



BACKGROUND

Our client, a payment technology firm, provides payment solutions for over 3.5M businesses. They partner with more than 1300 financial institutions and process over 50B transactions annually. A complex global network of applications and payment gateways has grown over the years as a result of substantial growth through acquisition.

THE PROBLEM

The client inherited a data center via an acquisition that did not meet their enterprise standards. Rather than upgrade the data center, the client planned to close the data center. As a result, business applications and data warehouses needed to be moved safely and securely to a new location. While most of the applications were critical to the long-term support of their customers, several of the applications were near end-of-life and transitioning into maintenance only support. For this transition, there was no interest in the investment required for re-architecting the applications. Instead, the desire was to lift & shift applications from the legacy environment to the new environment quickly to expedite the decommissioning of underlying hardware. In addition, internal end users of the applications were changing locations. Potentially new network connectivity to the applications added an additional complexity. The client sought out Candid's advice and guidance on how best to solve for their data center transition in the most optimal way possible.

THE CANDID SOLUTION

The Candid team performed the following activities in order to develop a recommendation:

- Leveraging our proprietary scoring tool, collected 4,000 data points, conducted a comprehensive assessment of 29 applications (comprised of 380 servers, 37 databases), and determined each application's complexity and business value score. Conducted a platform and pattern disposition to identify a suitable architecture stack to support the applications
- Evaluated each application's infrastructure requirements and consolidated into 4 groups
- Dispositioned each application group to a public cloud platform and suitable architecture pattern that could support the applications
- Developed a logical architecture design for each identified pattern to depict the components of the architecture, including network connectivity options
- Supplied a rough order of magnitude (ROM) migration cost estimate to help the client understand the funding required to complete the migration
- Calculated a ROM on-going cost estimate to run the applications in the cloud, including considerations for licensing, in order to fully understand the long term cost implications
- Defined a migration roadmap and approach to provide a timeline and resource commitments to complete the migration

RESULTS

Based on our assessment and associated activities, Candid was able to provide the following:

- Application prioritization based on complexity and business value. This information will serve as input for the client to establish their application migration backlog, prioritized to minimize risk and maximize business value.
- Based on the client's appetite and preference, Candid was able to identify the platforms and patterns best suited to support their applications and business goals.
- With consideration of the client's business goals, Candid was able to provide timing, resource and cost estimates to complete the migration project and advise on data center shut down activities.
- For each identified pattern, Candid provided a future-state logical architecture diagram and provided recommendations for enterprise network connectivity that met both their short and long-term goals.

With the above information, the client was able to submit a business case to migrate the applications to the public cloud and gain approvals from IT and Finance.