



How Will Legacy Tooling Impact Your Digital Transformation?

Automation Logic

Technology leaders continue to be challenged to generate new value for the business while hitting cost reduction targets and managing operational risk. And today there's the added complexity of the meteoric rise of digital.

The digital revolution has added a new layer of complexity as the pace of technological advancement continues to accelerate. Organisations are under increasing pressure to innovate faster and smarter to gain competitive edge and deliver quicker time to value through their IT.

Having delivered 55+ projects across the public and private sectors, Automation Logic have identified a critical barrier to success – technical debt. Many organisations are plagued with legacy tooling preventing them from realising the true benefits of a modernised IT ecosystem.

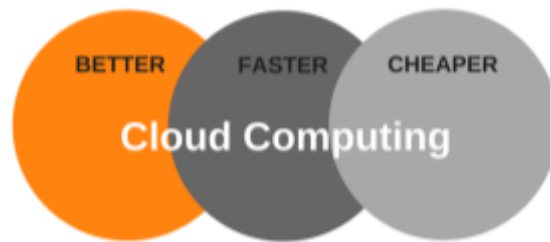
Organisations need the ability to prioritise which tools, technologies and business practices can enhance their performance and the best approach to manage legacy tooling in a cost-effective way that avoids disruption to daily business.

Technology should be utilised as an enabler for **positive disruption**.



The Expansion of Cloud Computing

The adoption of cloud services continues to grow year on year. A 2017 State of Cloud Adoption and Security report by McAfee surveyed over 1,400 worldwide IT professionals and forecast that **'in 15 months 80% of all IT budgets will be committed to cloud solutions'**. Given the priorities of many CIO's, this statistic may not be surprising. Commonly, IT departments across all industries are seeking to:



- Reduce cost
- Operate with improved efficiency, speed and agility and,
- Innovate ahead of their competition

Achieving these goals supports business stability and growth and helps organisations to gain competitive advantage by delivering faster time to market and time to value.

Due to the enhanced maturity of the tools, features and functionality that major public cloud providers can now offer, there is the beginning of a shift towards public cloud. Already a \$200B + market, Gartner predicts that the **worldwide public cloud services market will experience peak growth in 2017 and grow 18%**.

The automation of cloud orchestration tasks, reduces the complexities and risk associated with cloud computing and ensures easy deployment of resources and optimum performance. Automation also serves to enable a single point of failure so that risks and issues are identified and resolved efficiently and service performance is significantly more reliable.

Cloud computing is set to continue to grow, already organisations without any cloud capability are becoming few and far between and organisations, including the UK Government, are beginning to adopt a 'cloud first' strategy.

Legacy Tooling InFocus: HP CSA

A few years ago, HP released HP Cloud Service Automation (CSA) as a Cloud service lifecycle management solution to design and orchestrate full stack services. A key purpose of HP CSA was to serve as the front-end web forms designer for HP's Operations Orchestration software (HP OO).

HP CSA offered standardised templates (service designs & offerings), catalogue management, and subscription management; and used HP OO behind the scenes to perform all the automated workflow and orchestration.

Initially, one of the main attractions of HP CSA was that it gave non-technical resources access to use easily-configured web forms and could offer a hybrid, multi-vendor approach to help organisations avoid lock-in.



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HP CSA became market leading with HP offering end to end services and hardware to help simplify implementation for new clients.

So, what's changed? Automation Logic have engineers with highly-specialised HP CSA skills that have worked on large, enterprise-scale projects guiding clients to effectively implement CSA. Our team have observed first-hand the difficulties clients face when implementing CSA and have seen the decline of a tool that is no longer best-in-class.

"All users of cloud services today have to understand that the new infrastructure 'primitives' are not disks, CPUs and switches, they are higher level constructs (key/value stores; database services, message queues) that are re-combined and automated by staff who understand how to write code."

**George Cairns, Senior Consulting Engineer,
Automation Logic**

The specialised skills required to deliver successful implementation and adoption of HP CSA are scarce in the market place. The product has often not been well-implemented and both remedial efforts and maintenance are time consuming and highly complex.

Add to this the confusion of HP's recent spins offs and M&A activity and you find another layer of uncertainty that should be enough to unsettle most organisations. To modernise HP CSA and ensure the toolset can still deliver value, there is a need for significant research and development investment and it's unclear as to whether this will be planned.

Beyond the usability of the product itself, it's no longer about only humans making IT service requests. Now software and intelligent instrumentation can make these requests in place of humans using code and APIs which HP CSA had struggled to simplify.

Organisations seeking to utilise modern technologies, need to assess new and simpler alternatives as well as looking beyond traditional solutions and ensuring cloud is not delivered as part of standalone projects but is instead embedded as part of a broader automation agenda and IT strategy.

Understanding the Alternatives

The flexibility of new configuration management tools that work across public and private cloud environments offer less-complex solutions that are both easier to implement and manage. For example, terraform, cloudformation, ansible (to name a few), can be combined with a user-friendly interface and for organisations focused on private cloud, VMWare's IT automation tools (VRA/VRO) could be used in combination with CSA for IaaS provisioning.

Navigating Digital with Automation Logic

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IaaS providers such as AWS and Microsoft are leaders in the cloud market, able to offer usage-based pricing and a huge amount of pure functionality which is growing and improving by the day. The ability to access all core features through a single platform and a single provider makes life easier for users and developers and is likely to heighten productivity across development teams, leaving more time for value-generating activities.

A potential challenge when adopting AWS or Azure is to be able to offer a platform that creates a safe and easy-to-navigate landing zone for Developers and DevOps Engineers.

When migrating to any cloud solution, organisations must take the time to ensure they are leveraging best practice and have a clear path to smoothly transitioning to the cloud.

Automation Logic's Cloud Fast Start Service

Based on experience working with clients from across the private and public sectors, Automation Logic have built a cloud platform framework to accelerate migration to both AWS and Microsoft Azure.

The platform is the consolidation of the knowledge and expertise of Automation Logic's Consultant Engineers into repeatable, codified patterns of use, enabling organisations to deliver quality software faster and in a manner compliant with an organisation's IT security policies.

Implementing a platform where users can work directly with AWS and Microsoft to meet all their needs delivers a manageable, transparent cloud ecosystem and ensures

the platform is user-friendly – users simply need an account and an internet browser and they're ready to go! This approach also ensures upgrades are managed seamlessly without disruption to users.

Automation Logic's cloud platform addresses the need for speed, deployable in 1 click and production ready in less than 15 minutes. Furthermore, as part of a rigorous approach to product development, the platform has been tested across a range of configurations and architectures and deploys to both traditional instances, containers and serverless.

AL Cloud Platform Features

Available with major Cloud providers

amazon web services Partner Network CONSULTING PARTNER

Silver Microsoft Partner

Core Features Include:

- Infrastructure deployment
- Application development
- Configuration management (secrets)
- Integration testing
- Logging, Metrics, Monitoring
- Identity management
- Audit and compliance



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Making both platform options available under open-source license gives easy access to organisations that need a secure landing zone for Developers and DevOps Engineers.

The benefits that can be realised by this new, flexible approach to cloud migration include:

- > A proven operational model for software delivery in the cloud
- > Reduced project risk (built in collaboration with a reputable cloud provider)
- > Rapid implementation (weeks not months)
- > Low maintenance (through advanced automation)
- > Enforced security and compliance (a platform acts as quality gateway)

Beyond guiding the implementation of the platform and providing expert integration and configuration management, Automation Logic is also equipped to support capability building, augmenting existing teams and helping organisations to develop sustainable, in-house cloud capabilities.

Assessing how Legacy Tooling is Affecting Your Business

To kick-start your journey to managing technical debt and free your business to leverage new technologies, begin with asking the right questions such as:

- > Which cloud provider best meets my IT/business requirements today?
- > What's my strategy for reducing IT operating costs while realising benefits and focusing on new innovations that will increase profit?
- > How can I manage my technical debt without disrupting BAU?
- > What will it cost to migrate away from legacy tooling and how much will that save over time?
- > Can I enhance the value delivered through cloud service?
- > Are my team equipped with the necessary skills to get the most from my technology services portfolio?

To help explore how best to address these business-critical questions, contact Automation Logic today for a **free Cloud Discovery Workshop** where we'll explore an approach to intelligent cloud adoption that will suit your business.

Automation Logic's Consulting Engineers can also provide a demo of both the AWS or Azure platform service which is available to use today.

About Us

Automation Logic is a leading professional services consultancy helping organisations to embrace human-friendly automation and achieve their creative potential.

We advocate the strategic adoption of automation as the foundation for prosperity in the digital age.



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As individuals and as a team, we value curiosity, humility, integrity and collaboration above all, and we exist to deliver better business through automation.

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