

Cloud Transformation

Gaining benefits as you transition to cloud and containers

If you are considering moving your applications to the cloud, understanding what can be achieved will help you set the right expectations for a successful transition. It will also help you choose the right tools to meet your goals.

What should cloud transformation deliver?

Cloud transformation should give you:

- The ability to take advantage of the flexibility, scalability, and choice offered by cloud models.
- The ability for your applications to access the best-fit cloud services available on your chosen platform.
- A path to adoption of new technologies as they develop.
- A path to IT process transformation, to help you as you realign your tools and practices to the workings of your new platform.

The ultimate goal of modernization should be to fully embrace and utilize new approaches and operating models to improve security and speed - all while empowering your users and IT.



Where can cloud transformation deliver benefits?

Cloud transformation can deliver improvements in each of the following scenarios:

- Transforming non-cloud-optimized applications into cloud-optimized applications.
- Transforming non-container-friendly artifacts into container-friendly assets.
- Transforming your organization's practices and processes to adapt to cloud and container operating models.

Lets have a look at how.



Optimizing your applications for the cloud

Re-hosting (lifting & shifting) may get your VM images onto cloud infrastructure, but the value is limited if they can't utilize the cloud services offered there. Stacksmith re-platforms your applications, and in the process delivers not only your new **images** but also the **native deployment templates** you will need to deploy and provision them. These deployment templates are what give your applications access to the best-fit IaaS and PaaS services that make the cloud so attractive in the first place – services like elasticity, scalability, load balancing, managed databases, security, monitoring, logging, and management.

Making your artifacts container-friendly

Dynamic configuration management and provisioning models work well for cloud deployments, but begin to fall apart when transitioning to containers, since containerization requires you to treat every image as immutable.

Stacksmith allows you to make this transition at your own pace, while continuing to use your existing configuration and provisioning processes. For example, a common first step in this transition is to create golden base images, the pre-configured templates that include corporate best practices, for use by your development teams. Stacksmith provides an easy way to **create and maintain these immutable golden images**, improving your security profile in the process. Over time, you can expand what is included in these golden images by adding components related to the platform, services, and features, until finally the configured application itself is included - and you have achieved a full image based VM and container deployment.

Transforming your practices and policies

One of the biggest differences between your data center and the cloud is in how assets are maintained and updated over time. Aligning to this new model will require you to adapt your practices and policies. Stacksmith helps you make this transition in a number of ways. It provides **automation** to free up time and minimize human error. It contains **customizable templates** that ensure artifacts include security concerns and best practices. And it comes with **flexible tools so you can integrate packaging and maintenance** with your existing Continuous Integration (CI), Continuous Deployment (CD), and orchestration tools.

To learn more, download the Cloud Transformation Use Case White Paper from our [website](#), or [contact us](#) for a personalized discussion and demonstration.