Nominee: CAST Highlight

Nomination title: Cut PaaS migration time in half with CAST Highlight

CAST Highlight is a SaaS-based code analysis solution that provides objective, repeatable and efficient measures about software health. Users can instantly identify potential IT risks and cost saving opportunities across complex & distributed application portfolios. Highlight also provides a global benchmark so customers can compare how their applications are performing against industry peers and leaders.

Business Challenge

These days, everyone is talking about leveraging the benefits of cloud computing. The reasons vary from business to business…for some companies, it's about cost savings, and for others, it's about building intelligent applications. For organizations looking to cut costs, IaaS (Infrastructure as a Service) is a great option. Sometimes described as "Lift & Shift", applications are moved from internal IT to the cloud, which helps to save money by reducing the hardware needed to run these applications.

Other companies that want to build intelligent software solutions are looking to connect their applications to IoT and Machine Learning, along with additional services provided by the cloud ecosystem. While most new applications are developed for the cloud, most existing and legacy applications aren't ready for PaaS (Platform as a Service) migration. The problem is, companies have a difficult time assessing the cloud readiness of their current applications.

Solution

Developed with some of the smartest cloud experts across the globe, CAST Highlight's CloudReady Index helps companies quickly and objectively assess their application portfolio for PaaS migration. The CloudReady Index automatically builds a migration strategy by identifying where to start, quick wins and applications that will take longer to migrate. Where a cloud expert could spend weeks to measure the capability for a single application to move to PaaS, the CloudReady Index makes it possible to measure the entire portfolio – in just days.

How it works

The CloudReady Index uses more than 60 different code patterns to identify characteristics that make an application harder to migrate to PaaS and run smoothly in the cloud. It tracks issues like the use of COM components, usage of system DLLs or impersonate identity and monitors improvements over time. As the Index spots impediments to a shift to PaaS, it also detects applications which already use and/or are the best candidates for cloud services.

Part of the CloudReady score is built from a Cloud-focused series of questions, addressing different aspects of the applications and their respective business and organizational characteristics. Whether the application is a web app or a back-end, or your development team is DevOps or Waterfall, your cloud migration could be drastically different.

Track progress over time

A full cloud migration can take years. The CloudReady Index tracks each application's readiness for PaaS migration, both now and in the future. See which applications are becoming more cloud-ready while targeting the applications that are going in the wrong direction. The Index identifies whether the trend is explained by code changes (new roadblocks introduced or new boosters implemented) or by application context changes (higher team maturity on cloud technologies, DevOps, continuous delivery, etc.).

Proving value

CAST Highlight partnered with the Microsoft Azure team and piloted the product with about a dozen customers in early 2017. DAHER, a leading aerospace and automotive company began working with the CloudReady Index in January 2017. DAHER initially targeted eight applications to evaluate for IaaS migration and found the following results through the pilot:

•   IaaS vs PaaS – Daher had originally thought that the 8 target applications were too complex for PaaS and modernization would be expensive and time-consuming. After the

Highlight analysis, they determined that 3 of the applications were good candidates for PaaS migration.

• Accelerating Migration - Using CAST Highlight drastically accelerated their cloud migration – an 18-month IaaS migration plan turned into a four-month PaaS migration, validated by the executive team.

• Cloud-First - The CloudReady Index is now being used with DAHER's cloud-first applications in addition to applications that require refactoring for IoT and AI.

• Management Use - DAHER is also using software quality standards supported by CAST Highlight and the CloudReady Index to measure vendors supporting their cloud application development, guaranteeing their products can run in their preferred cloud environment.

Why nominee should win

• CloudReady Index provides unprecedented insight for business leaders who want to make intelligent decisions about cloud migration initiatives.

• CloudReady Index removes the guesswork from PaaS investments and reduces risk when migrating software applications to any cloud environment, preventing business disruption and fostering a positive user experience.

• CloudReady Index is SaaS-based and delivers results within hours, not days. The assessment process is secure and decentralized, so users don't have to provide source code or grant admin access.

• CloudReady Index leverages a network of partners, including system integrators, influencers and other software vendors to drive continuous innovation and ease of use.