

Unisys ClearPath MCP & OS 2200 Mainframes to the Google Cloud Platform Reference Architecture Guide

Astadia Mainframe-to-Cloud Modernization Series



Abstract

In businesses today, across all market segments, cloud computing has become the focus of current and future technology needs for the enterprise. The cloud offers compelling economics, the latest technologies and platforms, and the agility to adapt your information systems quickly and efficiently. However, many large organizations are burdened by much older, previous generation platforms, typically in the form of a Unisys mainframe computing environment.

Although old and very expensive to maintain, the Unisys mainframe platform continues to run many of the most important information systems of an organization. The purpose of this reference architecture is to assist business and IT professionals as they prepare plans and project teams to start the process of moving Unisys mainframe-based application portfolios to the Google Cloud Platform (GCP). We will also share various techniques and methodologies that may be used in forming a complete and effective Legacy Modernization plan.

In this document, we will explore:

- Why modernize a Unisys mainframe
- The challenges associated with Unisys mainframe modernization
- An overview of the Unisys mainframe
- The Unisys mainframe to Google Cloud Platform Reference Architecture
- An overview of Google Cloud Platform services
- A look at the Astadia Success Methodology

This document is part of the Astadia Mainframe to Cloud Modernization Series that leverages Astadia's 25+ years of mainframe platform modernization expertise.



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Contents

- Introduction 4**
- Why Migrate Unisys ClearPath Mainframe Applications and Databases to the Google Cloud Platform? 5**
 - Benefits of Mainframe Modernization 5
 - Approaches to Mainframe Modernization 5
 - Challenges of Mainframe Modernization 6
 - Why the Google Cloud Platform? 7
 - Achieving the Positive Impact of Change 8
- Understanding Typical Unisys Mainframe Architecture 8**
 - Unisys Mainframe Heritage 9
 - Unisys Mainframe Components 10
- Unisys to Google Cloud Platform Reference Architecture 11**
- Understanding the Google Cloud Platform 15**
- Ensuring Project Success 18**
 - Astadia Unisys Mainframe-to-Google Cloud Platform Success Methodology 18
- Conclusion 19**

Introduction

The Google Cloud Platform is an excellent target environment for transitioning from a Unisys ClearPath MCP (Burroughs) or OS 2200 (Sperry) mainframe workload to a cloud implementation. With the security features of the Google Cloud Platform, and the ability to scale based on demand for the services, Google Cloud offers a complete operational environment in support of Unisys ClearPath MCP & OS 2200 mainframe workloads that have been migrated to the cloud. In addition, Google Cloud supports new innovation of the application portfolio, previously held captive by the inflexible nature of a Unisys mainframe computing model, improving the productivity of application developers and support personnel.

Even more than a typical IT project, planning to modernize Unisys ClearPath MCP & OS 2200 mainframe applications and databases is the most important phase of the total project effort. A good place to begin is with a thorough assessment of the existing overall Unisys mainframe application portfolio. Through the assessment process, all aspects of the existing portfolio will be inventoried and examined in detail, resulting in a catalog of each application, database, technology

platform and business user profile currently in use. Once completed, the results of this application rationalization will then guide the sequence of application migration, as well as the different modernization strategies and techniques that may be called upon over the course of the entire project. We've included an overview of how Astadia tackles Legacy Modernization projects with our Success Methodology to give you an idea of what's involved. In most cases, clients will begin the Assessment process with the most important business applications in the mainframe portfolio.

Don't let the enormity and importance of a Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe migration project deter you from getting started. The skilled individuals needed to continue to maintain mainframes are increasingly leaving the workforce through retirement and are not being replaced. Hardware and software maintenance costs continue to escalate and the demands of customers, employees and partners require greater innovation than Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe platforms can support.

How to Use This Reference Architecture Guide

Begin by reading the "Why Should I Migrate" section first. From there:

- **Mainframe Experts:** Skip to the Unisys MCP and OS 2200 Mainframe to Google Cloud Reference Architecture and the Understanding Google Cloud sections
- **Google Cloud Platform Experts:** Start with the "Understanding Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 Mainframes" section, followed by the Google Cloud Reference Architecture
- **Business Leaders:** Spend time with the "Why Should I Migrate..." section and the "Ensuring Project Success" section at the end.

About Astadia

Astadia has been in the legacy modernization business since 1994 and has successfully completed more than 200 mainframe modernization projects. Our consistent success has allowed us to develop a comprehensive methodology, proprietary software tools and techniques, as well as the "know how" that comes with more than 25 years of experience handling mission critical applications and databases. We're pleased to share some of that experience with you through our Mainframe to Cloud Modernization Series of Reference Architecture Guides, webinars, whitepapers and more. Visit our website at www.astadia.com for additional information.



Why Migrate Unisys ClearPath Mainframe Applications and Databases to the Google Cloud Platform?

Over the past 10 years, public cloud computing has emerged as the foundation of future enterprise technology. In terms of technology generations, mainframes are at least two generations old, perhaps three. Yet, they still survive today and are responsible for running key financial, healthcare and other vital and sensitive application systems around the world.

So, why should you migrate your Unisys ClearPath mainframe workloads, why migrate them to the Google Cloud Platform and why is now the right time?

Benefits of Mainframe Modernization

The specific benefits in moving any Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe workload will vary between organizations and even at the application and database level. In general, here are three of the top reasons that are driving legacy modernization projects today:

Cost – The economics of Google Cloud Platform computing are compelling when compared with the status quo of maintaining a Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe environment. A total-cost-of-ownership (TCO) evaluation of the subscription-based, consumption driven cost model of the cloud, versus the exorbitant hardware & software maintenance costs of mainframes, will show a very appealing and short-term achievable return-on-investment (ROI), potentially less than 12 months from project completion.

People – Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 Mainframe-specific technical skills are not being replaced by today's college or technology trade school graduates. The pool of available talent with relevant knowledge and experience is shrinking exponentially each year. The Google Cloud Platform leverages modern technology, and its use is ingrained into young software engineers worldwide.

Flexibility – The Google Cloud Platform offers an Open Systems environment in which high productivity and rapid innovation happen at a tremendous rate. A properly designed implementation of a Google Cloud Platform infrastructure scales easily and quickly, both expanding and collapsing to synchronize with business demand. Backup, redundancy and disaster recovery is seamless. Support for multiple end-user platforms and devices is inherent. Database sharing across the enterprise with high performance is achievable.

Approaches to Mainframe Modernization

You may notice throughout this document that we use the terms "Mainframe Modernization" and "Mainframe Migration". Migration is a type of modernization, whereas modernization encompasses a broader set of strategies or options. In many cases, you will employ a combination of these strategies, the right mix of which approach will be determined during the critical application portfolio rationalization step of the project's assessment phase. Here are four of the most common approaches:

RePlatform – Often called "Lift & Shift", this is a process that reuses the existing code/programs/applications, typically written in COBOL, by moving them off the mainframe, and recompiling the code to run in a Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe emulator hosted in a Google Cloud instance. This approach minimizes the upfront risks and the length of the project, realizing hardware and software cost savings soonest.

ReFactor – In many situations, moving to a Cloud platform is best when the application code is automatically transformed to Java or C#. These programming languages are considered to be "Cloud-Native", and are Object Oriented languages. There are many ways to accomplish this, but the goal is to get from a procedural language like COBOL, to an OO platform. This process will involve millions of lines-of-code, so automatic transformation is the only practical strategy. Manual rewrites are not practical.

Rewrite – It may be tempting to say, "Let's just write new programs from scratch," to modernize the Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe applications. This approach is extremely risky and fails a vast majority of the time. It is complex, costly, and time consuming.

The resources and investment required tends to greatly exceed the forecast.

A new, modern codebase may still be the correct end objective, but a better approach would be to first move the applications to a Google Cloud-based emulator, migrate the database to a Google Cloud-based database, then focus on replacing modules/code over a deliberate, multi-phased approach. When it is time to rewrite, there are several code transformation engines you can choose from to reduce the effort and minimize the risk.

Replace – Another Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe modernization approach is to completely replace the mainframe functionality with a program or suite of programs, typically a Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) application platform. Often times, we see this with purpose-built solutions for finance, human resources, manufacturing, enterprise resource planning, etc. There are also industry specific applications that may solve the problem that a custom Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe solution was built for decades ago.

The upside of using SaaS is that your organization no longer worries about maintaining code. However, you will find that while you can configure a SaaS application with various options provided by the vendor, you will not be able to customize your instance, as the shared codebase runs all tenants (customers/organizations) using the standard “service”.

There are additional variations on these four modernization approaches and you'll likely use several strategies in achieving your goal to completely migrate from the Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe. It is commonly accepted best practice among legacy modernization practitioners to primarily use the lower-risk, lower-cost RePlatform approach first to capture the gains and benefits in the shortest time possible, followed by a deliberate and phased approach to Refactor, Rewrite or Replace the applications.

Challenges of Mainframe Modernization

Mainframe migration projects are complex and require close management of the process, budgets and timelines that have been set as project goals. A RePlatform approach will involve moving (from a Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe to the Google Cloud Platform) and likely some re-engineering and refactoring to complete an entire Unisys mainframe migration.

It will also involve data and file conversions for transitioning the databases to the Google Cloud.

As we have emphasized, the first challenge of any Unisys mainframe modernization project is to develop a rock-solid plan built upon a thorough application portfolio assessment and rationalization. As you put your plan together and begin to execute, here are additional factors you'll need to consider:

Documentation

Many Unisys mainframe environments with large and complex application portfolios do not have documentation that details what these Unisys mainframe applications do, and how they do it. Many applications are decades old, so the original system, with changes likely every year, has become a maintenance challenge. The external interaction with these systems, the Input/Output, is how these systems get defined to the business, and the rest of the system is just a black box.

Migrating a minimally-documented system of this nature is tricky and the testing prior to a “go live” deployment is critical to mitigating this issue. (And, of course, copious documentation should be captured for the resulting system.)

Application-specific Challenges

There are a couple of general points about the application portfolio that should be noted. As mentioned above, the lack of documentation on these aging systems makes the migration effort more difficult. The project team that drives a migration project must then resort to “mining” the actual application source code to determine exactly the behavior of the application.

Another important application-specific issue for consideration is discovering the integration requirements and dependencies of the application with other systems and databases. These integrations and dependencies must be clearly identified and, if still needed, they must be re-connected (possibly rebuilt) and made operational along with the migrated system. In many cases, this work will require “hand-crafting”.

Running Parallel Systems

For a short while, there may need to be some parallel processing between the Unisys mainframe application, while it is still being used in production, and the newly migrated system, on the new Google Cloud platform. Planning and executing this parallel processing will be a challenge, and will require extra time and attention to make it successful.

Another example of when you may choose to run parallel systems is if you want to achieve quick reductions in Unisys mainframe

processing consumed by moving the development and test environments to a Google Cloud while keeping the production system on the Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe for the interim period.

Data Integrity

Moving the contents of large databases is very challenging on a number of levels. Typically, a database “cleanup” will be necessary to ensure that the contents of the new target database is as accurate, and as complete, as possible.

A Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe modernization project is a good time to transform, correct and validate the organization’s data.

Speed to Completion

In almost every project, speed will be a top priority. The costs and complexities of extended project cycles can have an enormous negative impact in tangible and intangible terms. As project cycles get extended, staff attrition can become a big issue and staff fatigue may also become a factor.

Paying for a continuation of the primary production system, and funding the development efforts of the new system at the same time, will have a temporary financial impact for as long as that duality continues. Getting to a “go live” status quickly and efficiently with the new system, and retiring the old system, will keep unexpected costs to a minimum.

Project Funding

It is very important for any modernization project to be properly funded and supported by the business management team and the executives. This support is essential to maintain project continuity and funding throughout the project cycle. Since we stated earlier that speed will be a factor in the project execution, funding must be in place to sustain that speed.

Expertise

Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 Mainframe migration projects come in many forms. In every case, a variety of specialist skills will be needed on the project team. These specialists may include business analysts working to “harvest” and understand the business rules embedded in the legacy applications.

It will also include experts in specific programming languages, databases, networks, terminal devices and many other components of the total application portfolio that will need to be addressed over

the course of the migration to the Google Cloud Platform. Staff must also be available to address any specific functionality, or use case, of the Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe application environment.

All this technology must be transferred to the equivalent functionality on the target Google Cloud Platform and work as it did in the original Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe environment. Thorough testing by the project team, followed by testing amongst the business users of the original Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe application system, is an absolute requirement. Once testing is completed, a final performance and tuning (P&T) exercise will ensure that the new Google Cloud Platform deployment is performing at optimal levels.

Why the Google Cloud Platform?

Organizations keep discovering new and improved benefits for moving their Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe (as well as other) workloads to the Google Cloud Platform such as flexibility, scalability, automatic backups, automatic software upgrades, cost model optimization, version control and adding multiple security layers, just to name a few.

The Google Cloud Platform is a recognized leader in the public cloud segment with a diverse customer base and a broad range of use cases. They also have the largest compute capacity in use by paying customers. This attracts open source and application developers, as well as service providers, to make their applications compatible or add their services to the Google Cloud Platform.

The benefits of migrating your Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe to the Google Cloud Platform are:

Easy to Use – the Google Cloud Platform is designed with simplicity in mind. You can request new services and host your applications using the simple to use web-based Google Cloud Management Console. All the services are well-documented and there are a wealth of forums, white papers, and discussion boards.

Flexible - You can select from a wide variety of virtual environments where you choose the software and services your application requires. If you find that the environment selections are not adequate, you can simply provision different types of instances or add compute and/or storage on demand.

Cost-Effective – Google Cloud Platform services are billed in a consumption model, where you only pay for the compute and storage resources you use, with no upfront commitments and contracts. Alternatively, if you know you have a minimal level of needs, you can sign longer-term contracts for additional savings.

Reliable - With the Google Cloud Platform, you are taking advantage of its highly redundant, worldwide computing infrastructure that is built to guarantee high availability that rivals, or exceeds, what you've come to expect from your Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframes.

Scalable – the Google Cloud Platform includes features such as Auto Scaling and Load Balancing which allow your application to scale up or down, if you design/architect this into your solution. Google Cloud's massive compute and storage infrastructure guarantees that resources will be available when they are needed.

High Performance – The Google Cloud Platform offers a wide selection of compute and storage options to replicate or exceed the performance needs of your formerly Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe-based applications. Compute and storage can be provisioned as they are needed, so if your application is CPU intensive you can have a larger CPU/IO ratio and vice versa.

Secure – The Google Cloud Platform provides several security capabilities and services to improve privacy and network response.

These include network firewalls, Google Cloud Platform's Virtual Private Cloud (VPC), encryption in rest and in transit, and private or dedicated network connections.

Achieving the Positive Impact of Change

In any Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe migration project, the results of a cloud-based application set may be daunting. The change will impact the technical staff, as they will likely need to learn new skills.

The end-user community may not notice too many changes using a new system if the interfaces are preserved. In fact, the move to the cloud could fuel innovation resulting in new capabilities down the road, which are likely not available to Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe users today.

The overall impact of a successful Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe migration project is a positive one for the entire organization. A new and better application portfolio, a cloud platform to enable innovation, and a large cost savings in the operational and systems software maintenance categories will be realized. It's not unusual to repurpose IT staff after redeploying the Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe portfolio to the cloud. The Google Cloud Platform has many other benefits, but cost takeout is at the top of the list.

Understanding Typical Unisys Mainframe Architecture

Since their development in the late 1940s, general-purpose mainframes were the computing workhorses for more than 50 years. Over that time, each mainframe manufacturer continuously enhanced their unique architectures to outperform competitors and meet evolving business demands. IBM and Unisys eventually dominated the market and became the gold standards of mainframe computing. This Unisys to Google Cloud Reference Architecture is part of the Astadia Mainframe-to-Cloud Series of architectures, whitepapers and webinars.

Unisys Mainframe Heritage

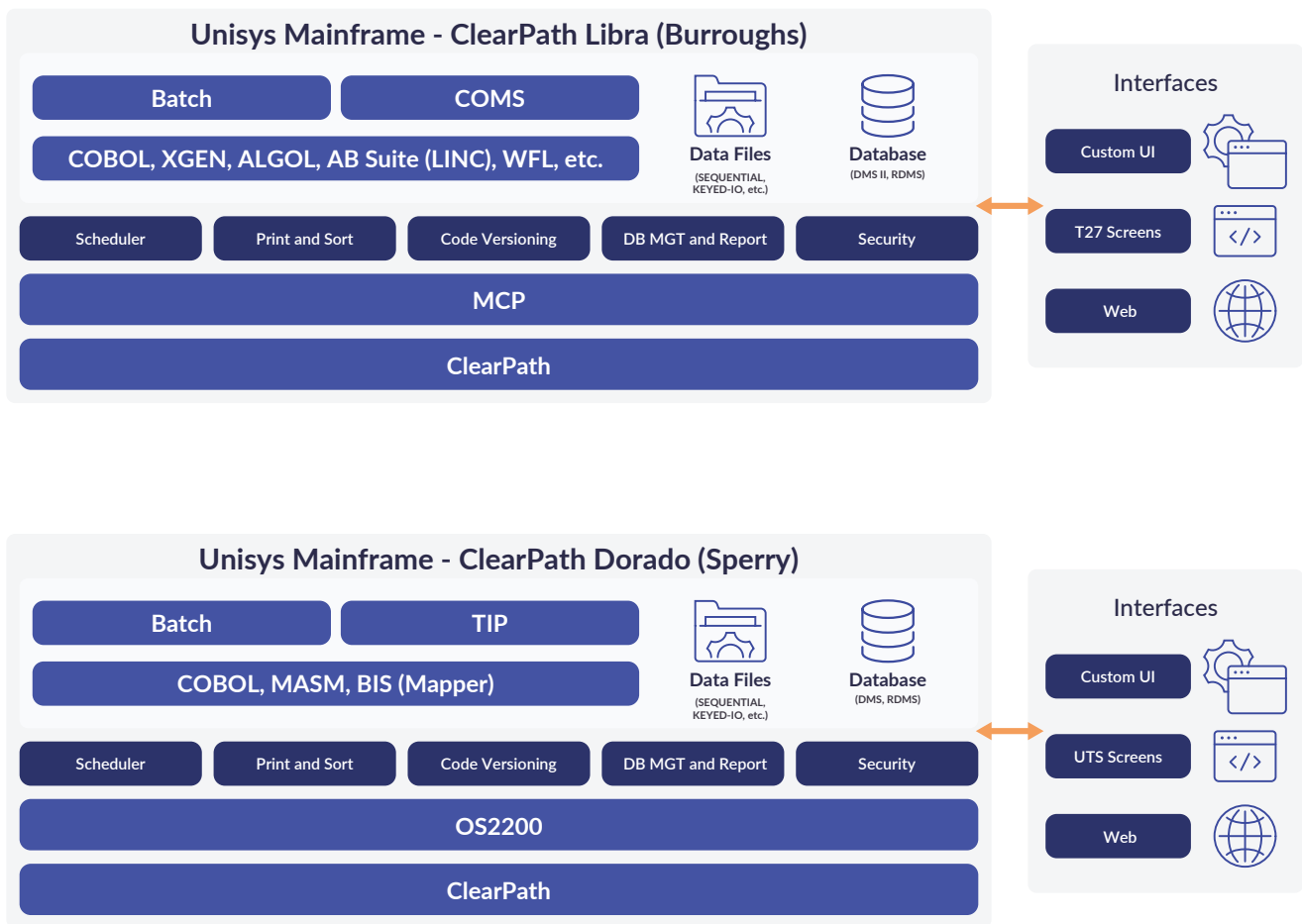
Unisys can trace its roots all the way back to 1886 and the American Arithmometer Company, which later became the Burroughs Corporation.

The Unisys Corporation of today was formed in 1986 when Burroughs combined with the Sperry Corporation, which was originally founded in 1910 as the Sperry Gyroscope Company.

Unisys is credited with developing the first general-purpose computers, known as BINAC and UNIVAC.

When Burroughs and Sperry merged to form Unisys, each company had its own line of mainframe computers, each with a loyal customer base. There were attempts to unify the two architectures and their respective technologies, but the two distinct systems survive to this day.

Unisys **ClearPath Libra** mainframes originated from the Burroughs line, while **ClearPath Dorado's** heritage is Sperry. Even though there are distinct differences between these two sets of mainframe technologies, they are in many ways very similar and share many of the same basic characteristics.





Unisys Mainframe Components

User Interfaces

Users access the mainframe application through a variety of means. They could use green screen terminal emulators that provide character mode interface (T27, UTS).

Alternatively, a variety of custom user interfaces could be built on top of the character mode interface that allows a more user-friendly interface to mainframe applications. One such user interface could be a web-based or mobile application serving as a front end to the mainframe.

Batch

Mainframes provide batch environments that handle bulk data processing workloads. Jobs are submitted to the system (WFL, ECL) and processed with minimal operator interaction. Output from the batch jobs is spooled, printed and distributed to users.

Transaction Processing

Transaction processing is at the core of most mission-critical applications with thousands or millions of transactions being processed daily. Mainframes provide the online processing environment (COMS, TIP) that make this possible. Security, transaction integrity, predictable response times are of particular importance for this type of workload.

Programming Languages

Mainframes provide an assortment of programming languages to suit customer needs. Most applications are written in COBOL but other languages are also used: Algol, MASM, BIS/MAPPER, FORTRAN, Pascal, PL/I, etc. 4GL development products like XGEN and ABSuite (LINC) are also used to develop Unisys applications.

Data Files

Mainframes store data in files with different record organizations and media types. Data files can be sequential, direct access, fixed and variable lengths, blocked or unblocked, etc. Data files can be

stored on disks, magnetic tapes, CD-ROMs, etc. For the most part data in these files are stored in EBCDIC (Extended Binary Coded Decimal Interchange Code), an eight-bit character encoding system used primarily on mainframes.

Databases

Mainframes provide high performance database management systems to support online mission critical applications. These databases can be hierarchical (DMSII), networked (DMS), or relational (RDMS), and they provide high levels of availability, integrity, consistency, reliability, security, and auditing. Database software makes intensive use of the computing and input/output capabilities of the mainframe to provide optimal response times.

Environmental software

Mainframes also run software to support the management, operation, application development, and security of the system. Software provided by Unisys and third parties cooperate to provide a robust environment for customer applications.

Scheduling software is used to manage the execution of work flow streams. Output management systems handle the collection, storage and distribution of reports to the users that require them. Source code management systems are used to maintain application source code by tracking versions, as well as release lifecycles.

Security is tightly controlled at all levels of the mainframe software. Security software is designed to minimize the risk of data exposure and provide regulatory compliance.

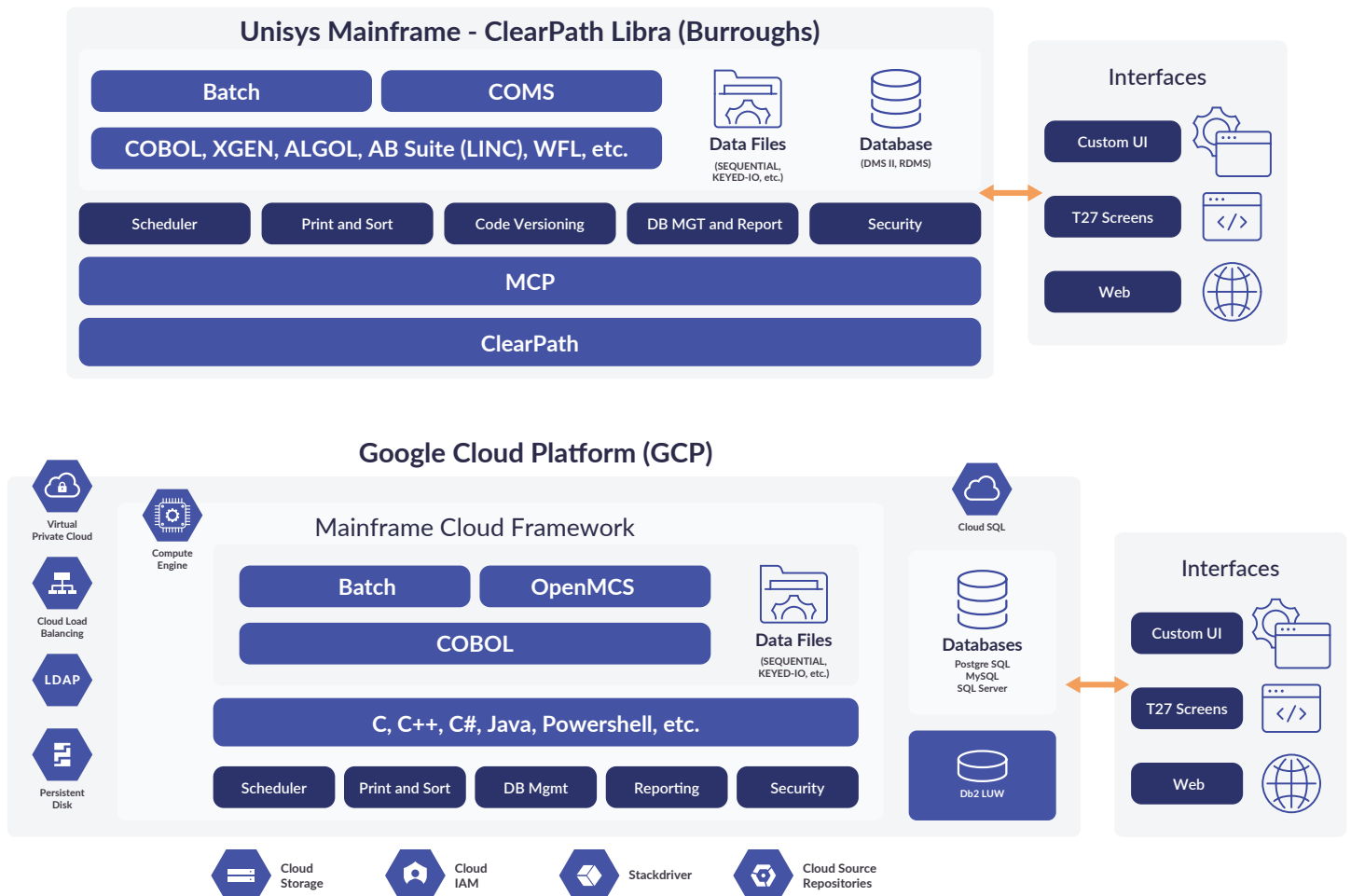
Unisys to Google Cloud Platform Reference Architecture

As a Reference Architecture, the following diagrams and discussion addresses a typical use case. However, each implementation is sure to have its own customizations and variations, which is why a thorough application portfolio inventory, assessment and rationalization is critical to a successful outcome.

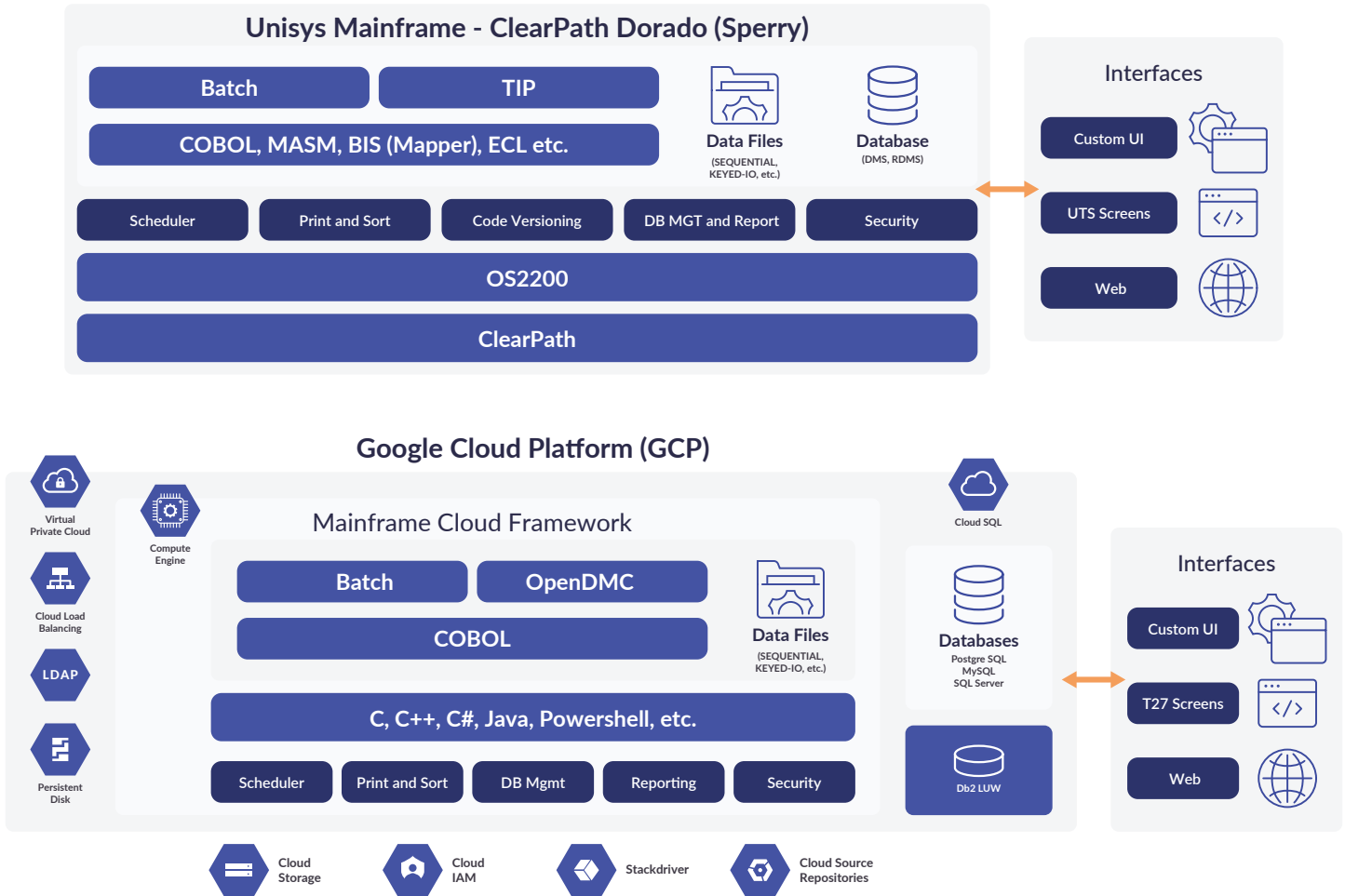
Below, you will see a design that includes details such as the Google Cloud Platform components, batch requirements, programming language conversions and replacements, integration with external systems, 3rd-party software requirements, and planning for future needs.

In an actual project, you would also consider any unique features that would necessitate custom-made solutions. We would recommend proof-of-concept conversions on application subsets to test the model selected, discover any weaknesses, and prove the viability of the design.

Migrating Unisys Libra (Burroughs) mainframe applications to Google Cloud:



Migrating Unisys Dorado (Sperry) mainframe applications to Google Cloud:



Code Modification

As part of any mainframe modernization project, there will be a need for partial or, in some cases, extensive code modification. Leveraging our past experience in developing Unisys productivity software (XGEN and OpenMCS), Astadia has developed its own code transformation and mainframe emulation technologies. We use these in concert with trusted third party products to modify source code for deployment to the Google Cloud Platform. What follows is a description of our approach.

Astadia employs an iterative, hybrid process of automated code conversion and human intervention. The technology behind the automation is Astadia's Rules-Based Transformation Engine. This "Engine" is a development tool, and once the project is complete, there is no related software necessary for runtime operations.

This tool preserves the business logic and rules of legacy

applications while removing proprietary code that can only execute in the source environment and not in the Google Cloud Platform. Its code migration filters ensure the preservation of mission-critical applications and back-end components such as transcodes, security policies, and message routing.

Though the Rules-Based Transformation Engine is a proven technology, Astadia augments our technology with years of hands-on migration experience and collaboration with partners. The combination of automation and human intervention ensures that legacy applications will work in the Google Cloud Platform without sacrificing their original functionality.

Although every mainframe migration is unique, there are general source-to-target mappings for application components that apply to most projects, as shown in the following table:

CODE MODIFICATION MAPPING TABLE

SOURCE	TARGET
MCP/OS 2200	Google Cloud Platform & LUW (Windows, Linux, or UNIX)
COMS/TIP	ASTADIA OpenMCS
COBOL, XGEN	COBOL, XGEN, Java, C#
Algol	COBOL, Java, C#
MASM (Assembler)	Java, C#
BIS (MAPPER)	Java, C#
FORTRAN, PL/I	FORTRAN, PL/I, Java, C#
WFL, ECL	PowerShell, other scripting

These mappings are only a guideline for the most common mainframe technologies. Other technologies are addressed on an as-needed basis.

Database Migration

In parallel with code modification, data specialists will need to perform a thorough analysis of the legacy databases and files, and develop a detailed data migration strategy.

We recommend an iterative extract, transform and load (ETL) process to identify potential data-typing issues, develop fixes, and collaborate with the application subject matter experts (SMEs) to validate their efficacy. This iterative process continues until every issue is eliminated.

In most cases, hierarchical and flat file data structures will be replaced with RDBMS solutions, but other solutions may be implemented to address unique technical requirements or preferences.

After the target database and file structures have been created and validated, static data can be migrated to the Google Cloud Platform's production environment. For dynamic or other data that is created and/or modified frequently, a data migration strategy must be implemented as part of the production cutover process.

Like the application component mapping above, there are general source-to-target data mappings employed by most Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe-to-Google Cloud Platform migrations.

DATABASE MIGRATION MAPPING TABLE

SOURCE	TARGET
DMS	PostgreSQL, MySQL, Microsoft SQL Server
DMSII	PostgreSQL, MySQL, Microsoft SQL Server
VSAM, other flat files	ISAM, flat files, PostgreSQL, MySQL, Microsoft SQL Server
RDMS	PostgreSQL, MySQL, Microsoft SQL Server

These mappings are only a guideline for the most common Unisys ClearPath MCP & OS 2200 mainframe database and file technologies. Other technologies are addressed on an as-needed basis. Oracle is only available on the Google Bare Metal Platform.

Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 Mainframe & Google Cloud Platform Integration and Parallel Operations

For some organizations, a one-time deployment and cutover of all Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe applications to the Google Cloud Platform simply isn't feasible.

There may also be organizations that prefer to move applications one at a time, or in smaller groups, as a way of gradually embracing the Google Cloud Platform as a solution for their big-iron applications.

Still others may intend to keep their Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframes indefinitely for a subset of strategic, mission critical applications while migrating less critical applications to the Google Cloud Platform as a means of reducing their costs or delaying upgrades to existing Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe hardware. This is also an issue when a Unisys mainframe lease renewal is pending.

There's good news here - it is possible to do a phased rollout of migrated applications and still have ongoing communication and integration with applications residing on the Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe. This kind of mixed environment can be achieved with the proper planning.

Understanding the Google Cloud Platform

The Google Cloud Platform provides the technology and services that make running Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe applications in the cloud a safe, secure, reliable way to achieve high performance results and fuel future innovation for the organization.

There are specific elements of the Google Cloud Platform that are relevant to a Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe modernization project. Below, we address some of these – this is not the extent of all Google Cloud Platform services nor is it meant to exclude the use of other Google Cloud Platform service offerings.

The Google Cloud Platform provides a broad set of infrastructure services, such as computing power, storage options, networking and databases that are delivered as a utility: on-demand, available in seconds, with pay-as-you-go pricing. From data warehousing to deployment tools, directories to content delivery, several Google Cloud Platform services are available.

New services can be provisioned quickly, without upfront capital expense. This allows enterprises, start-ups, small and medium-sized businesses, and customers in the public sector to access the building blocks they need to respond quickly to changing business requirements.

The Google Cloud Platform serves millions of active customers in more than 190 countries. Google is steadily expanding global infrastructure to help our customers achieve shorter latency times and higher throughput, to ensure that their data resides only in the region they specify. As customers grow their businesses, Google Cloud Platform will continue to provide infrastructure that meets their global requirements.

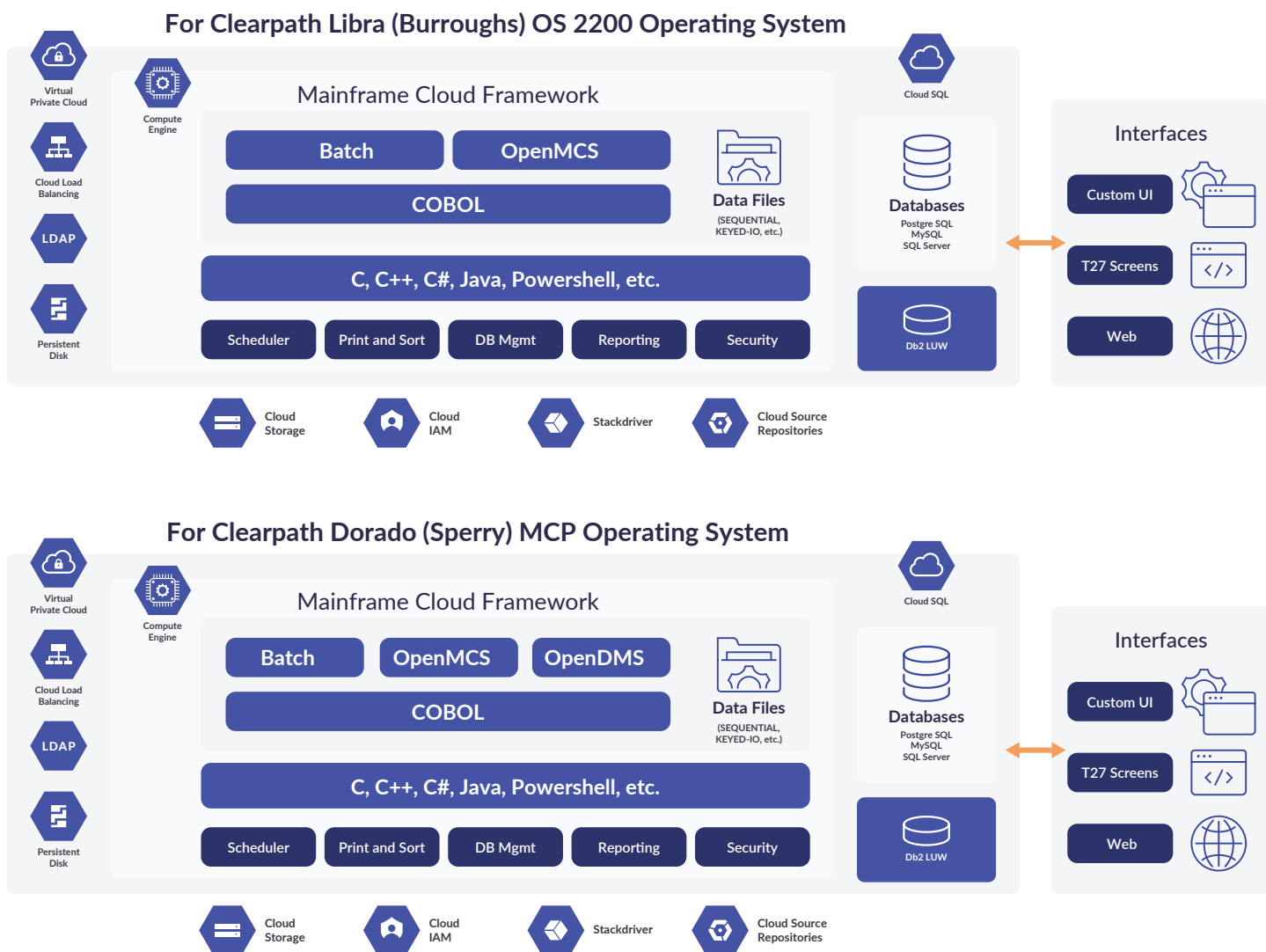
The Google Cloud Platform infrastructure is built around Regions and Availability Zones (AZs). A Region is a physical location in the world where Google has multiple AZs. AZs consist of one or more discrete data centers, each with redundant power, networking, and connectivity, housed in separate facilities. These AZs offer our clients the ability to operate production applications and databases that are more highly available, fault tolerant, and scalable than would be possible from a single data center. The Google Cloud Platform operates multiple AZs within several geographic Regions around the world, with more Availability Zones and more Regions coming online in 2020.

Each Google Cloud Region is designed to be completely isolated from the other Google Cloud Regions. This achieves the greatest possible fault tolerance and stability. Each AZ is isolated, but the AZs in a Region are connected through low-latency links.

Google Cloud Platform provides clients with the flexibility to place instances and store data within multiple geographic Regions as well as across multiple Availability Zones within each Region. Each Availability Zone is designed as an independent failure zone. This means that Availability Zones are physically separated within a typical metropolitan region and are located in lower risk flood plains (specific flood zone categorization varies by Region).

In addition to discrete uninterruptable power supply (UPS) and onsite backup generation facilities, they are each fed via different grids from independent utilities to further reduce single points of failure. AZs are all redundantly connected to multiple tier-1 transit providers.

In the following section, we'll take a deeper look at the Google Cloud Platform portion of the Reference Architecture and the components identified.



The Google Cloud Platform Environment

The Virtual Private Cloud (VPC) lets you provision a logically isolated section of the Google Cloud Platform where you launch and manage Google Cloud resources in a virtual network that you define. It's your private area within the Google Cloud Platform.

You can think of this as the fence around all the systems you have in the Google Cloud. You have complete control over your virtual networking environment, including selection of your own IP address range, creation of subnets, and configuration of route tables and network gateways. You can use both IPv4 and IPv6 in your VPC for secure and easy access to resources and applications.

Computing Resources

The Google Cloud Platform provides secure, resizable compute capacity in the Google Cloud. It serves as the foundation upon which your application sits. It's the container that holds the operating systems, mainframe emulators, application executables, and other supporting software that make up your application.

Depending on your specific circumstances, you may separate some pieces into their own individual instances, or you may run everything in one instance. For example, maybe you'll have a section dedicated to batch COBOL and another dedicated to Online. You may even segregate sections by applications.

Storage

Google Cloud mass storage can be thought of as a hard drive for storing data. Lots of data. The Google Cloud serves as the primary storage “device” for all instances running migrated applications.

The Google Cloud also offers a low-cost, reliable service for backup and archiving of all types of data.

These services are combined to meet the storage requirements of your Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe applications.

Databases

Google’s Cloud SQL Relational Database Service is where all your legacy relational data will reside. This includes any flat file data that’s been converted to relational. For example, all your Unisys flat files and DMS, DMSII and RDMS data that’s been converted to relational and migrated to Google’s Cloud SQL Relational Database Service.

This service is optimized for database performance. It’s cost-efficient, has resizable capacity, and is designed to reduce time-consuming database administration tasks.

The Google Cloud Platform support is available in several familiar database engines, including Microsoft SQL Server, PostgreSQL and MySQL. You can also set up a DB2 LUW server instance. Oracle is only available on Google Bare Metal.

An analysis of your existing legacy databases and applications will reveal all the changes required to migrate your data to Google’s Cloud SQL Relational Database Service, or any other RDBMS running on the Google Cloud Platform.

Load Balancing

Applications with a high volume of transactions require something to balance the workload. The Google Cloud Platform does just that. It automatically distributes incoming application traffic across multiple instances to achieve scalability, high-performance, and fault tolerance in your migrated applications. It provides the load balancing capability needed to route traffic evenly among your applications and keep them performing efficiently.

Security

In the Google Cloud environment, you’ll be using Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) for accessing and maintaining distributed directory information services. While there are other possibilities, this is most likely where you’ll map your legacy application user IDs, passwords, permissions, etc.

Hosting LDAP services on a smaller separate instance often makes it easier to maintain independently of applications. However, a full analysis of your legacy security environment is required to determine how to best architect and configure security in the migrated system.

Monitoring

Every IT system needs to be monitored. The Google Cloud Platform uses a monitoring service for cloud resources now running the legacy applications you deployed to the Google Cloud.

This tool is used to collect and track metrics, monitor log files, set alarms, and automatically react to changes in your Google Cloud resources. This data is used to resolve problems quickly and keep your migrated applications running smoothly – much like you do on the Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe today. Other cloud-ready monitoring tools are available from 3rd parties as well.

Source Control

Just as you have products and processes to control your application sources and manage application releases on your Unisys mainframe today, you need to have a similar set of tools in the Google Cloud.

Google Cloud uses a fully-managed source control service providing secure and private GIT repositories. It eliminates the need to operate your own source control system or worry about scaling its infrastructure.

This facility is where you’ll store your migrated application source code and binaries, new source and binaries, and anything else you want to archive.

Ensuring Project Success

Astadia's Legacy Modernization practice has more than 25 years of experience migrating legacy applications to modern platforms. Since Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe applications are the mission-critical systems of the enterprise, Astadia goes to great lengths to ensure a thorough and complete project plan is developed for each legacy modernization project we undertake.

Astadia's methodology recognizes the organizational impact that any project of this nature will have on day-to-day operations, as well as the financial and business implications for organizations in both the short and long term. Return on Investment (ROI), and Total Cost of Ownership (TCO), are carefully calculated during this process, and are closely managed throughout the project lifecycle.

Astadia's Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 Mainframe-to-Google Cloud Success Methodology has been refined over the course of 200+ successful legacy migration projects, and has become an industry leading approach for our medium and large-scale Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe clients.

Astadia Unisys Mainframe-to-Google Cloud Platform Success Methodology

Discover

Catalog and analyze all applications, databases, networks, platforms, and processes in the client's portfolio. Document the interrelationships between applications, and all external integration points in the client's configuration. This is a key input to Application Portfolio Management and Application Rationalization.

Design

Astadia's project team analyzes source code, data structures, end-state requirements, and Google Cloud components to design and architect the solution. The design includes details such as types and instances of Google Cloud components, transaction loads, batch requirements, programming language conversions and replacements, integration with external systems, 3rd-party software requirements, and planning for future requirements.

Modernize

Astadia employs an iterative, hybrid process of automated code conversion and human intervention to perform the necessary application changes. The technology behind the automation is Astadia's Rules-Based Transformation Engine. This tool preserves the business logic and rules of the client's legacy applications while removing proprietary code that can only execute in the source environment and not in the Google Cloud. While a minimal-change, lowest-risk approach is employed, some source code or supporting components may be converted to new languages for technical reasons or to comply with client preferences.

Test

Since most Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe-to-Google Cloud projects are typically an as-is migration of applications, testing can focus primarily on two areas: the components that have been changed or replaced, and application performance. For the most part, "parallel" testing is sufficient; that is, the results of operations in the source environment must produce the same values in the target environment, except where differences are expected due to platform changes. For performance testing, the focus is on ensuring

the user experience is as good, or better, than the legacy environment and batch processes completed within acceptable timeframes.

Implement

When migrated applications have been tested, verified, and optimized, the process of deploying those applications may begin. In reality, many deployment activities are initiated in parallel with earlier phases – things like creating and configuring the Google Cloud component instances, installing and configuring mainframe emulation software, migrating static data, and other infrastructure or framework activities. In some cases, environments may be replicated to achieve this, or existing environments may be re-purposed. The specifics of this may depend upon application and data characteristics and client preferences. After dynamic data is migrated and validated, cutover to Production mode can be completed.

Manage

Astadia offers a full range of managed services solutions. Having gained significant application knowledge from the architecting and implementing the Google Cloud solution, Astadia is well suited to take on the burden of managing and maintaining the migrated applications and their Google Cloud environments, or the dual environment in the case of a partial migration. This offers clients an opportunity to focus their development efforts on strategic initiatives as well as address concerns of finding programmers skilled in maintaining the legacy components still in use.

Conclusion

The Google Cloud Platform (GCP) and Astadia combine to create a perfect next generation platform for your Unisys ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 mainframe applications portfolio.

Once the mainframe application set has been fully deployed on the Google Cloud Platform, you will have the freedom to re-engineer traditional applications in to a more contemporary computing style, modernize legacy interfaces and integrate with other applications. In addition, many new services, like mobile and wireless, can be easily connected to the Google Cloud platform, thus enhancing the overall power of your new cloud computing environment. Your investment will serve to support all the needs of your enterprise and the future requirements of your business.

You don't have to tackle this alone. Astadia has the experience, skilled experts and the technology to successfully help you complete Legacy Migration projects of all scopes and sizes.

Astadia would be happy to hear from you about your specific Legacy Migration needs and how we may be of service to you as you prepare to leverage the Google Cloud Platform.

To connect with an Astadia expert, please contact us at:

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