

Financial Services Data Centre Migration to the Cloud.

Overview.

This UK-based banking and insurance group has over 30 million business and retail customers globally, who are served through a network of well-known subsidiary brands.

The group operates in an industry that is heavily reliant on technology and where continuous evolution is required to keep pace with advancements in technology and customer expectations.

The Challenge.

While the client currently hosts the majority of their workloads on servers within their own data centres, there is a long term strategy to migrate these workloads to public and private cloud.

In pursuit of this strategy a programme is underway to vacate two data centres. In order to achieve this the client must move approximately 350 workloads hosted on various bare-metal and virtual servers from those data centres to public and private cloud. While this process is challenging in itself, a variety of factors contributed to the complexity, including:

- Contention with in-flight remediation and consolidation work;
- Workload requirements that do not align with target platform capabilities;
- Workloads that span different teams within the Group and have shared responsibility;
- Systems that are end-of-life or out of support;
- The ongoing discovery of new opportunities for consolidation;
- Software currency.

The Solution.

In order to assist the client with carrying out their long term strategy, ECS engaged with business and technical client stakeholders to build up a holistic view of the current programme. This was followed by consultation with the application teams to produce design artefacts and navigate design authority review for multiple applications in parallel.

ECS used a structured approach in eliciting information about systems, analysing data and producing design documents. This involved:

- 1** Engaging with application SMEs to learn about the applications and document key information;
- 2** Analysing applications and recommend exit strategies (6R's);
- 3** Producing high level design artefacts aligned with the data centre exit strategy;
- 4** Taking proposals to the relevant design authority review board in conjunction with client solution architects;
- 5** Handover of approved design artefact to client and to the team as input to detailed designs.

ECS not only acted as the technical authority for workloads that are shared across the business but also provided advice and material support to application teams in pursuit of agreeing exit strategies for the data centre workloads.

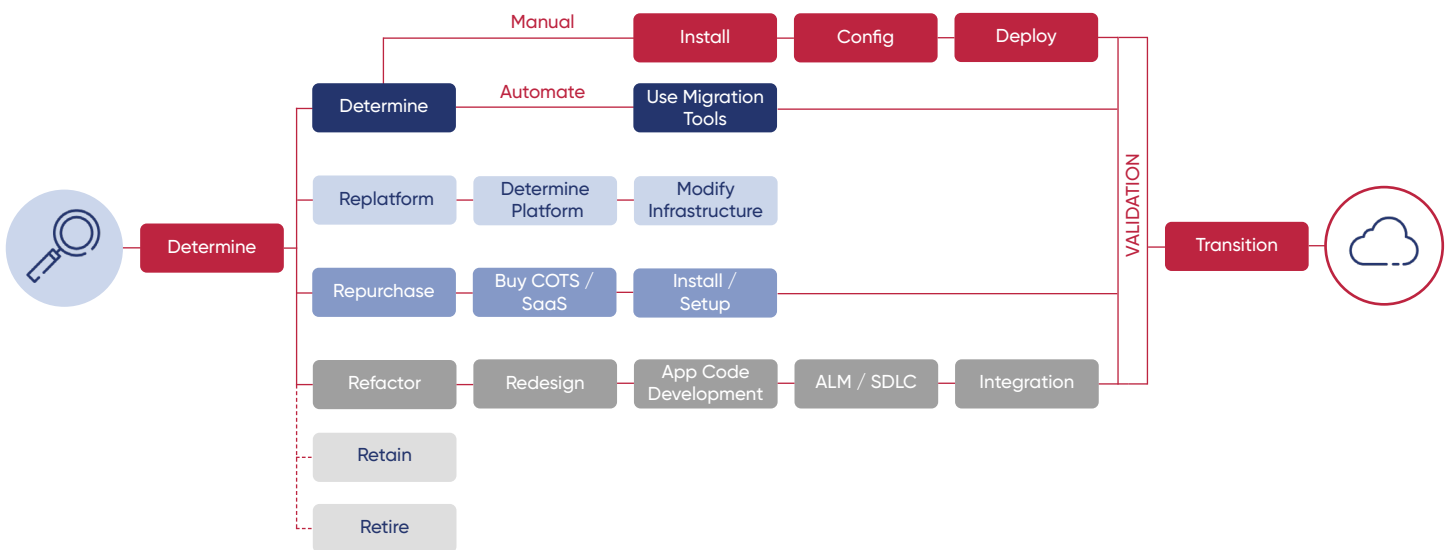
ECS provided a recommended data centre exit strategy for the in- scope applications, which allowed the client to plan a large scale data centre migration according to the time constraints of their programme. Additionally, a number of opportunities for enhancements to the target platforms were uncovered and components for future consolidation were identified.

What value did ECS bring?

Client insights: ECS has extensive knowledge of the client’s business, internal structure and procedures. This was applied to ensure swift and effective progress was maintained throughout the engagement.

Industry insights: ECS has a well-established presence in FTSE 100 financial services companies, proven experience in cloud projects in this sector as well as strong partnerships with major cloud service providers. This rich experience enabled ECS to draw upon years of cloud and financial services experience to deliver an expert level of service to the client.

Problem solving: ECS provided accurate and decisive problem solving in a complex domain. Successful execution of this project required ECS to accurately assess localised application roadmaps and business motivations in the context of programme and group level strategy.



The benefits.

ECS engaged with all parts of the business in the data centre migrations and created a number of application exit strategies while identifying opportunities to streamline the approval process for those exit strategies. In addition to this ECS provided:

- Impartial and pragmatic recommendations drawn from well- balanced analysis.
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- Involvement in working groups across all parts of the business to ensure the correct application of strategy and involvement from all stakeholders;
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