture and VMware drive these results by combining the Spring framework, which supports a more flexible and agile software development environment, with the vFabric Product Family to significantly reduce costs, improve application performance, and quality of service. This solution incorporates Accenture’s automated diagnostics and proven processes, as well as re-platforming and migration services to help clients get the most value from their application portfolios. And it leverages VMware’s leading capabilities around global data management, cloud messaging, dynamic load balancing and performance management.

The application enablement solution is based on a two-phased approach designed to fuel rapid and sustainable results:

- The first phase analyzes the application portfolio to identify candidates for modernization. The analysis phase generates a modernization roadmap that balances modernization opportunities with business priorities: speed to market (delivering measurable improvements quickly while outlining a plan for longer-term enhancements), flexibility (structuring an approach that can be adjusted as objectives and scope are refined) and cost (ensuring cost-effective delivery).

- The second phase focuses on execution of the modernization roadmap and realization of value. Depending on each organization’s portfolio and goals, applications may be migrated, re-platformed, replaced, consolidated and/or enhanced. A key element of this phase is implementation of rigorous governance and application modernization capabilities that are cost effective and agile and prepare it for cloud deployment models. Such capabilities are essential to managing and transforming the portfolio—and keeping it “healthy” over the long term.

Value delivered

With the application enablement solution, organizations take control of their application portfolios while realizing significant benefits, including:

- Reducing the size and complexity of the application portfolio by 40 to 60 percent.
- Trimming application development and maintenance costs by 10 to 40 percent through lower software license costs, increased developer productivity and improved operational efficiency
- Decreasing MIPS requirement. By re-platforming, organizations can avoid expensive MIPS and hardware upgrades, cut per-processor software costs and ultimately shave total cost of ownership by up to 80 percent.
- Delivering unprecedented flexibility through a “cloud-proof” architecture. Provides application portability on-premise and in the cloud.
- Empowering IT organizations to deploy new applications more quickly and effectively.
- Providing the elasticity your business applications require through dynamic data partitioning, distributed application functionality, automatic data rebalancing, and continuous client load-balancing.

Working with Accenture and VMware, CIOs can rework their application portfolios into a set of cost-efficient assets that support innovation—and drive business results.

For more information

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About Accenture

Accenture is a global management consulting, technology services and outsourcing company, with approximately 236,000 people serving clients in more than 120 countries. Combining unparalleled experience, comprehensive capabilities across all industries and business functions, and extensive research on the world’s most successful companies, Accenture collaborates with clients to help them become high-performance businesses and governments. The company generated net revenues of US$25.5 billion for the fiscal year ended Aug. 31, 2011. Its home page is www.accenture.com.

About VMware

VMware (NYSE:VMW), the global leader in virtualization and cloud infrastructure, delivers customer-proven solutions that accelerate IT by reducing complexity and enabling more flexible, agile service delivery. VMware enables enterprises to adopt a cloud model that addresses their unique business challenges. VMware’s approach accelerates the transition to cloud computing while preserving existing investments and improving security and control. With more than 250,000 customers and 25,000 partners, VMware solutions help organizations of all sizes lower costs, increase business agility and ensure freedom of choice.