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Why Migrations consultants are best suited for a Migration Project?

Porting and Migration is no piece of cake...

Software Porting and Migration is not an easy task to undertake. Most of the time such migration projects fail due to the lack of expertise and experience of the people involved in the project. Companies that carry out such operations fail to talk to other organizations that have carried out similar projects and mostly get inexperienced people to do the job. They fail to understand that such jobs require help from consultants with significant experience in the field of software porting and migration.

Hiring an experienced migration consultant, who assuming is any good, will have come across most of the problems before and will be able to suggest solutions to technical difficulties in minutes or hours that would otherwise take days or weeks to overcome. A realistic report of this situation can be found [here](#) which says

"It may sound boring and trite, but the one thing which may dictate the success or failure of a whole migration project is the initial planning stage. Before you can embark on a migration (any migration), you must decide the scope of the project."

This is a total contrast to what really people think. The general feeling is that a migration project is not a new product development and hence effort spent on the planning is almost negligible. In reality the migration projects are the projects that need more time and energy in the initial planning and scope stage. If not done properly, chances are that the migration might end up as a failure, resulting in a total loss of cost and time.

The article goes on to say -



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"Whatever the scope of the migration project, before you start (especially if this is the first one you're attempting) bear in mind that however simple the project may seem, and however well prepared you think are it's almost guaranteed problems will crop up.

Chances are, someone else will have had the same problems before. So at the very least, be sure to take full advantage of public support forums, and consider hiring an experienced migration consultant who — assuming he or she is any good — will have come across most of your problems before and will be able to suggest solutions to technical difficulties in minutes or hours that would otherwise take days or weeks to overcome."

The above paragraph pretty much reassures that it's the migration consultants and experts who are the best to deal with your migration needs for a better ROI and for a better CAT (cost and time) efficiency.

Chances are high that most migration projects start off in-house with out any detailed planning or scoping and with an overly underestimated time and cost. When the process starts, and issues start cropping everywhere, people starts realizing that they are back where they begun. Finally it enters the throw box with a label that the migration idea was a bad one and the best developers who were assigned to this project couldn't be wrong. Ultimately the migration project is blamed with a feeling that was probably a bad idea to migrate this legacy application (To migrate or not is a topic of another White Paper which you can download from the same place). This is completely untrue because the real reason behind the failure was that the company did not probably consider the migration as a worthy chore by itself and that it requires all the attention a new project would require. It takes more than just people who have skills that fit the bill.

To back up this conclusion, we can quote another interesting [article](#) in the Redmond magazine shows us why such migration efforts fail with the help of a live example.



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The article brings about few interesting points, which are quoted below:

"Realizing the load the IT staff was already under, the decision was made to hire a number of new IT employees with a short-term contract to carry out this (migration) operation and allot a full year to get the task done.

A failure to appreciate the depth of the changes tainted the undertaking from the very beginning, and the time and budget agreed upon were too small and unrealistic.

The cost of the conversion also ended up being close to three times the original estimate as well.

What should have been done: *Much more planning was needed. The organization needed to talk to other organizations that had carried out similar projects and come up with a realistic budget and timeframe.*

The only time you can bring new help into IT and task them with a job of this magnitude is if those coming in have great experience in the field (migration specialists/consultants, etc.)."

The article is further backed by the [Gartner report](#) on software migration, which says-

"Companies can try and execute the migration on the cheap but can end up spending considerably more in hidden costs and lost productivity."

The same Gartner report says:

"But there are lots of hidden costs that a company might not identify up front when planning the transition".

As pointed by the above report, time and money spent on training an in-house staff and the diversion from regular work can set back a company by a huge amount. In reality, this type of training is non-



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developmental and re-constructive in nature because it takes away time and effort from the company's mainstream/primary work. On the other hand, many companies also fail to identify the hidden costs while planning the transition phase and end up paying more than they expected. Most importantly they ignore the initial planning and go by the acceptance of "horses for courses theory" instead of handing over the migration job to the migration experts.

Conclusion

The migration beast is to be dealt as an end-to-end migration strategy and it is best to bring in or hand over to the experts to do the migration task for you. The planning, scope and the right people are very critical for a success story or there are very high chances that the decision to migrate might backfire on the management.

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