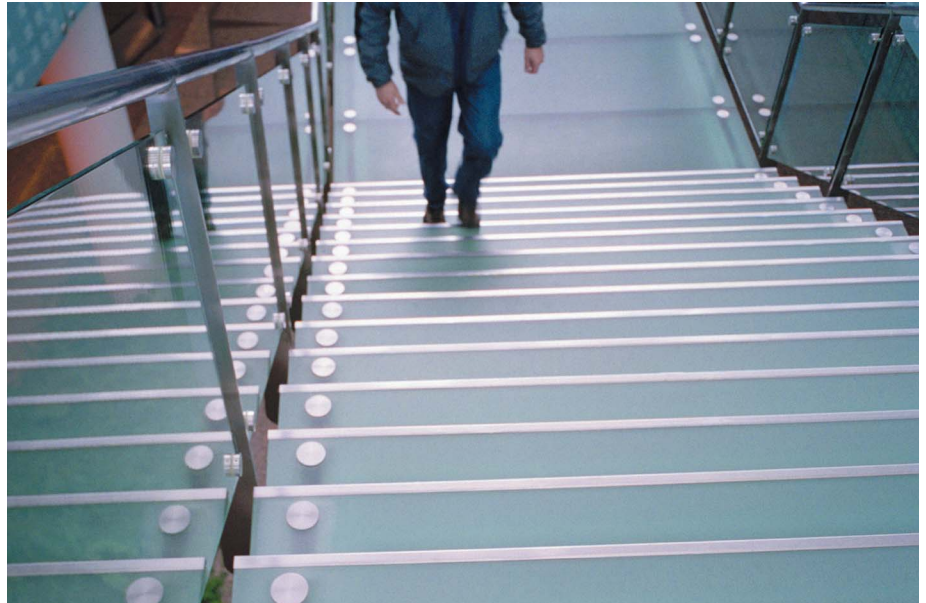


Transition Considerations

HP e3000 Business Servers



“What are my next steps?”

For over 30 years the HP e3000 has been a solid platform for running business applications. HP has always strived to make the HP e3000 a well-respected machine that did its job exceedingly well. In 2001, after a very long product run (at least in the computer industry), HP began advising customers to plan for transitions to other HP platforms, as the HP e3000 product line would end its HP support life by the end of 2006. As part of a team responsible for one or more HP e3000's, you are probably asking, “What are my next steps?”.

As you know, sales of new HP e3000 systems ended on October 31, 2003. Upgrades and used e3000 servers are still available for purchase on the open market—for instance, from a reseller such as Client Systems (Phoenix 3000). HP will continue to provide contract support for most current HP e3000 hardware and the MPE/iX operating system until at least December 31, 2010.

For general information regarding the HP e3000, please reference the HP e3000 transition website (<http://www.hp.com/go/e3000>) as a primary resource. It contains useful reference material in the areas of products, partners, services, and related resources. These web pages provide links to transition training, tools/services providers, and case studies about successful e3000 customer transitions. For instance, HP's server and storage roadmaps outline recent enhancements that have occurred and support matrices also list end-of-support dates for every HP e3000 model. Please feel free to contact your HP support or sales representative to discuss specific business needs within your company that are not met by HP's end-of-support roadmap for the e3000.

By now, you should be developing—and soon implementing—your organization's short-term and long-term plans regarding your remaining HP e3000 applications.

Recommended first steps

This paper is designed to suggest a framework for the “first steps” that your company could take in beginning the transition process. As work progresses, upper management, your user community, and IT may need to stay updated on the evolving status of HP e3000 transition options. Representatives of all affected areas should understand the situation and be involved in planning the next steps, including an understanding of how your company’s business drivers may affect the decisions that lie ahead.

Next, you should inventory your HP e3000 environment, because it will be useful going forward to document what you have. (See the checklist at the end of this document for a detailed inventory template.) Documenting your environment helps establish the size, complexity and features of your current environment. You can then use the guidelines below to help you evaluate your company’s different options. Once you understand where you are today, you are better prepared to establish where you want to go in the future. If you have more than one application on the HP e3000, you may have to go down more than one path. HP has services to help you with this inventory, if desired.

From the inventory, you know what hardware and operating system versions you have. Review this information against the Roadmap and “End of Support” listings on our website. You may decide to update your hardware and operating system to a more recent version to take advantage of the full support life of the HP e3000. If necessary, the HP-authorized reseller Phoenix 3000 or HP Support can help you address these needs.

Contact your application provider

If the application you are running on the HP e3000 is provided and supported by an Independent Software Vendor (ISV), contact them to understand their plans. Your ISV is the best source for options and strategies for migrating their application; they are able to leverage their expertise across their entire customer base. Depending on the ISV, there are different options they can offer. They may have versions of your application that run on other platforms, such as Windows, Linux or HP-UX. They may have access to new applications that you could move to. Perhaps your ISV will work out a partnership with another ISV that offers an application you can move to. They may supply tools and services to make the migration easier. There may be financial

incentives to follow the IV lead. Your company’s management will need to decide whether the IV strategy is right for your company. If it’s not, you still have other options available.

You have options

If you are running an application that your company developed in-house, or if no third party supports your application, or if you want to take this opportunity to implement a new solution that can better support your business, you have a variety of options available to you.

Replace it

When you have to make changes to your application environment, it is always smart to look at off-the-shelf applications. There is a good possibility that an existing application will fit your wants and needs. A new application is probably the fastest and easiest way to get the up-to-date features you want while moving off the HP e3000. Finding applications with satisfactory features requires some looking around. Talk to your colleagues in other companies. Read trade magazines, join trade organizations, and search the Internet. The website <http://www.hp.com/dspp> contains pointers to most of the packaged applications available on HP platforms such as HP-UX servers (HP Integrity and HP 9000).

When looking for a new application, you can consider other options besides purchasing it. For instance, perhaps you could access it through an ASP (Application Service Provider). An ASP allows you to use an application without having to buy it or manage the IT resources to run it. Different pricing models exist, but a common one is the utility model, where you pay on a contract basis for what you use. The ASP model had a lot of initial excitement, but the demise of many dot-coms has slowed the roll out. According to industry watchers, ASPs are going to continue to gain in acceptance and be a growing segment in the next few years.

Move it

If you really like your current application, you could move it to another platform. With varying levels of transparency, your application can be re-hosted. HP has developed a series of White Papers that will help you to migrate your application. Additionally, there are third-party tools that can help you convert your application. Some tools try to preserve the MPE/iX look and feel. Others try to move you to the new platform and expose you to the look and feel of the new environment. There are service organizations, such as HP Services, that will take your application and convert it for you.

Another source of migration help can be found in the suppliers of your development tools. Most 4GLs run on multiple platforms, and the 4GL suppliers can help you migrate. If your applications are COBOL based, HP has been working with third-party COBOL compiler suppliers to provide a migration path. Not all languages available on the HP e3000 are available on other platforms; for those not available, there are services that can translate your code to another language. When you are migrating, you need to decide whether you want to have a straight re-hosting or whether you want to change any of the components, such as the user interface or database technology.

Many of the technologies available on the HP e3000 are not directly available on other platforms. HP is working with channel partners to provide replacement or substitution technology when possible. Tools are available that can convert HP e3000 technologies to technologies on other HP platforms. Check the website <http://www.hp.com/go/e3000partners> to see the latest channel partner offerings.

Rewrite it

If there is nothing on the market that meets your needs and if your current application is limited or outdated, then you can consider writing a new application. New and powerful development tools that use the latest technologies (such as Java, J2EE and XML) can aid in getting your application out quickly. Developing a new application requires good planning and organization as well as good technology and technologists. Most organizations that have been running an established application for years do not have the staffing required to develop an application of similar scope. Writing a new application should not be attempted without fully understanding the challenges of the task. Although it can be a difficult process, one benefit of rewriting is freedom from constraints that the legacy application would impose if you were to migrate that existing software.

Retire it

At the end of 2006, will there still be a need for the application that runs on your HP e3000? Examine the need for this application. Is it still useful? Is your company moving in a different direction, or is there another application that will take over the functionality this application provides? Maybe you can retire this application before the end of HP e3000 support.

Keep it

If you think that your application(s) and the HP e3000 system you are running are both solid, you might be thinking that you can leave everything “as it is.” Use caution if you are tempted by this option, and ensure that you have an appropriate safety net and a support structure in place to manage potential risks after the time that support for your e3000 is no longer available from HP. There may be challenges, trade-off decisions, and other considerations that you will need to understand and act upon.

Choice of operating system

With some of these options, another decision you’ll need to make is, “Which operating system should we select?” HP offers three different operating systems to choose from: HP-UX, Windows, and Linux. (1) HP-UX 11i is HP’s brand of UNIX. It is a robust, commercial-quality UNIX that supports a wide range of scalable systems, from very low-end workstations to the very large Superdome mainframes. Currently it runs on the PA-RISC and Itanium™ chip sets. (2) Windows is Microsoft’s commercial grade operating system. Although there are large implementations using Windows—including on HP Integrity servers—the majority of its success is in supporting small to medium size applications. Every release of Windows makes it better able to support the larger applications. With its presence now on Itanium, it is an even stronger player in the large commercial space. HP offers Windows on its Intel x86 and Itanium servers. (3) Linux is an open source version of UNIX that has found great support in the developer community, and HP leads the industry in Linux market share. With all this activity, Linux is finding its way into the commercial space. HP supports Linux on its Intel x86 and Itanium servers. The decision about which OS to choose will depend upon the size of your implementation, which OS your desired application runs on, and what price you want to pay. See the website <http://www.hp.com/go/servers> for more information about HP servers.

Other considerations

Besides applications, your HP e3000 environment consists of many software tools. Your HP e3000 inventory should help you identify which other software components, such as system management tools, job schedulers, backup tools, and report writers, make up this environment. Once you have visibility of the tools packages, you can evaluate whether there is a need for similar functionality on other platforms. In many cases, the tool providers will support their tools on other platforms.

Some larger organizations have standardized on a company-wide set of development tools, applications, and/or platforms. If your company is one of these, then some or all of your decisions have already been made. You need to keep that in mind when you develop and execute your implementation plan.

If the direction your company chooses requires bringing in a new machine, you can consider leasing or renting additional equipment during the transition. Another available avenue is to outsource your current HP e3000 environment from HP Services. Outsourcing can free up your in-house resources to focus on migration to the new platform. It also frees your organization from having to maintain its HP e3000 expertise. See the website <http://www.hp.com/go/e3000> for programs that can help with your transition.

Additional help

For all aspects of the transition process, there are HP and third-party consultants that can help in every area. Third-party Platinum Partners have been established to provide transition assistance, see <http://www.hp.com/go/e3000partners>. Services can range from basic situation analysis to complete application re-engineering; from training to outsourcing. If your HP support contract includes an ASE (Application Support Engineer), they are a very good source for help. Assistance is available in many forms. You don't have to do this alone.

Ongoing updates

Keep in mind that this White Paper reflects a snapshot in time. HP will continually be adding and refining services, and HP fully expects its partner companies to continue to develop and enhance migration tools and service offerings. To learn the latest information or to contact HP, go to the HP e3000 web site at <http://www.hp.com/go/e3000>. HP wants to help you successfully make this transition, and is dedicating a lot of time and resources to help smooth the pathway.

HP e3000 inventory checklist

1. For each HP e3000 you have, document:

- The model of HP e3000
- The version of MPE/iX
- The number of processors
- The GBs of memory
- The maximum number of sessions
- The type of networking
- The number of DTCs
- What are they used for? Printers, Terminals, other?
- The number of SCSI cards
- The number and types of disks
- The number and types of tape devices
- The number and type of printers

2. For all the applications you run:

- Is it home-grown or from an ISV?
- If from an ISV, who is it and is this application still supported?
- Do you have source code?
- What is the source code written in?
- How many source files?
- How many lines of source?
- What is the user interface?
- What database does it use?
- What are the database schemas?
- What is the database size?
- How many batch jobs?
- How many nightly jobs, weekly jobs, monthly jobs?
- The number and size of forms files?
- What is the maximum number of users?
- How do the users access the application?
- Terminals, PC terminal emulators, PC client server, web?
- What interfaces to other applications/systems exist (in & out)?
- Are they real time or batch?
- Are there data retention/archival requirements?
- How will this data be moved forward to the new environment?

3. What kinds of non-application software do you have, and who is the supplier?

- Backup
- Spoolers
- Job schedulers
- Shadowing
- ODBC tools
- DB maintenance
- Report writers
- Source code management
- Performance analysis
- Security
- Programmer productivity
- Integrated Development Environment
- Middleware
- EDI
- Data movement
- Data extractors
- Editors
- Other _____

4. What support contracts do you have?

- Level of HP support
 - Hardware _____
 - Software _____
- Application support
 - Vendor(s): _____
- Tools support
 - Vendor(s): _____

To learn more about HP's offering, visit

<http://www.hp.com/go/e3000>

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