

# Infrastructure Consolidation

## Best Practices



**THIRDWARE  
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Are your QAD instances hosted locally ?

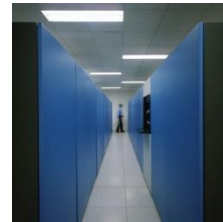
Are you interested in exploring the advantages of infrastructure consolidation?

In QAD Environment, it is not uncommon to find distributed / locally hosted instances over a period of time. The principal reason being expansion to new markets / regions and putting in place local infrastructure to serve the business. This eventually leads to disparate software & hardware stacks bringing along with it a slew of maintenance nightmares. Sooner or later organizations need to explore server migration and / or consolidation. Consolidating servers can generate significant cost savings for companies of all sizes. Infrastructure Consolidation helps optimize one or many of the following cost variables

- Optimization of infrastructure
- Scalability of infrastructure
- Effective usage of licenses
- Manage technical obsolescence
- Reduction in infrastructure management cost.

The effort of infrastructure consolidation requires going beyond reducing the number of physical servers. The purpose is fully served only when the focus remains on designing an efficient environment that fully utilizes server capacity, streamlines systems administration and management, ensures quick and total recovery of data in the event of a disaster, and includes standards for accommodating future growth.

An exercise of Server Consolidation must consider the following steps and generic risks in the project.



### QAD Infrastructure Consolidation – Road Map

#### Consolidation Steps

Every Infrastructure Consolidation carries unique challenges and requires to be addressed. The following steps are essential for a successful consolidation.

**Server load Analysis:** Identify usage of the system resources by sites and by complex processes. The load (current and future) should be effectively distributed the load among the consolidated servers that are being commissioned

**Site / Application Usage Analysis:** Where application consolidation is not being carried out, multiple versions of the application can be handled by consolidating in such a manner that one version is deployed in only one server to ensure better control and deployment strategy

**Due Diligence / Discovery:** Due Diligence must be carried to understand and classify sites / servers by complexity, business models, extent of IT support and environment maturity. This would help in ascertaining the readiness index of the site for consolidation.

**Code Assurance:** Code Assurance is required to prevent issues that may arise due to inconsistent source repository i.e., compiled codes without source and source codes in multiple directories.



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**Modification of custom source codes:** Due to independent environments, some of the source codes are likely to carry hard coded values with respect to environmental values. These require to be corrected for the new shared environment.

**Migration:** Migration of custom source codes / Localization Codes to the version in Consolidated server environment

**Mock Cut-over and UAT:** Key Business Processes including Month Close processes must be tested to ensure robust business continuity post consolidation. Interfaces must be tested for proper interface controls and system integration

**Production Cut-over:** Adequate preparation should be made for effective transfer of data for Production Cutover. In environments operating on 24/7, this will help migrate with minimum downtime.

**Post- launch Support:** There should be reasonable support from Migration Team before handing over to central infrastructure team.

**Pilot and Roll Out:** For large consolidation projects, it is recommended to initiate pilot site and then decide on the roll out strategy.

### Risks of QAD Infrastructure Consolidation:

**Latency:** If the consolidation involves operating from a centralized data center, WAN Latency could result in performance issues as compared to local environment which would be on LAN.

**Version:** Managing different versions of Progress and QAD Service Packs in one server would be a challenge.

**Downtime:** If the server is down, it would affect more than one site in a consolidated environment. Need to take time zone differences into consideration.

**Source Codes:** If the current environment is old and there are multiple versions of source codes in the server or only compiled custom codes (dot r) for which the source is not available in the server.

**Hard Coding:** Custom programs and Interface scripts where hard coding of IP addresses and directory structures is done will require to be modified to make it work in the consolidated environment.

**Core customizations:** These require to be identified and addressed to harmonize with Standard QAD Installation.

**QAD Licenses:** While consolidation allows effective use of QAD User Licenses, challenge would be to restrict respective sites once they exceed the threshold of licenses pertaining to their site.

Like Application Consolidation, Infrastructure Consolidation is one key component in controlling the Annual Cost of Operation (ACO). Like, Application Consolidation, the vision of consolidation will be to drive common processes to achieve cost optimization.

## Thirdware's Consolidation Services

Thirdware, has helped many of its customers in this consolidation journey. Thirdware has completed many varied and complex consolidations, where we worked with the customers to address their consolidation requirements. Our past experience allows us to be confident as well as qualified, to offer assistance as you embark on your consolidation journey.



## Thirdware QAD practice *Fast Facts*

- » An experienced team of 200+ QAD Consultants
- » 250+ QAD engagements
- » 1000+ person years of QAD experience

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