

Data Center Migrations



Migrating a data center is a complex process, with many critical business goals and objectives riding on its success. TDS has migrated over one million workloads and 250,000 applications - without any unplanned service disruption.

We built the TransitionManager software to plan, manage and accelerate complex migrations where there is no room for error. Our SaaS platform enables IT organizations to gain insight into hybrid environments, the ability to collaboratively plan across business silos, and to orchestrate multiple, concurrent, complex workflows while eliminating risk from the process. Whether you're moving a data center, consolidating your environment, migrating to the cloud, or a combination of these or other projects, your team needs TransitionManager to help you get there faster. Effectively. Efficiently. Flawlessly.

Driving digital transformation

Organizations have become increasingly dependent upon their IT team to drive digital transformation which deliver on strategic business goals. As a result, the traditional data center is rapidly evolving into a distributed digital infrastructure with compute capability on-prem, in the cloud, and at the edge, available whenever and wherever it best enables business.

IT must accelerate their pace of adopting new technologies and hosting options, while at the same time, ensure that their existing infrastructure and critical legacy applications are always available.

Moving critical applications, databases, storage devices, networks, and servers that run the business can be formidable. Most organizations lack staff with expertise or prior experience with migrations, and many don't have a plan or even know how to start such a project. Planning for a migration can generate tension, apprehension, and even fear at multiple levels across organizations.

But it doesn't have to be that way.

This brief explains how organizations can execute large scale, complex migrations with no unplanned disruption to business, and highlights how TransitionManager is uniquely designed to

Today, 80% of IT assets are on-prem applications and data, 20% are cloud workloads

By 2025, 80% of enterprises will have shut down their data centers.

Business will value Data Center Services more than its physical systems as IT moves beyond the IT department

simplify and accelerate this process.

Managing Complex Change with TransitionManager

A successful migration is one that is delivered on time, within budget and without disruption to business. TransitionManager was built by TDS migration practitioners to plan, manage, and accelerate the execution of complex change while eliminating risk from the process. It does this in three key ways:

1. Provides insight into your environment

TransitionManager automates data ingestion and aggregation. Its ETL engine normalizes data from across the enterprise, consolidating it into an internal repository that can be displayed in multiple formats including a visual, interactive map. This powerful visualization enables IT and project teams to quickly and easily gain insight and a deep understanding of how assets are related across hybrid environments. And an unlimited number of users can collaborate across IT and business units to ensure that business facts, constraints, and requirements are visible during the decision-making process.

2. Orchestrates complex execution

With its automated, dynamically generated runbooks, TransitionManager coordinates the precise sequence of both automated and human tasks and orchestrates simple to highly complex workflows with multiple concurrent streams. The ability to coordinate all tasks, both human and automated, ensures that the right task occurs at the right time, eliminating risk during execution. Flexible dashboards and in-product messaging provide stakeholders with a customized view of the data they need to track, when they need it.

3. Integrates with the tools you already have

TransitionManager is an extensible and flexible platform that can integrate directly with other systems in your environment. IT can model and automate critical business processes and accelerate your ability to manage the change you need to make every day. TransitionManager acts as your integration hub, enabling IT to create a custom-built toolchain of your enterprise products to make them work together.

While automated tools increase productivity, they don't interact with other products and the data they access and manage is siloed. TransitionManager unleashes this data, orchestrating its flow across your toolchain, enabling IT to automate processes by leveraging data across different tools.

Gain insight into your environment

Most IT organizations use three or more different systems to store data about IT environments and their assets, including CMDBs, DCIMs, ITSAM solutions as well as databases. Business units often maintain their own servers with a database to track their department data or keep critical information about their applications in file systems – or even stored as tribal knowledge that walks out the door when employees leave the company. To make good decisions, IT must be access data that is actionable; it must be accurate, comprehensive, current, and normalized.

Automated Data Ingestion and Extract-Transform-Load (ETL) Engine

TransitionManager aggregates data from multiple systems across IT and business units. Users can enter data manually or teams can automate data ingestion using file import, or direct API integration with market leading data sources. TransitionManager can ingest data from any database export, including home-grown systems, as well as Excel files.

Its ETL engine filters out the noise, extracting only relevant data points that are needed by the project team. Data is cleansed, normalized, and de-duped so project teams can focus.

Consolidated View

The biggest roadblock most organizations face when they get stuck during the planning phase of a cloud or data center migration is that they don't know what to do or how to make change – because they cannot confidently predict which assets are tied together and what systems will be affected if assets are moved. TransitionManager eliminates this problem.

Once data is aggregated and normalized, it is stored in TransitionManager. Users across project teams can access this consistent set of data and view it in multiple formats. During a migration, it's too easy to bring down critical business services by moving a group of assets without understanding what other applications, servers, and services they are connected to. TransitionManager provides users with a detailed, visual map of all applications and the resources they depend on so that teams can understand these complex relationships, and make better decisions when planning a cloud migration, data center consolidation, technology refresh or any number of critical decisions that IT makes on a daily basis.

This application-level focus is the key to understanding IT environments, and to successfully implementing a data center migration—or any type of IT transformation.

Collaborative Analysis and Planning

Unlike traditional project management tools, TransitionManager was specifically designed to support IT transformation projects and enable collaboration across teams. Every user has access to a consistent view of data that is aggregated and normalized from across the enterprise, do analysis, planning, and decision making is more accurate and reliable. TransitionManager

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minimizes disruption to IT and business staff by reducing the time spent in meetings and maximizing efficiency across all stages of a migration project.

IT and business teams work better together with TransitionManager because it improves knowledge and fosters trust through transparency. Teams make better decisions when they understand each application, what its dependencies are, and its criticality to business with an understanding of the priorities and requirements for each business unit and how these affect assets.

For example, some departments have strict compliance requirements about how physical assets must be handled, others may have peak times of operation where a migration of physical or virtual servers would cause disruption to business. TransitionManager makes it easy to capture this data and track it with over 90 custom fields as well as tags.

Some other information teams may need to track include:

- Regulatory compliance
- Software EOL dates
- PCI, GDPR data
- App Latency
- Financial data
- Legal holds
- Security requirements
- Criticality to business

Users can save frequently used queries and reporting. They can also visualize the data in different graph formats to rapidly identify potential conflicts or unexpected dependencies, such as criticality mismatches where tier 2 applications share a database with tier 1 applications. As a result, overall project planning is accelerated, and in the process, IT is able to resolve conflicts, identify gaps, and build a more resilient environment overall.

TransitionManager's built-in intelligence solves one of the biggest challenges of planning a complex migration: defining the groups of assets that should move together. Its least-cuts algorithm recommends the most efficient way to migrate -- in the fewest number of moves possible.

With TransitionManager, template-based runbooks produce workflows that define the specific sequence of human and automated tasks to execute when moving assets, virtually eliminating risk. Project teams typically verify the steps of each runbook with walk-thru or table-top practice migration exercises and modify tasks if needed. Each team

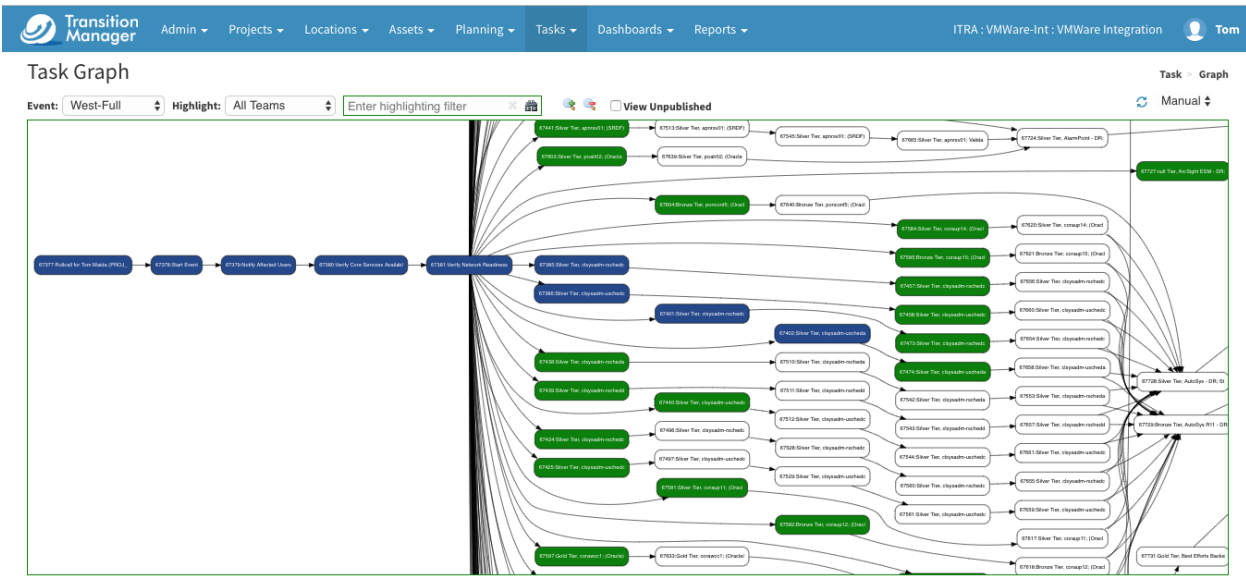
- TransitionManager accelerates data center migrations an average of **40%**.
- Customers see a **50%** reduction in the number of migration events.
- They report a **40%** decrease in total project labor costs
- And **25%** lower execution costs

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member monitors their specific tasks and areas of responsibility using the real time task graphs and dashboards in TransitionManager as if the event were live.

Runbooks can be generated dynamically based on the most current data in the TransitionManager repository. This means that it will build the properly sequenced workflow to account for all current application dependencies and business requirements as they exist at the time of generation. All activities are monitored and tracked right in TransitionManager through different dashboards, reports, and task management graphs and charts.

Activities for t-minus planning, or the days leading up to the actual migration event, are all part of runbook workflows, and are tracked just like the actual execution of migration events through TransitionManager's task graphs and dashboards.



Task Graph – all tasks and their current status in existing event

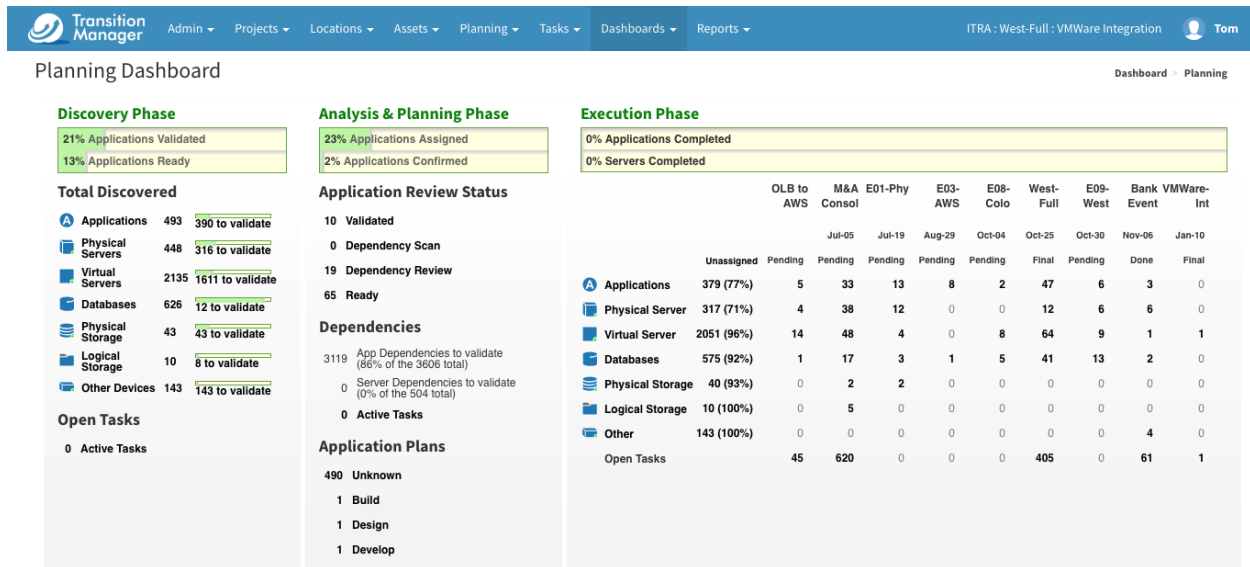
Executives can monitor overall project progress and quickly identify the percentage of assets moved and move events completed. Team members monitor their own tasks in the real-time charts; these show only their specific activities, and tasks only become 'active' and available for action when all previous tasks have been marked as complete, either by a human or through an automated event. Teams can even add another layer to require a human confirms the completion of an automated task After each move event is complete, teams can compare the estimated and actual times for each task and for the event overall; this data can be used to adjust planning for future moves.

One of the most powerful features of TransitionManager is its ability to manage last-minute

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schedule changes, fixing mistakes in asset assignment, or adding newly found applications.

After updating data in TransitionManager, runbooks are simply regenerated, and all changes are incorporated. It's really that simple. Companies that manage their migration projects using spreadsheets simply cannot rapidly respond to any type of change once runbooks are developed, often resulting in delays that may take months to reconcile without a platform like TransitionManager.



Dashboard – keeping everyone informed of all tasks and their current status

Post-migration activities

After the migration is complete, teams often hold a meeting or workshop to review lessons learned. TransitionManager provides an accurate record of all activity that occurred – all tasks, all team member activity, the size of each move event. When evaluating the process, this data can identify patterns with activities, teams, assets, and provide insight into areas where they may have been delays or accelerated completion times.

Runbooks are extensible and reusable for disaster recovery or major incident management when it's critical to quickly restore service to applications during an unplanned outage or breach. In essence, a data center migration is a planned disaster recovery event; in both situations, assets that were once running at one site must be returned to full operation at another site, in a specific order without any disruption to business.

Frequently, teams will create disaster recovery runbooks in parallel to their migration event planning as they are already doing the critical analysis and planning required to shut down and

restore service to applications.

Key TransitionManager Benefits



Make better, faster decisions.

With TransitionManager, all members of a project team have access to a consistent view of actionable data – fresh data that is normalized, aggregated data from disparate sources. All users can view IT assets and their interdependencies on an interactive map, and make queries in grid format for faster, accurate decision making.



Drive operational efficiency

TransitionManager orchestrates the sequence of human and automated tasks, virtually eliminating risk during execution. It frees your IT resources from time-consuming, manual processes. IT staff can focus on innovation and improving service levels.



Maximize ROI

TransitionManager gets more value out of your existing investment in tools across IT. It leverages data captured from disparate tools, exposes it during the analysis and planning stage, and passes it to automated transport tools. Create your own tool chain with TransitionManager as your integration hub and get more out of the expertise and tools you already have.

TransitionManager ties together all the disparate products across the enterprise, delivers collaborative cross-silo access to data, and orchestrates interactions of people and technology.

Want to learn more? [Get the guide to preparing for a successful data center migration.](#)

Sign up for our monthly demo webinar.

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