Cloud Services

vClarus: identifying the most suitable hosting platform

Selecting the right cloud hosting platform is the first, and ultimately the most important stage in your decision to transition some or all of your applications to the cloud. vClarus from Bell Integration analyses your current infrastructure and maps it to the most suitable hosting platforms to confidently recommend the best cloud solution for you.

The challenge

There are so many different cloud hosting options out there, just how do you choose the right one for your business? Mistakes are common and costly, and with the cloud model evolving so quickly, there are no proven methods or fail-safe formulae to draw upon. Is a public cloud hosting solution better for you than private? Should you be considering Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) or Platform as a Service (PaaS) or Software as a Service (SaaS)? And which provider?

With minimal data out there, traditional methods are prone to errors, time consuming, risky and costly. Current industry products and tools offer just some of the components required to provide the information you need.

With such risk and cost involved, businesses need to feel confident that they're making the right choice for now, and in the future. They need an end-to-end solution that can analyse their current estate and accurately assess their cloud hosting needs.

Our solution
The benefits of cloud computing – agile, cost-effective and secure

Unlike traditional IT computing which requires hardware and software to be procured in advance, cloud computing is far more agile. New services can be stood up as and when needed, at very short notice and against an entire catalogue of options.

Cloud computing is also a consumption model with services only paid for when required and as long as they're needed adopting an Opex model without the up-front costs.

Security is a major concern for businesses and cloud computing can help address this. Gartner claim 'Through 2020, public cloud infrastructure as a service (IaaS) workloads will suffer at least 60% fewer security incidents than those in traditional data centres.'

Please see overleaf for the three main security areas.

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Security encompasses three main areas:

A Confidentiality – cloud computing has a perceived risk that if information is held remotely, it's not as safe as in-house but this isn't necessarily the case given the cyber security measures that cloud providers put in place.

B Availability – cloud computing inherently provides much higher levels of resilience, redundancy and portability, owing to the benefits of scale, than traditional in-house computing.

C Integrity – the biggest contributing factor for data loss is the high cost involved in building data replication and protection for on-premises solutions. Cloud computing is able to offer this at a considerably lower cost due to benefits of scale.

vClarus Cloud Hosting Selection
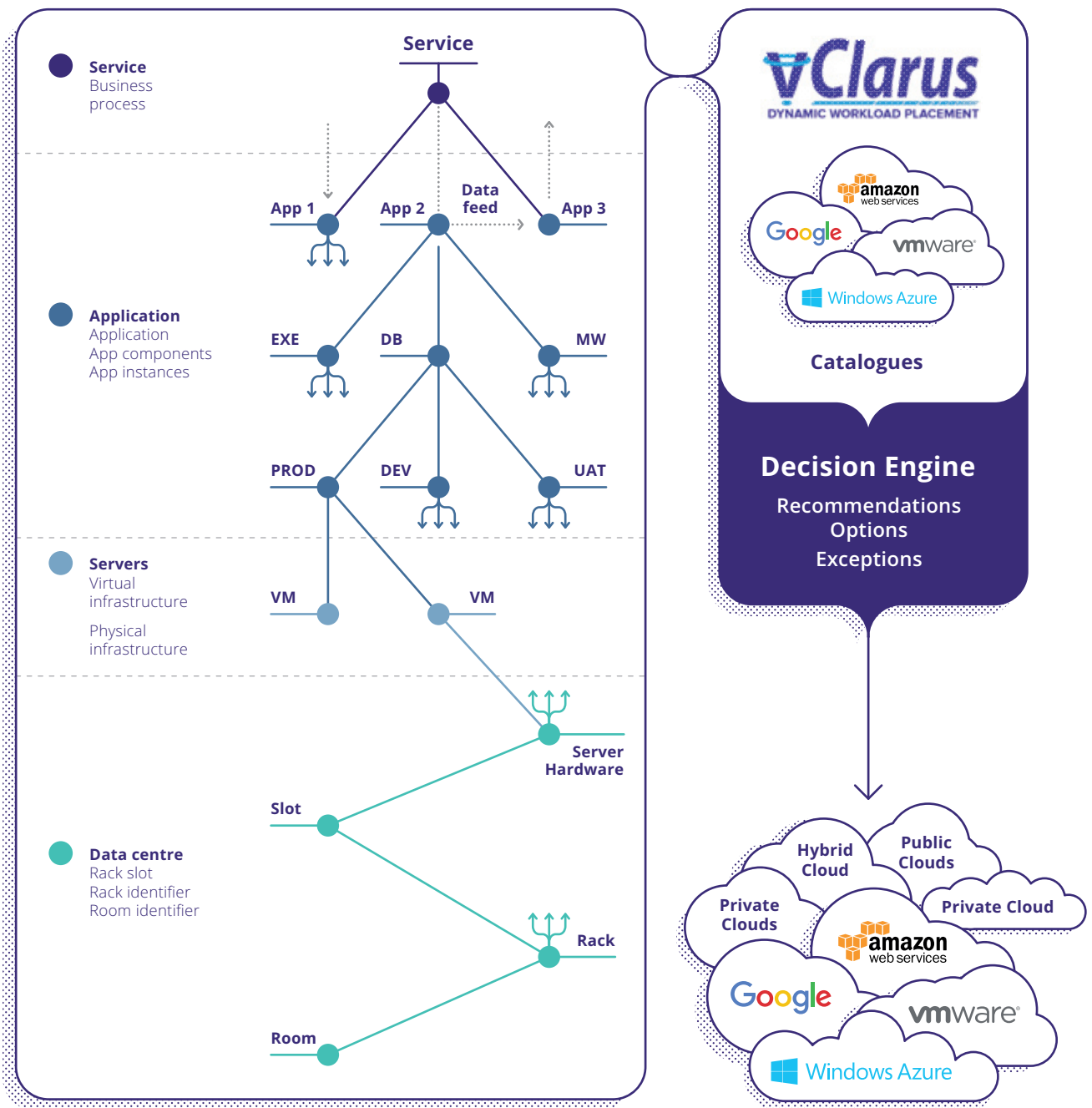
Analysing your current estate

Using the most relevant discovery techniques including your in-house reporting tools, existing documents, a fully online web-based questionnaire and workshop process, we analyse your current estate – from services through to applications and infrastructure. This includes the interaction and links between applications, whether these are technical, shared infrastructure or business workflow which is essential for successful cloud adoption.

From this analysis, vClarus produces a Strategic Service Mapping, showing the end-to-end hierarchy for each service, which is navigable and real time. Probably for the first time, you'll have a fully documented graphical representation of your services, applications and infrastructure which is essential in selecting the right hosting model.

A Cloud Candidacy Assessment

We will run a Cloud Candidacy Assessment where vClarus will take the Strategic Service Maps and apply them against the Bell Service Catalogue. This catalogue contains SaaS, PaaS and IaaS detailed service catalogue items from all the major cloud hosting vendors and ISPs.

The vClarus Decision Engine

The Decision Engine selects the most suitable hosting options for your applications and infrastructure based on technical and business criteria and will recommend a fully cloud hosted, in-house or hybrid solution.

You'll be provided with a detailed, transparent and accurate report showing the most suitable hosting options, specifically which vendors and which of their catalogue items, for each of your applications and infrastructure items.

As Bell is not a hosting company, all its recommendations are entirely neutral and includes industry-wide cloud hosting options (eg Azure, AWS, Google) and more bespoke hosting options (in-house, external or hybrid.

These recommendations form phase one of the cloud adoption journey and feed directly into Bell's Workload Migration service to ensure the smooth transition of all your applications and infrastructure to the new world. We can even run and operate this new environment for you with our Managed Service offering, RUN.

Throughout all of the project stages, the central vClarus repository is a single set of information, ensuring that all your service, application and infrastructure is consistent which is critical to change control and minimising the risks of migration.

Working with your technology

Our agnostic approach allows us to use any migration tool or product with vClarus, with our preference being to use tools that are already in place to minimise change control impact.

Here are some of the tools we use:

- VMware Capacity Planner
- PlateSpin recon
- IBM TADDM
- VMware ADM
- HP
- CA
- MS Azure

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