

Application Discovery with Txture

Technical Brief

Txture is a cloud transformation and continuous modernization software for system integrators, enterprise architects and the Cloud Center of Excellence. Our software Txture Cloud Transformation (CT) helps you to save costs, reduce risks and speed up complex cloud transformation projects. By automating assessment and 6R decisions, comparing cloud target architectures and facilitating migration wave planning, Txture drives your cloud transformation from beginning to end.



The Discovery Phase

In the early assessment phases of a new (potential) cloud transformation project consultants are often faced with the same set of challenges: Agent-based discovery is not an option due to client policies, the data quality of CMDB or EAM systems is often poor and time-consuming information collection from application owners via excel sheets or email may be necessary. The “Discovery” phase within Txture CT offers extensive functionalities for agentless data collection, gathering all necessary application and infrastructure data to provide a fast, as well as a continuous overview of the hybrid cloud IT landscape. This is achieved by a large set of automated data integration mechanisms and an integrated and scalable survey tool to crowdsource information. Txture guides you in this important phase by reporting on each application’s data completeness and possible minor or major data completeness problems.

Txture supports agentless data collection to provide a fast overview of a hybrid cloud IT landscape in early assessment phases.

Data Collection Sources

Txture collects data from your on-premise application and infrastructure landscape from diverse data sources, such as virtualization environments, existing EAM tools, monitoring systems and vendor specific sources. This saves your team valuable time and money collecting the necessary data to derive the right cloud migration decision.

Data is collected about:



The application itself



The technological infrastructure



Interfaces between applications



Data processed by the application



Business processes supported by the application

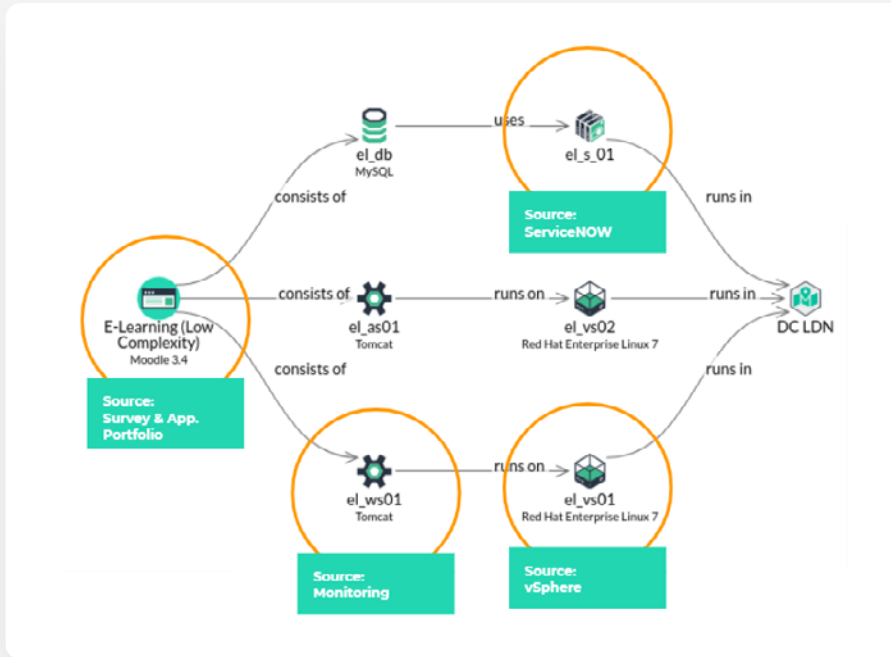


Figure 1: Shows a deployment stack and indicates the data source for some of the components. For instance, the data of storage component „el_s_01“ came from the connected data source „ServiceNOW“.

Integrating Existing in-house Data Silos

Txture CT enables you to integrate with existing in-house data silos such as SQL databases, any services that expose a REST-API, and or Active Directory/LDAP. This allows you to make use of existing architectural knowledge in your organization. There is a list of all [Generic Data Sources](#) available in the documentation. A powerful ETL layer is provided to facilitate the data import.

Crowdsourcing Data via Surveys

Since not all data that is necessary, e.g. for cloud assessments, can be collected automatically, Txture provides an integrated [survey tool](#) that is used to crowdsource information. These surveys allow direct interaction with application owners and other key stakeholders to receive additionally required information first hand. This feature is particularly useful when there is time pressure and information is widely distributed across several stakeholders. From the survey tool within Txture an email is sent out to all application owners who proceed to the survey wizard via a link. The data entered is directly saved in the Txture platform.

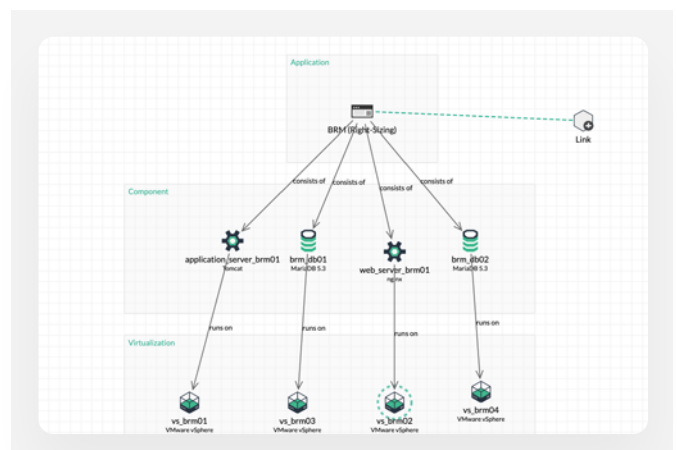
Saves your team valuable time and money collecting the necessary data to derive the right cloud migration decision.

Integrating Vendor-Specific Data Sources

Txture provides a wide range of connectors to standard data sources such as cloud provider APIs, CMDBs (ServiceNOW, i-doit), EAM Tools (LeanIX), virtualization environments (VMware, RHEV, HyperV) and well-known infrastructure discovery tools. These are pre-mapped to Txture's data model. Here is a list of all [Vendor-specific Data Sources](#).

Architectural Modeling

Txture also provides the option for manual data management in both graphical and form-based ways. Particularly, fine tuning and the connection of architectural elements can be done in Txture's visio-style modeling view.



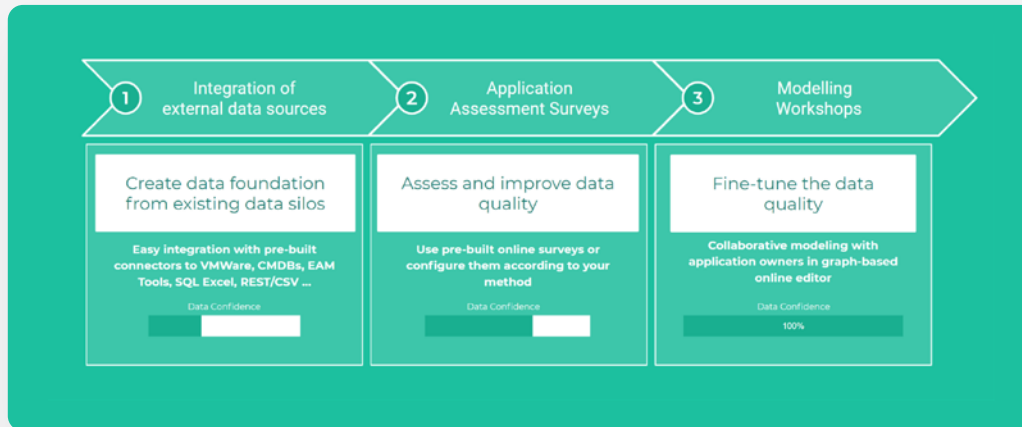


Figure 2: Activities and data flow for calculating cloud application target architecture proposals. For information about greyed out parts have a look at the technical brief on Txture’s “Cloud Readiness Assessment”.

Data Collection Process

Combining the data collection options listed above will save time, effort and the number of project staff required during the application discovery phase. Generally, the data collection process should always start with an attempt for full automation to create a solid data foundation from existing data silos. The use of surveys to crowd-source information is recommended as a next step, if application information is not provided or the data quality is poor. Finally, together with application owners, fine-tuning of the data can be carried out in the online modeling editor. The last step is often not required, as the previous methods deliver sufficient data quality.

Data collection methods can be scheduled recurrently in order to acknowledge changes of data in master data sources like a CMDB or virtualization environment, but also to remind survey respondents to assist with missing data.

Further Data Processing

All collected data is mapped to the internal data model of Txture, which is called Structure. The Structure is the schema for the data in your Txture instance. It defines which types of assets and links exist, what their properties are and how they are grouped together. While there is a minimal Structure required for cloud transformation projects, the Structure can be freely expanded as required by a project. Txture performs a thorough data completeness analysis to ensure that data quality is held high, and thus well-founded cloud migration decisions can be derived. In the next phase the applications are analyzed in terms of cloud readiness, cloud risk and cloud benefit based on the collected data. Read our [Technical Brief Cloud Readiness Assessment](#) with Txture for more information.

Key Takeaways for Application Discovery in Txture CT

- Txture CT supports agentless data collection to provide a fast overview of a hybrid cloud IT landscape in early assessment phases.
- Data is collected about the application itself, technological infrastructure, interfaces, data processed and business processes supported by the application
- The sources for data collection can be existing in-house data silos, vendor-specific data sources, crowdsourced data via surveys and architectural modeling.
- The data collection process should always start with an attempt for full automation.
- All collected data is mapped to the internal data model in Txture and can be further analyzed in terms of cloud readiness, cloud risk, and cloud benefit.

Do you want more info about Application Discovery with Txture?

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Get in touch!