

# Data Centre Optimisation

# ultima

The data centre is the brain of business operations. It typically follows the traditional IT lifecycle of strategic and tactical investment, growing organically in line with the needs of the business. On occasion it evolves rapidly following periods of mergers and acquisitions.

This level of change can leave your organisation with a mismatch of services and platforms which do not integrate well or are duplicated across a number of application groups or functions.

Over time, different teams and even shadow IT can leave your data centre environment with many siloed applications, duplicate services and no clear strategic roadmap.

Operating systems, applications and infrastructure eventually reach the end of their serviceable life and must be replaced. This results in periods of instability and elevated risk, and in many cases has implications on business operations, security and compliance.

As a result of these compound layers of complexity IT teams often struggle to respond to current and future business requirements in a timely manner, as the underlying platform does not support or integrate with new technologies.

Running older style data centres can be time consuming, as many, if not all common management tasks are conducted manually. These inefficiencies lead to additional cost, introduce errors and put pressure on service levels.

Disparate application stacks and operating systems versions

Minimal self-service or automated workflows

Slow deployment or management processes

No total cost of ownership (TCO), charge back or show back

Lack of high availability, disaster recovery or SLA based service

Complex and sprawling systems in multiple locations and platforms

Limited scaling and constricted growth options

Inflexible systems running legacy apps and platforms

Fragmented management and monitoring platforms

Limited or unknown security posture and non-compliance

## Ultima's Approach to Optimisation

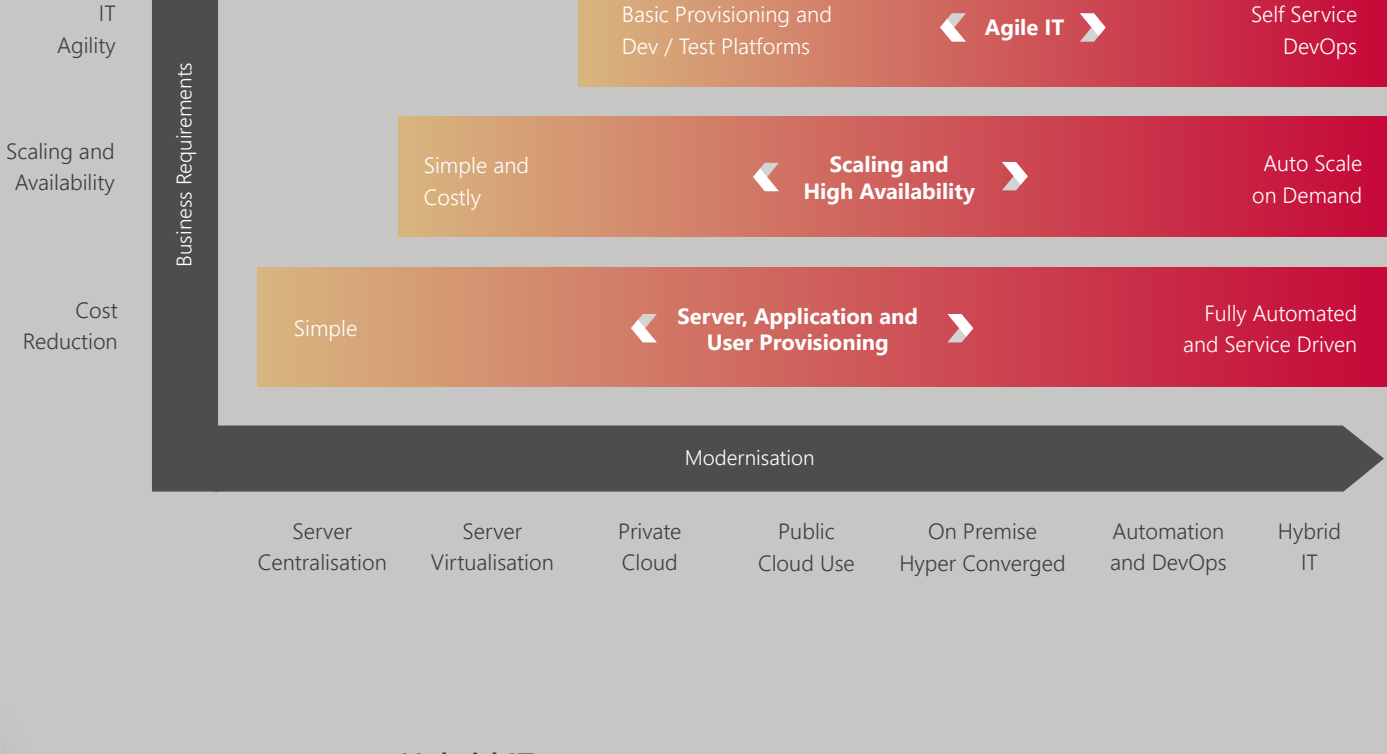
One of the initial goals of Ultima's data centre optimisation methodology is to assess the current level of maturity, across hybrid IT, protection and security, and modern applications. Once this is understood, we identify a desired state and build a gap analysis highlighting the areas of people, process and technology to invest in for better alignment with your emerging business requirements.

Our aim is to help you progress along the maturity curve, away from a basic operation with static, manual processes and unconnected systems, to one which is more a rationalised or dynamic.

By taking advantage of technologies that help automate processes, create bridges between systems and provide comprehensive and unified management,

we can help you move towards a more secure, optimised and effective state.

Our specialists are tasked with defining a transformation plan which will help you advance along the maturity curve at a logical, measurable and achievable pace. Through optimisation, your organisation can realise dramatic cost savings and increase overall business value.



### Hybrid IT

Starting with consolidation and virtualisation of workloads, we can provide migration improvements, uplift operating systems and even deliver additional density. Infrastructure as a service platforms can offer greater agility and burstable capacity, while on premise improvements provide overflow for test / dev, seasonal and unpredictable workloads.

Developments in storage technologies allow for tighter integration within your

virtual estate and provide compression and de-duplication capabilities, offering greater efficiencies, reduced foot print and TCO. We can also look at unified management and monitoring tools for on premise and multi-cloud environments, giving you visibility of your estate within a single viewpoint.

Finally, Ultima can provide all the convergence for your networking services, enabling cloud and external connectivity to be interconnected and available throughout your network.

### Protection and Security

Securing your workloads no matter where they are can present significant issues. Ultima can help you adopt a mixture of physical, virtual and cloud-based security gateways to extend protection throughout your domain.

By understanding data flow and interactions between both on premise and cloud systems, we can help you implement solutions to guard against cyber threats, protect data and critical services, and maintain compliance.

In addition, we can help you adopt a hybrid backup solution, delivering the same coverage regardless of whether the work-loads reside in your own data centre or the cloud. Furthermore, by using a cost-effective disaster recovery as a service, systems protected in one location can be resurrected into any other platform.

This "one solution - any platform" methodology provides consistency and flexibility throughout all your data hosting environments.

### Modern Applications

Cloud application re-architecture helps to reduce complexity and drives down operating costs. Ultima can help you architect, develop, migrate and deploy applications as cloud native services.

We can help development teams move to a DevOps model, utilising the most appropriate methodologies (e.g. Agile, SCRUM and Kanban), tools and control systems. This helps increase innovation,

streamlines releases and reduces time to market through continuous delivery.

With regards to data services, moving Microsoft SQL onto an on premise core licensed platform or utilising Microsoft Azure elastic pools or stretch databases can result in dramatic cost savings. Similarly, porting web apps into the cloud can be far more cost effective. By cloud-enabling your data centre, you can begin leveraging the Internet of Things, global content delivery networks, Hadoop, data lakes and WebApi integration.

## The Four Step Process

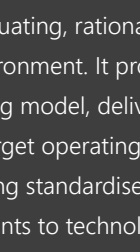
It is important to take a strategic approach to optimisation, where the estate is profiled prior to being migrated to a modern platform. A typical engagement leverage's Ultima's four stage methodology, coupled with architectural best practices.



## Getting Started


Whether you are operating out of an on premise server room, a third party data centre or a cloud service provider - or a combination of all three - ensuring that you are able to rely upon modern networking, storage, compute, security, backup, DR and management platforms is essential. We recognise that as organisations evolve, IT need to keep pace by continually offering robust, protected, efficient and highly scalable services to their employees, customer and partners, without being the blocker to growth and innovation. Ultima has developed tactical and strategic data centre-related engagements, aimed at helping organisations get to grips with the challenges presented by modern business operations and practices.

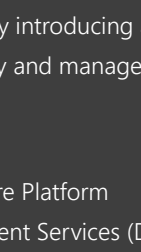
Our optimisation engagements will help equip your business with the tools to become service brokers for your own organisation, delivering everything from shared, virtualised pools of IT resources, to the kind of automation and control that you'd expect from a hybrid IT model. They will help you regain control over the farthest reaches of your data centre environment and lay the foundations for the next generation of applications and workloads.



### Data Centre Advisory Service

Ultima's data centre optimisation methodology is a flexible consulting framework designed to address the complexities of evaluating, rationalising and optimising your data centre environment. It provides a holistic view of your current operating model, delivering a transformation path to a modern, target operating model. It achieves this by defining and using standardised scenarios that map business requirements to technology solutions, taking references from the Gartner Infrastructure Optimisation model and Ultima deployment best practice.






### Companion Services

Ultima provides a range of additional offerings within the following areas. These are designed to extend your existing data centre, by introducing additional capacity, scalability, functionality and management capabilities.

- Unified Storage
- Cloud Data Centre Platform
- Cloud Development Services (DevOps)
- Cloud Application Architecture
- Unified Management



## Additional Transformation Services

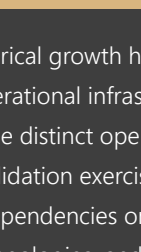
In addition to our optimisation services, Ultima provides a number of wide scale transformation activities. These engagements range from root and branch restructuring and consolidation of multiple environments in order to reduce your operational footprint, to the ingestion and rationalisation of entire data centre environments as a result of mergers or acquisitions.



### Mergers and Acquisitions


Ultima maintains a comprehensive ten stage approach that integrates with established business acquisition models to give you a repeatable model for acquisition and integration cycles. It utilises trusted migration paths in order to ingest teams, workloads, infrastructure and processes quickly, optimally and with reduced risk. Our Modern Data Centre specialists can help you with every step of the transformation process, from initial due diligence and service mapping, to leadership throughout the integration and optimisation stages.





### Data Centre Consolidation

In many cases, historical growth has led to IT having to maintain silos of operational infrastructure and systems, often across multiple distinct operating companies. By undertaking a consolidation exercise, we can profile your IT estate and its dependencies on people, processes, applications and technologies, and deliver demonstrable cost and efficiency savings. By bringing together disparate services within one or more data centres or through the implementation of a shared services platform, we can help unify previously disconnected systems.



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## Who Are We?

Between changes in regulations and compliance, scalability issues, pressure on service levels, shifts in customer demand, constraints on resources and the emergence of dynamic working practices, we recognise how hard it is to maintain a competitive advantage whilst providing for every eventuality. Through our Modern Data Centre practice, Ultima meet these challenges head on, providing a contingent of industry and technology experts. Our principle goal is to help you regain control over your IT estate and provide a foundation for innovation and growth.

Every day, we help organisations design, develop, implement and manage cost-effective mixed-vendor data centre solutions, which harness the power of hybrid IT. Customers rely on our specialists to help simplify their IT environments, while ensuring that they remain secured and protected. Finally, through the adoption of highly scalable cloud-native applications and as a result of investing in modern development and re-architecture practices, we liberate companies, helping them to become more dynamic and offer enhanced services at a fraction of the cost.



### Certified Optimisation Experts

Our specialists can simplify your journey to a more dynamic data centre, plugging knowledge and experience gaps.



### Tried and Tested Methodology

Whether you are looking to optimise or transform your environment, our framework will set you on the right path.



### Strong Relationships

We maintain both strategic and technical relationships with many of the leading data centre, hardware, software and cloud providers.



### Vision and Leadership

Our architects and consultants are able to support strategic business imperatives and become a trusted technology advisor.



### Flexible Managed Services

Our UK-based ITIL-aligned 24x7 technical support centre is able to monitor and manage your optimised hybrid IT environment.



### Connected Services

Gain access to the Ultima ecosystem, linking associated engagements from across the data centre and beyond.