

Case study

HP employs Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Migration Program



HP Services begins migration of 4,500 HP servers and applications to Windows Server 2012 R2

Industry

Computer software/services, hi-tech manufacturing

Objective

To utilize the HP Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Migration Program to migrate and modernize its 4,500 Windows 2003 servers and 500 applications while maintaining business continuity, and delivering improvements in functionality and design

Approach

HP Technology Services Consulting will migrate HP business units through four stages of migration (Assess, Prepare, Migrate, and Manage). Currently, the migration team is involved in the Assessment stage

IT matters

- Complete assessment and discovery of HP's WS2003 migration needs and priorities
- Delivers future strategy and road map for IT needs and innovations
- Enables support of new Windows Server 2012 R2 functionality and efficiencies
- Ensures IT infrastructure modernization to prepare for future IT innovation and demands
- Best-practices design with modernized systems and technology
- 30 years of Microsoft support and partnership

Business matters

- Mitigates migration risk
- Maintains business continuity
- Supports regulatory and audit compliance
- Increases business agility and scalability
- Reduces operational costs and increase efficiencies
- Speeds-up Windows Server 2003 migration planning and stakeholder alignment
- Ensures migrated Windows Server 2012 certification



“We’re following the same methodology we developed in tandem with Microsoft to first assess where we are, where we want to be, and how to get there from here.”

– David Forde, Principal Solution Architect, HP

HP needed to migrate 4,500 Windows 2003 servers in preparation for the Windows Server® 2003 end of support scheduled for July 14. To accomplish this, HP is engaging its own HP Microsoft® Windows Server® 2003 Migration Program, which is administered by HP Technology Services Consulting. Currently, HP is involved in the assessment stage, the first stage in its four-stage migration methodology, which was developed in concert with Microsoft.

Hewlett-Packard Company (HP) is a global information technology corporation which provides hardware, software, and services to consumers, small- and medium-sized businesses (SMBs), and large enterprises, including customers in the government, health and education sectors. It employs some 300,000 people throughout the world.

However, even though HP is one of the world's largest sources of compute technology and solutions, it's as vulnerable to market and technology changes as are its customers. The need to migrate off Windows Server 2003 is looming large.

“Microsoft Windows Server 2012 R2 is the most important release of Windows Server in a decade and delivers significant new functionality in the areas of virtualization, private and public cloud, enhanced security, and high availability, plus system and storage management. A key part of our initial migration assessment with the HP business units, was determining what new capabilities and features they may want to incorporate as part of the migration process.”

—Paul LaChance, Consulting Strategist and Global Portfolio Manager, HP

HP has partnered with Microsoft for over 30 years and can arguably claim more Microsoft expertise than any other vendor on the market. HP boasts 34,000 Microsoft-trained professionals, is a Microsoft Preferred Partner, and HP servers are a benchmark platform for the latest Microsoft technology. But no amount of accolades will change the fact that HP has to migrate 4,500 instances of Microsoft Windows Server 2003 and 500 applications—just like everyone else.

On July 14, 2015 Microsoft will end support for Windows Server 2003. Enterprises running

applications on Windows Server 2003 face a complex and potentially costly set of migration options for applications and workloads, with everything from new infrastructure form factors to cloud services under consideration. For enterprises running Windows Server 2003 on IBM gear, that upgrade path can be even more complex.

Fortunately, HP and Microsoft have been working together in the last year to design and implement a best-practices methodology to help SMBs and large enterprise businesses migrate to Windows Server 2012 R2, while maintaining complete business continuity. So HP hired itself to get the job done.

“HP, as with other companies, doesn't have a choice—we have to migrate to Windows Server 2012 R2 to support regulatory requirements and ensure stable Windows solutions for both ourselves and our customers,” explains David Forde, Principal Solution Architect, HP. “We're following the same methodology we developed in tandem with Microsoft to first assess where we are, where we want to be, and how to get there from here.”

Assessing, discovering, and defining the migration destination

The HP Windows Server 2003 Migration Program consists of four phases designed to provide an end-to-end design, architecture, deployment, support, and managed offering to help customers implement the right solution. In this case, HP is implementing the program to migrate each HP business unit to Windows Server 2012 R2 quickly, and with no risk. The four stages are “Assess, Prepare, Migrate, and Manage”. During the first phase, in which HP is currently engaged, no stone is left unturned. HP consultants are working with HP business units to discover and assess all their applications, servers, infrastructure, and goals. Overall, for the whole program each business unit defines where they are, where they need or want to go, and how best to get there.

For HP and other enterprise businesses, as well as SMBs, transitioning from Windows Server 2003 to Windows Server 2012 R2 is necessary to mitigate the risks inherent in running legacy infrastructure and unsupported, insecure, and non-compliant software. Once the discovery and initial analysis is done, the migration team works with each HP business unit to decide if it wants



to incorporate any new capabilities that didn't exist within Windows Server 2003, as part of the migration process. By modernizing and optimizing infrastructure and applications for the New Style of Business, HP, where appropriate, can take advantage of the benefits supported by Microsoft Server 2012 R2.

The HP migration will involve some 4,500 HP ProLiant servers (BL, ML, and DL series: G1-G7), including HP workstations. Although it was determined that Windows Server 2012 R2 would run on existing hardware, HP decided this was a good opportunity to upgrade for greater feature support and will target HP ProLiant DL380, BL460c, and BL465c (Gen8 and Gen9) models.

"Microsoft Windows Server 2012 R2 is the most important release of Windows Server in a decade and delivers significant new functionality in the areas of virtualization, private and public cloud, enhanced security, and high availability, plus system and storage management," notes Paul LaChance, Consulting Strategist and Global Portfolio Manager, HP.

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HP will undergo each of the four stages, as defined in its own proven methodology, to complete the migration to Windows Server 2012 R2. The migration process is comprehensive and covers the people aspect of migration, as well as the process and technology aspects. The migration program ensures IT infrastructure modernization along Assess: Comprehensive review of key Windows

the way and its key components consist of: Server 2003 migrations steps, plans, and roadmaps

- Prepare: Operating system (OS), database management system (DBMS), hypervisor upgrades, system preparation, and migration tests
- Migrate: Complete deployment, production migration, Microsoft certification, and acceptance
- Manage: Training, knowledge transfer, transition to operations, and decommissioning of legacy systems

"This migration is a major undertaking that can't be done piecemeal," emphasizes Volker Otto, Director of Engineering & Cloud Services, HP ITIO Application Hosting. "An accurate assessment and discovery phase creates the foundation for a good migration. Application triage, defining the business destination, and how to get there, what the logical migration groupings will be, and how to maintain complete business continuity through the process, are all part of the methodology that we are applying to our own IT landscape. A critical part of the migration phase is using the right tools. HP has a broad portfolio of exemplary tools, but we'll bring in any third party tools as needed."

Low risk/high return migration services

Migrations can be risky business. Delays, downtime, and unexpected issues can wreak havoc with business processes, and HP can't afford to disrupt any of its business units that rely on a server running on Windows Server 2003. HP exercises over 30 years of in-depth Microsoft knowledge, factory approach,

Customer at a glance

Application

Migrating 4,500 internal HP servers and 500 applications from Microsoft Windows Server 2003 to Windows Server 2012 R2 due to Microsoft end-of-support.

Hardware

- Current: 4,500 HP ProLiant servers (BL, ML, and DL series: G1-G7) and HP workstations
- Target migration servers: HP ProLiant DL380, BL460c, and BL465c (Gen8 and Gen9) models

Software

- Microsoft Windows Server 2003
- Microsoft Windows Server 2012 R2

HP services

- HP Technology Services Consulting for Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Migration

repeatable methods, and re-useable tools to reduce cost and risk, and ensure business continuity.

“Some applications may have a simple upgrade to 2012, but others, such as homegrown applications, will take more effort. This is a very natural time to assess how to go forward, from simple modification to perhaps designing a best-practice alternative with huge savings and efficiency gains as the result.”

— Kevin Lange, Master DB Architect, Worldwide Portfolio Team, HP Technology Services Consulting

LaChance considers what the HP Windows 2003 Migration team has accomplished to date, as well as the next stages to come. “Migration in general, is a process that HP has refined over the years into a factory type of process,” he concludes. “HP and Microsoft really put their combined expertise into the Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Migration Program to ensure a migration methodology that covers every contingency. The process is well known and practiced, and we have a huge force of Microsoft certified HP engineers and consultants to draw on. We know it works, we know we’ll keep HP running throughout the process, and we know we’re going to realize significant benefits when all is said and done.”

“A key part of the initial Assessment Stage, after full identification, is to ‘triage’ the mission-critical applications,” adds Kevin Lange, Master DB Architect, Worldwide Portfolio Team, HP Technology Services Consulting. “Some applications may have a simple upgrade to 2012, but others, such as homegrown applications, will take more effort. This is a very natural time to assess how to go forward, from simple modification to perhaps designing a best-practice alternative with huge savings and efficiency gains as the result.”

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