Windows 7 Application Migration Checklist

Accelerate Windows 7 migration planning.

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Whether just beginning a Microsoft® Windows 7® application migration project or moving forward on an existing project, it’s helpful to have a detailed step-by-step process to prepare organizations for a Windows 7 migration. Use this Windows 7 migration checklist to guide the process and put a successful migration plan together. Based on the customer feedback from hundreds of migrations and service pack projects, this Citrix® AppDNA™ checklist shares hints to discover, model, automate and manage projects to save time, cost and mitigate risk.

The Citrix AppDNA software platform guides business decisions about application migration, application management and long-term application portfolio evolution.

**Discover**

1. Audit the application portfolio
   - Detect applications in the enterprise
     - Map applications to users and the business
     - Determine the use of the application
     - Discover application owners, groups and devices
     - Locate the applications (source binaries and packaged applications)
   - Use all data sources to collect application information (AppDNA software integrates with Microsoft System Center Configuration Manager® and Active Directory®)
   - Create raw list of all applications in the enterprise

**Model**

2. Rationalize aggressively
   - Retire applications no longer in use
   - Consolidate duplicate applications
     - Streamline licensing costs of applications
     - Communicate with business units about unused applications
   - Consolidate older versions and create an application standard across the organization
   - Build a streamlined definitive software list
   - Prioritize applications: core, business critical, optional

*Every application retired now could save $3500 in migration costs alone*
3. Scale the project
- Determine size of migration project: time, cost, labor skills, risk to the organization
- Estimate work days and actual costs for each phase and total migration
- Ensure a budgeting tool is included in the migration planning process
- Use the AppDNA platform’s effort calculator to accurately scope the project
- Maximize the efficiency of the resource allocation
  - Senior technical staff – difficult tasks
  - Junior/Outsource technical staff – fast track projects
- Consider Citrix consulting or CitrixReady partners for consulting work

4. Scope the migration project
- Decide on build platform: now is the time to think about virtualization, 64-bit and server-based computing, security settings, GPO management, etc.
- Decide on strategic delivery vehicles for applications: even if using desktop virtualization, consider presentation layer impact
- Use pre-migration application compatibility assessment to determine readiness and “best fit” scenarios as they pertain to the enterprise strategic desktop vision

5. Start with pre-migration application compatibility assessment
- Determine which applications will migrate smoothly and which need modification AppDNA software allows organizations to:
  - Focus efforts with simple “traffic light reporting” in red/amber/green
  - Gain deep insight into application behavior by analyzing over 68,000 data points, the “DNA” that drives application behavior
  - Choose the best options for application deployment based on the status of the application compatibility testing
  - Manage regular application deployment and ongoing change

*Compared to the time of manual testing, this step alone can reduce migration testing time by 89%*

6. Customize Windows 7 to local enterprise rules
- Capture enterprise-specific baseline and gold images to test against
- Test application compatibility against different OS versions used by divisions or region

*actual customer data – see www.citrix.com/appdna*
**Automate**

7. **Create migration plan**
   - Define phases of the project
   - Define tasks that must be completed in each phase
   - Define pilot group
   - Define key milestones and set realistic timelines

8. **Develop optimized migration process**
   - Map out processes and remove duplicated effort and pain points
   - Optimize the process using a workflow methodology (ideally specialized)
   - Know where applications are in the process, who owns it, when it will be ready

9. **Implement targeted testing**
   - Test applications with automation in minutes per application instead of manual testing taking days
   - Focus expert testers on actual problem areas
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     - Focus expert testers on actual problem areas
       - “Blind testing” is expensive, manual and interminable
       - Targeted testing uses pre-migration application compatibility to guide testers on what is broken
       - Eliminate “smoke testing” – light testing that does not fully interrogate the application
   - Cut testing time and budget; eliminate bottlenecks in application testing

10. **Accurate, time-saving remediation**
    - Give packagers and developers the insight they need
    - Communicate remediation issues that applications encounter (to ISVs) without requiring a trained resource
    - Choose the best remediation option for local rules, best practices
    - Automate straightforward fixes
    - Know the exact issues with applications rather than costly guesses

11. **Automate packaging and virtual package creation**
    - For non-MSI applications, use application compatibility platform to automate the creation of MSI and SFT
    - Handoff application information to commercial packaging systems
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- Automatically call the Citrix XenApp Profiler or Microsoft App-V Sequencer to automatically create virtual packages and handoff for deployment
- Results in faster packaging that costs less and is right the first time

**Manage**

12. Improve application management process

- More efficient, day-to-day application decisions after migration for patches, service packs and new applications entering the enterprise
- Model best options for delivering applications to end users – choose the best forward path, physical or virtual delivery
- Make more knowledgeable choices when introducing software into the organization
- Create best practice standards: a single source of truth for application management
- Drive toward an application center of excellence to deliver best practices

**Resources**

Citrix AppDNA [www.citrix.com/appdna](http://www.citrix.com/appdna)

**About Citrix AppDNA**

Citrix® AppDNA™ application migration software enables enterprises to confidently discover, automate, model and manage applications for faster application migration, easier application virtualization and streamlined application management. Taking application migration and management to a new level, AppDNA software combines insight about applications with highly accurate application testing, remediation and compatibility. AppDNA software uncovers the knowledge needed to guide business decisions about application compatibility, migration, management and long-term application portfolio evolution.