

IT Application Data Collection

Technical Brief

Texture is a cloud transformation and continuous modernization software for system integrators, enterprise architects and the Cloud Center of Excellence. Our software Texture Cloud Transformation 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, Texture drives your cloud transformation from beginning to end.



The Data Collection 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 “Data Collection” phase within Texture offers extensive functionalities for agentless data collection to gather all necessary application and infrastructure data to provide a fast, as well as continuous overview of a 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. Texture guides you in this important phase by reporting on each application’s data completeness and possible minor or major data completeness problems.

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

Data Collection Sources

Texture collects data about your current application portfolio from generic data sources, as well as vendor-specific data sources:

- **Generic sources** (http, file upload, text file, SQL, etc.)
- **CMDBs** (ServiceNow, i-doit, etc.)
- **Application portfolio management and EAM tools**
- **Infrastructure discovery solutions** (Movere, Stratozone, Cloudscape, etc.)
- **Virtualization environments** (VMware, RHEV, HyperV, etc.)
- **Cloud providers' APIs** (Google Cloud, AWS, Azure, etc.)

Data is collected about: the application itself, the technological infrastructure, interfaces between apps, data processed by the application, and business processes that are supported by the application.

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

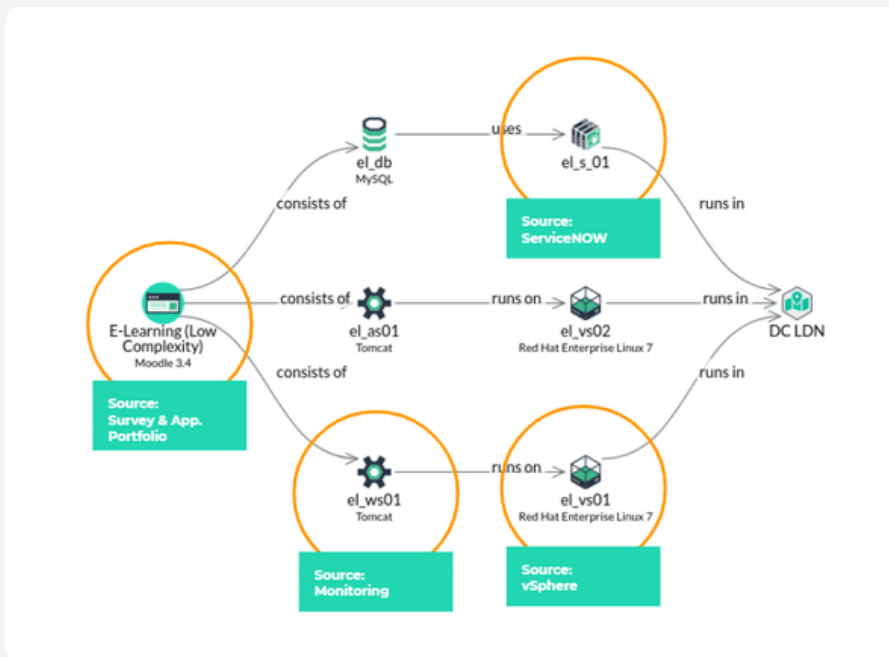
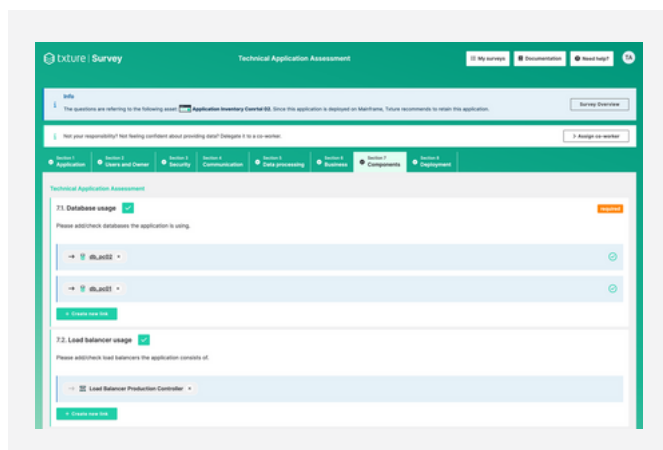


Figure 1: Shows a deployment stack and indicates the data source for some of the components. For instance, the data of storage component „el_s_01“ came from the connected data source „ServiceNOW“.

Crowdsourcing Data via Surveys

Since not all necessary data 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.

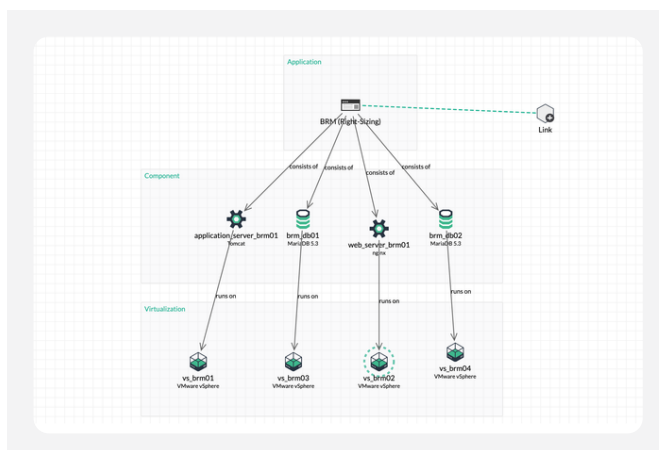


Integrating Existing in-house Data Silos

Txture enables you to integrate with existing in-house data silos such as SQL databases, any services that expose a REST-API or Active Directory. This allows you to make use of existing architectural knowledge in your organization. There's a list of all generic data sources available in the documentation. A powerful ETL layer is provided to facilitate the data import.

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.



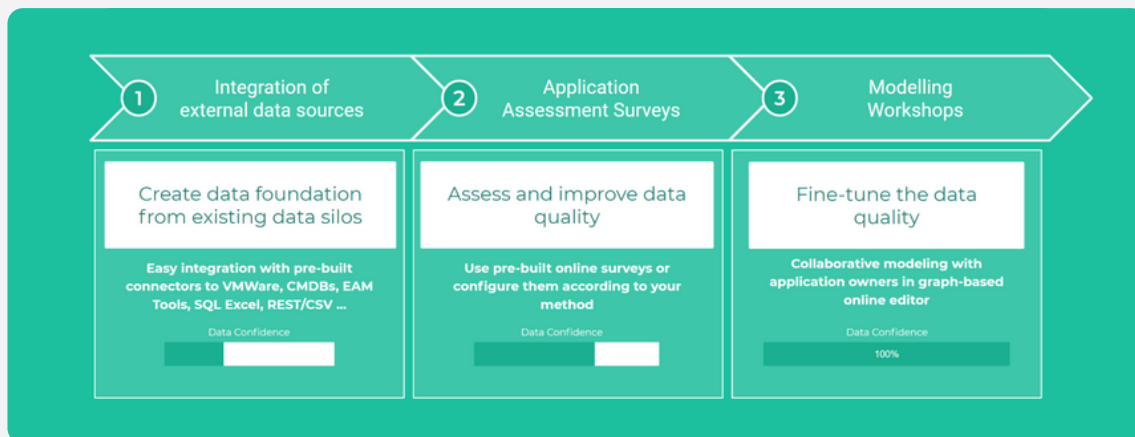


Figure 2: Activities and data flow for calculating cloud application target architecture proposals. For information about greyed out parts have a look at the technical brief on Txture's "Cloud Readiness Assessment".

Enhancement with Txture data

Another way to enhance data quality is to add information using the extended cloud knowledge base of Txture. Based on an identified technology or cloud service, information can be added about, for instance: the end of support date, the compliance certifications, the carbon footprint, and much more.

Data Collection Process

Using and combining the above mentioned data collection options maximizes the savings of time, effort, and required project staff during the data collection phase. Generally, the process should always start with an attempt for full automation to create a solid data foundation from existing data silos.

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, called Structure. The Structure 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. With a thorough data completeness analysis it can be ensured that data quality is held high.

This initial phase serves as a foundation for the whole cloud migration process. Applications can be analyzed in terms of cloud readiness, cloud risk and cloud benefit based on the collected data. The data also helps to create and compare cloud target architecture options, and to report on the migration progress to every stakeholder of the project.

Next steps with Txture

Application Assessment

[Read more](#)

Cloud Target Architecture

[Read more](#)

Key Takeaways for Application Data Collection in Txture

- Agentless data collection to provide a fast overview of a hybrid cloud IT landscape in early assessment phases.
- Data collected about the technological infrastructure, interfaces, data processed and supported business processes
- Data ingestion from in-house data silos, vendor-specific data sources, and crowdsourced data via surveys
- 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 Data Collection with Txture?

Just get in touch with us!

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Get in touch!