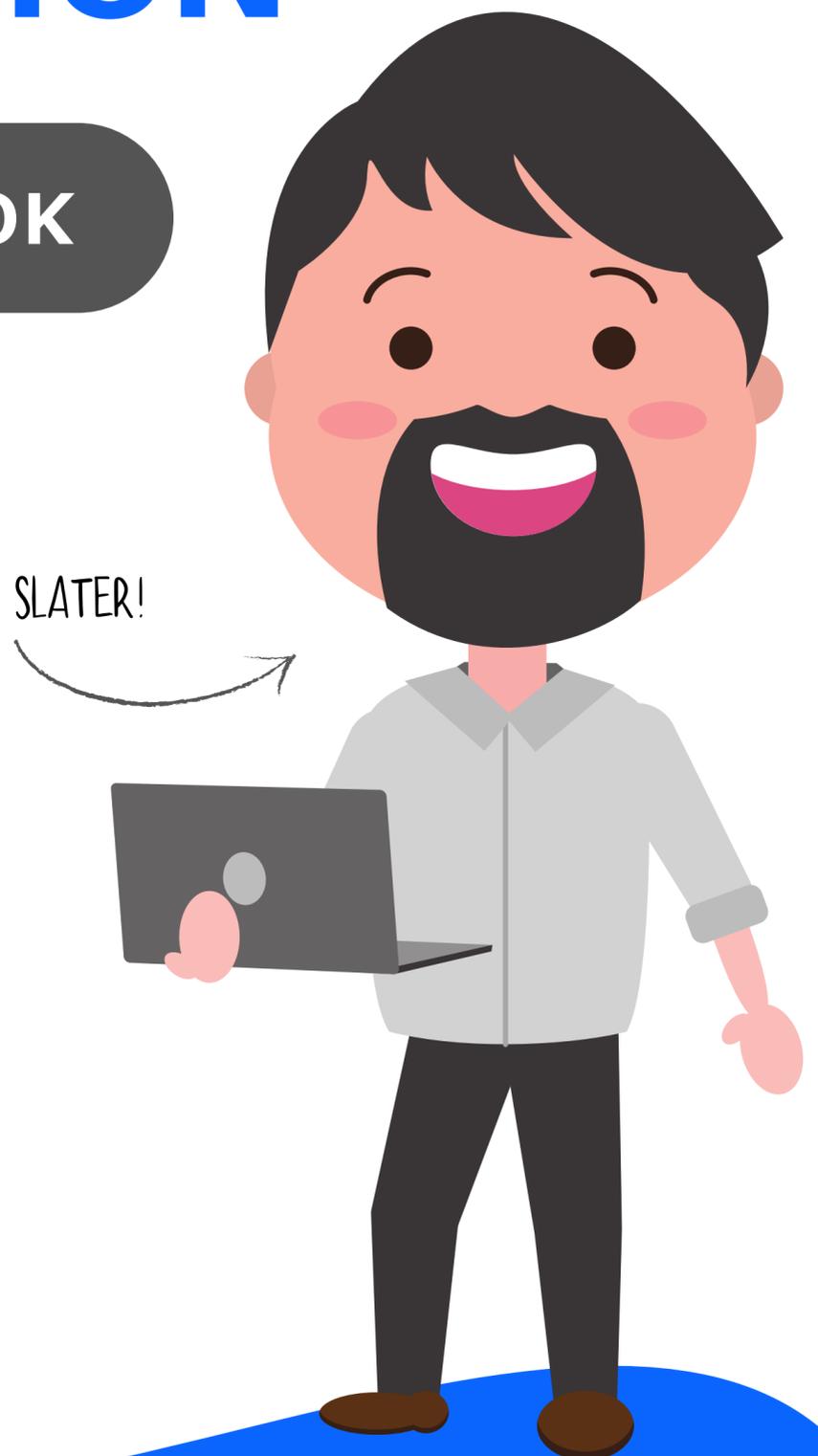# VirtaMove
Migration Intelligence

5 TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL LEGACY APP MIGRATION

A VIRTAMOVE EBOOK

WITH OUR CUSTOMER SUCCESS MANAGER, SCOTT SLATER!

Scott Slater,

Customer Success Manager at VirtaMove, has been involved in more legacy Windows Server migrations than he can reliably count since joining VirtaMove nearly 8 years ago.

Scott's job, as you might guess, is to ensure migration success. As modest as he is, he'll eventually admit to a very high success rate in the field thanks to a rigorous Migration Methodology that guides migration stakeholders end to end.

Here, Scott offers 5 key tips for a successful legacy application migration.

1. Get App Owner Buy In

Scott doesn't have to think hard about his number one tip: Who is your application owner? Getting the app owner on board enables the migration team to understand the application, its components and how they work together, and how the app is used.

Scott remembers a migration project where the application owner was involved from the start. The migration was accomplished with two hours to spare in the 8-hour migration window. "You've got to get that total buy in and involvement from the app owner, from the get go."

2. Map the App

Now that you've got the app owner on board, "Get to know your application," counsels Scott. Is it multi-tiered, does it have no passwords or 15 passwords, does it feature a database backend that requires re-hosting, does it have components on separate servers, is it a web app?

Holes in application knowledge can cause missteps. Looking up error messages, trying to come up with a workaround or a solution will delay a migration.

3. Ready Your Resources

"You don't usually have the luxury of months to move your applications," says Scott. You need to mobilize required people and technical resources efficiently. The destination server needs to be provisioned and must meet migration pre-requisites. Key human resources have to be available. If not, things get delayed. For example, a change window might pass and a new window will be required, perhaps with change management requests. What should take a couple of weeks may now take several months.

4. Know Your Environment

The more you know about your environment, the better prepared you will be.

Ensure that:

- The destination server has the capacity to run the application you are migrating.
- You have credentials for the accounts that will be used during the migration and by the application.
- Required ports are open.
- End-to-end connectivity is available for all components.
- Required applications are installed on the destination server.

Prevent a problem by, for example, knowing about IT Security policies and forwarding a change request to IT Security if need be.

5. Test, and test again

Now's the time to thoroughly test the application while it's still in its migration container on the destination server. Use all of the components and features of the application to make sure that everything is working as expected and the application is viable on the destination server. For example, right-click operations in SQL Management Studio will not work untethered if they were not exercised while tethered. There's no such thing as too much testing.

Once user acceptance testing (UAT) of the application is complete, the application can be removed from its container and installed onto the destination operating system, removing any dependency on VirtaMove software. Now the application has been full migrated onto the new destination server and the legacy Windows Server can be decommissioned.

Bottom Line

"Success," Scott says, "is not dependent on any one component but all components and players contributing to a clear migration vision, goals, expectations, rollout, and success criteria." In application migration, research and planning go a long way toward ensuring success.

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 or check out our website www.virtamove.com to learn more.