VirtaMove
Migration Intelligence

APP MODERNIZATION:

THREE OPTIONS AND AN ALTERNATIVE FOR A WAY FORWARD

A VIRTAMOVE EBOOK

IT teams face the issue of aging apps running on unsupported operating systems on old hardware. How do you get your infrastructure to a better place to meet business requirements in a competitive world?

This ebook examines three approaches to modernization and proposes a better alternative.

OPTION 1:

IS AN IN-PLACE OS UPGRADE THE ANSWER?

An in-place upgrade moves from an older version of the operating system to a newer version on the same hardware, without first removing the older version or saving data. An in-place upgrade can be problematic, especially if the new version of the OS differs significantly from the previous one.

Plan for a stepwise approach. If you're going from Windows Server 2008R2, for example, you can't go straight to WS2019. You'll need a backup of the original server in case things break along the way.

Each step requires testing. Think of all the baggage that comes with your former OS and each OS along the upgrade path: old drivers, old desktop profiles, uninstall files of the previous OS patches, and file and registry changes. Each step is a possible breakpoint, with no easy rollback if things break along the upgrade path.

You'll have to manually reconfigure the name and IP address of the production version of the server. You'll need to clean up the old clutter, including unused apps.

You may have to do an in-place upgrade of an old app in addition to an in-place upgrade of the OS – which compounds your possible break points.

In-place upgrades also occur on production servers, step by step. Each step requires testing. If you run into a problem, rolling back to earlier working versions is difficult. Production upgrades need to occur during short downtime windows, and the many steps and testing make that challenging.

An in-place upgrade is a complex and costly option, and your cloud provider or OS product might not support it.

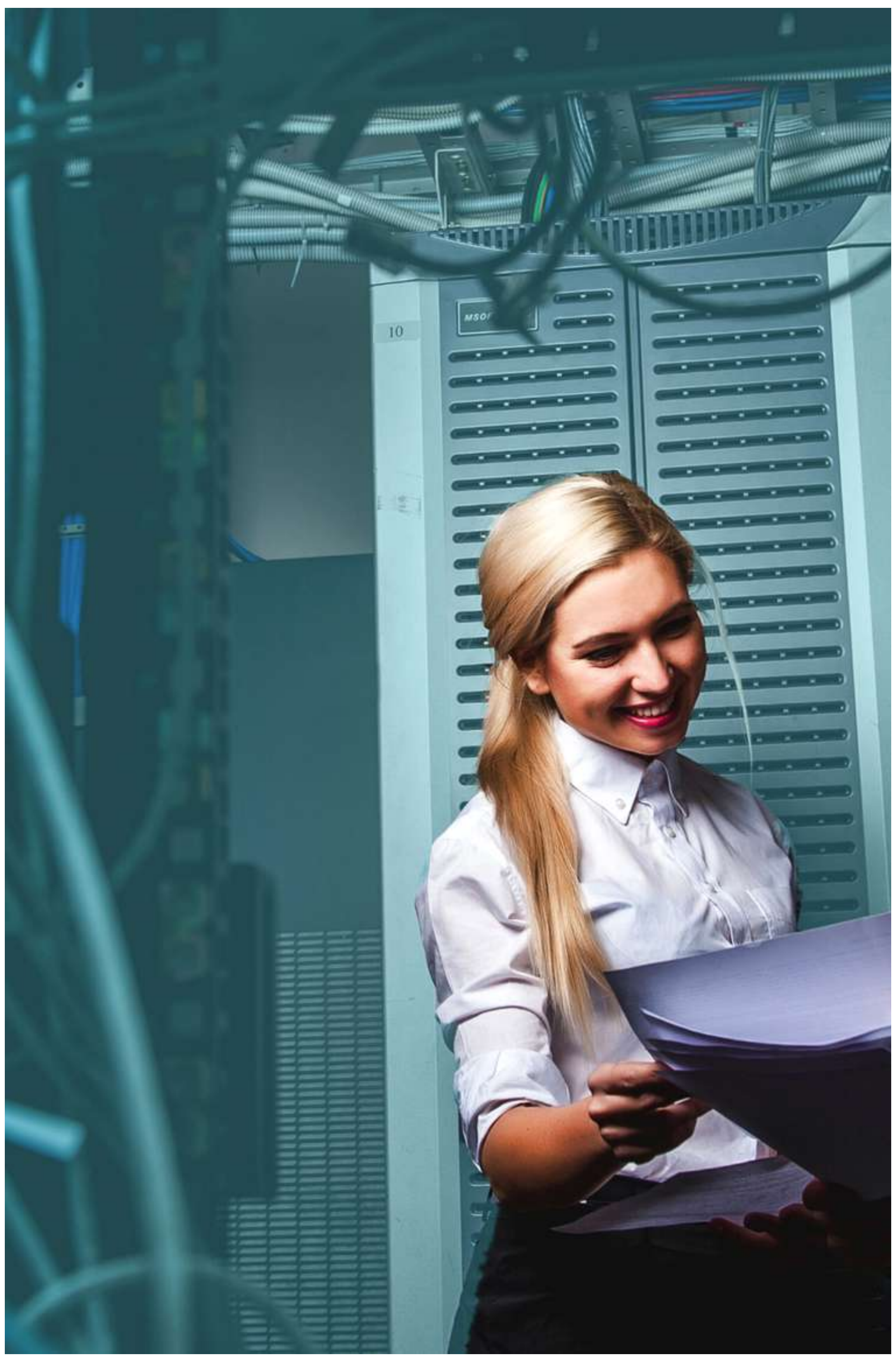
OPTION 2:

WHAT ABOUT USING LEGACY INSTALL SCRIPTS?

You might try re-using an old install script for a native install of an app on a new OS. The issue is that you'll be working with the original install script and therefore not the current state of a legacy app. The current state is what makes a legacy app valuable to an organization. You probably won't know which install options were used during the original install.

Old install scripts may need to be modified to let your app run on a modern OS. Lots of reconfiguration and testing will be required.

Option 2 is also a complex process that involves resolving script changes, cumulative patches, drivers, and COM components. You're likely to end up with a different version of the application you were using before the re-install.



OPTION 3:

WHAT IF I INSTALL NEW APPLICATION SOFTWARE ON A NEW OS?

Maybe installing a new version of your app on your new OS is the way to go. The issue is that years of data, configuration, and customizations aren't preserved.

If the software company that made your app doesn't provide migration capability, you'll have to bring the current state of your legacy app to the new version. You may need to redevelop custom components.

You'll need to consider:

- The cost of the license for the new version of the app.
- Manual remapping and reconfiguring the IP address and server name, certificates, permissions, access, user profiles, peripheral drivers, etc.
- The learning curve associated with the new app.
- Testing to make sure the new app fulfills expectations.
- Careful roll over of the new app.

Option 3 isn't easier and doesn't address the current state of your legacy app.

OPTION 4:

THE BETTER WAY, A STATEFUL RE-INSTALL

A stateful re-install using VirtaMove gets your legacy apps to a better place without a stepwise upgrade process, with app state preserved.

VirtaMove software discovers apps across your network and then packages them into a container on the new server. The containerized app is isolated from the underlying OS and is portable. Perfect for testing on a new OS and a new server.

When the container is removed, the app is re-installed on the new server and it runs natively on a modern OS, with all required components, configuration, patches, and upgrades. If you want to run an app in a container, it can run on a hypervisor.

You can reconfigure dynamically. Roll out as and where required, and use step snapshots to roll back easily if required.

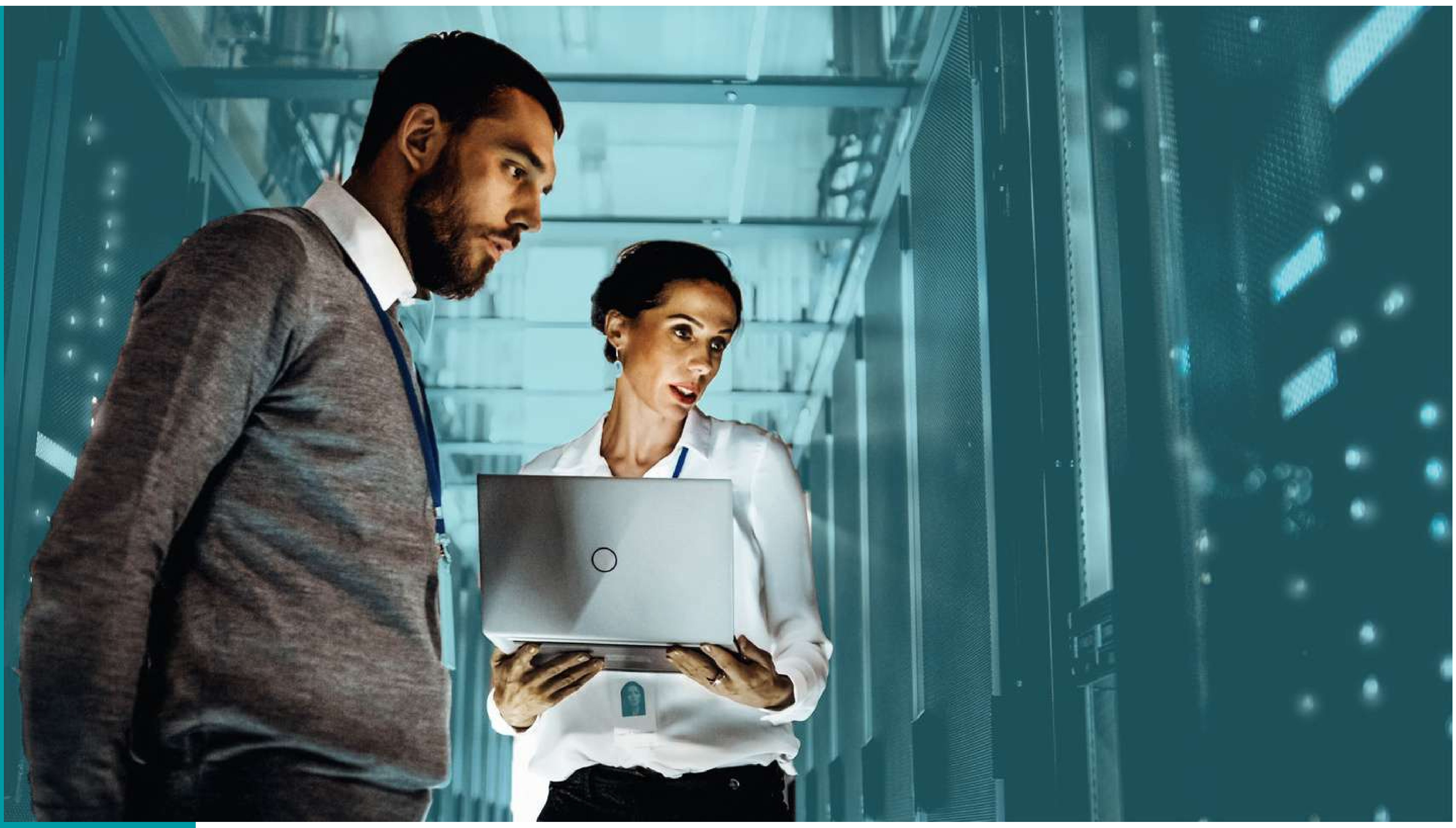
Benefits of a stateful re-install

Re-installing apps on new servers brings advantages:

- A new server and modern OS close known security exposures.
- New hardware improves performance.
- Apps can be split or consolidated.
- Software components, such as IIS and SQL, can be upgraded for new servers.
- A re-install reduces clutter and lets you install on modern datacenter VMs or the cloud. You can manage servers with DevOps tools.

A stateful re-install is the best first step in modernizing. It extends the useful life of legacy apps, and redevelopment and a rebuild can still happen over time. You can manage legacy apps using a conventional change management. You’re not forced into redevelopment because you want to run on modern servers.

If you want to understand more about what VirtaMove does, schedule a demo on our website, email us or give us a call. We’re pleased to show you what we do.



ABOUT VIRTAMOVE

VirtaMove subscription-based software moves legacy server applications to new cloud or datacenter servers in a fraction of the time and cost associated with traditional migration methods. Install scripts and source code not required. Encapsulating Windows Server and Linux applications in VM/OS-free moving containers, VirtaMove's patented software provides an automated, stateful re-install of most complex server applications. VirtaMove allows you to modernize your infrastructure, moving from an old, unsupported OS to a newer one with automation – modernize and move forward to a new datacenter server or cloud in one step. Reach out to us at info@virtamove.com to check out our website www.virtamove.com to learn more.