Microsoft

Cloud Rationalization: Myth Busters

The "five Rs of rationalization" (Rehost, Refactor, Rearchitect, Rebuild, Replace) are a great way to label a potential future state for any workload that's being considered as a cloud candidate. However, this labeling process should be put into the correct context before you attempt to rationalize an environment.

Review the following myths to provide that context:

Myth #1

It's easy to make rationalization decisions early in the process.

Accurate rationalization requires a deep knowledge of the workload and associated assets (apps, VMs, and data). Most importantly, accurate rationalization decisions take time. We recommend using an incremental rationalization process as part of the Cloud Adoption Framework to help your nonprofit customers dig in to their unique needs.

Myth #2

Cloud adoption has to wait for all workloads to be rationalized.

Rationalizing an entire IT portfolio or even a single datacenter can delay the realization of business value by months or even years. Full rationalization should be avoided when possible. Instead, use the power of 10 approach to release planning to make wise decisions about the next 10 workloads that are slated for cloud adoption. Rationalizing at your customer's pace helps show them the incremental benefits of cloud adoption without it feeling overwhelming.

Myth #3

Business justification has to wait for all workloads to be rationalized.

To develop a business justification for a cloud adoption effort, make a few basic assumptions at the portfolio level. When motivations are aligned to innovation, assume rearchitecture. When motivations are aligned to migration, assume rehost. These assumptions can accelerate the business justification process. Assumptions are then challenged and budgets refined during the assessment phase of each workload's adoption cycles.

Now review the five Rs of rationalization with your customers to help frame the long-term process. While developing your cloud adoption plan, choose the option that best aligns with your customers motivations, mission outcomes, and current state environment. The goal in digital estate rationalization is to set a baseline, not to rationalize every workload.