Retain, optimise, modernise or move?

How to decide where each workload should run

A practical guide for IT and infrastructure leaders facing a renewal, a hardware refresh or rising cloud costs.

1 Name what's forcing the decision

Licence or platform renewal

Your virtualisation, support or platform decision is approaching.

Infrastructure refresh

Hardware is ageing or reaching end of support.

Rising infrastructure or cloud costs

Costs growing faster than the value they deliver.

New business requirements

Resilience, data location, security, performance or operating requirements have changed.

Write down the date of each trigger. It tells you how long you have to gather evidence, and which workloads to look at first.

2 Gather five facts for every workload

Business criticality

What happens if the workload is unavailable, and how quickly must it recover?

Utilisation & performance

Is it appropriately sized? What capacity and performance does it actually need?

Dependencies

What applications, networks, identities and services does it depend on?

Cost & lifecycle

What does it cost today, and what renewal or refresh decisions are approaching?

Data & governance

Where must data reside and what security, compliance or access requirements apply?

HPE CloudPhysics can support the assessment with data-led insight into workload utilisation, performance and optimisation opportunities. Scope, data collection and eligibility are confirmed as part of discovery.

3 Ask four questions, in this order

1	Is the workload still needed?	→	If not: retire it
2	Is it inefficient or over-provisioned?	→	If so: optimise or right-size it first
3	What does the workload require?	→	Consider performance, resilience, data location, security, dependencies, supportability and operating model
4	Which platform best meets those requirements?	→	Retain, re-platform, modernise or move

If none of these applies, retain the workload and review it at your next renewal or refresh.

4 Plan in waves, not one big move

Wave 1: quick wins
Retire and right-size first. It frees budget and capacity for what comes next.

Wave 2: deadline-driven
Decide on workloads tied to a renewal or end-of-support date.

Wave 3: modernise
Rework workloads where the business case is clear.

5 Questions for your next budget meeting

- What share of our virtual machines are idle or over-provisioned?
- What does each critical workload cost to run each year?
- Which renewals or end-of-support dates fall in the next 18 months?
- What would waiting another year cost us, and what would it save?

6 How Platform Freedom helps

Discovery conversation
Agree your priorities and the gaps in your evidence

→

Estate assessment
HPE CloudPhysics data shows what each workload really uses

→

Phased roadmap
Decisions for each workload, planned around budget and risk

Make your next infrastructure decision on evidence.

We're an HPE Gold Partner with more than 50 HPE certifications, and we've delivered HP solutions for more than 20 years.

Book a discovery conversation ›

0333 234 0011 | wavenet.co.uk