

Help streamline your applications for lower IT costs and improved IT responsiveness

Rationalising your application portfolio with IBM can help you reduce overall application management costs while removing complexity that constrains IT responsiveness.

Most organisations recognise the importance of having the right business applications. Yet far fewer recognise that retaining the wrong applications can have a substantial negative impact. As a consequence, many organisations fail to manage their applications estate. Once implemented, applications are maintained indefinitely – whether or not they still deliver value to the business. In doing so they incur costs and utilise valuable resources for their maintenance and support, while at the same time adding complexity and slowing down the implementation of new, more strategic applications.

Even organisations that do recognise the need for rationalisation often find such a strategy difficult to implement on their own. Attempts to form an unbiased opinion of which applications genuinely align with business strategy can be undermined by old loyalties. Even when the applications have been selected, many organisations feel they do not have the skills to manage all the aspects of the decommissioning process.

This is where IBM can help. We have a proven track record in creating effective application decommissioning

and management programmes for our clients. We can help you rationalise your portfolio, dividing it into strategic and non-strategic applications, and then we will commit to a management and decommissioning programme that can help enable you to get rid of the non-strategic, non-useful elements of your portfolio in a mutually agreed timescale.

Understand your existing applications landscape

We will use established methodologies to carry out an initial portfolio assessment for you, categorising applications based on business need and the potential benefits that can be realised from each application's removal. Even if you know your applications well, the scope for reduction may surprise you. After a portfolio assessment, one UK company working with IBM has set a target of reducing their current application landscape by up to 60 per cent.

Managing applications towards decommissioning

Once the potential for decommissioning has been identified we will agree a decommissioning plan with you, consisting of fixed commitment projects to remove the agreed applications. IBM will take responsibility for the ongoing management of the applications to be decommissioned. By doing so, we can help commit to reductions in the overall cost of their management,

based on the successful delivery of specific decommissioning events. We can also potentially deliver productivity improvements by optimising the management of this segment of your application landscape.

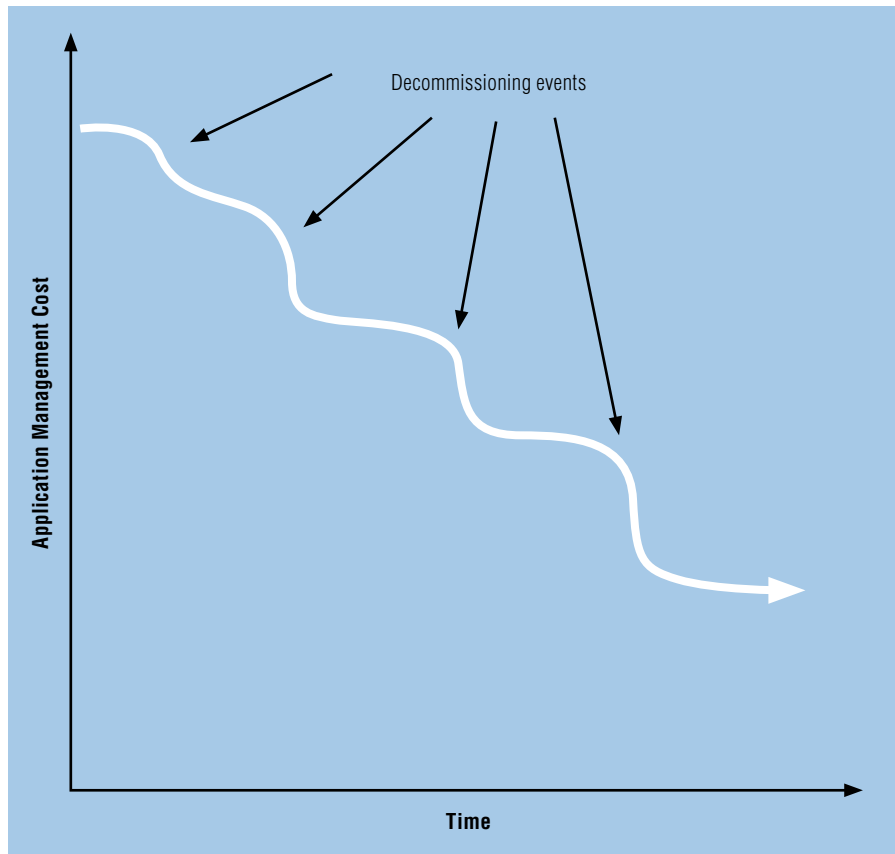
Engaging IBM as a partner to manage your non-strategic applications through to decommissioning secures delivery expertise and frees your own management and internal resources to focus on strategic business issues. By encouraging strict rules on change, we will help you tighten control over the amount of money spent on non-strategic applications. If appropriate we can also potentially minimise transition costs by engaging with your incumbent application management suppliers to deliver this service.

Improved IT responsiveness

Complex application environments don't simply cost more to run, they carry a hidden cost in being more time consuming to change. Before IBM's involvement, one UK client found themselves having to constrain requests from the business which were needed to help generate revenue and growth. Seven months into their decommissioning programme with IBM they found themselves able to deliver new applications in half the time it had previously taken.

Figure 1: An example of how application management costs might decrease over the duration of decommissioning programme.

Costs associated with specific applications cease once the application has been successfully decommissioned.



To find out more about IBM's approach to application decommissioning and management and how IBM's Application Services might be able to help your organisation, please contact:

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