



3 Ways Applications Could Get In The Way of Your Win10 Move

my **IT** forum..



“Applications are the reason we all use Windows in the first place, something 1E is clearly cognizant of.”

William Min
IBM Services

The majority of businesses today find themselves either in the midst of their Windows 10 migration or planning for it. At IBM Services, we recently assisted a global engineering firm with a presence on seven continents undergo its Windows 10 migration, upgrading 12,000 to 17,000 machines a year largely through hardware replacement.

Things are now moving smoothly. However, as we prepared to embark on the project, there was a realization that in at least one area the transition would not necessarily be as straightforward as we had hoped and assumed: application management.

App management caused serious irritation during those Windows XP-to-7 migrations due to incompatibility of existing applications with the new OS. Certainly Microsoft—along with many other software vendors—has made real strides to limit much repetition of that notoriously tricky transition. However, there are still some challenges that many organizations—not least, larger ones with complex application estates and highly specific requirements—still need to be aware of.

The “Point” of Windows

Although they’re rarely given due prominence, applications are the reason operating systems exist in the first place. It’s a fact that stands out that much more clearly in a highly technical and specialized industry such as our client’s, which is engineering.

Besides a very large application estate (which we’ll touch upon shortly), this engineering firm has countless customized apps that it needs to be very conscious of during a hardware refresh and Windows upgrade. Without the right apps on their new machine, employees can’t do their work—it’s as simple as that.

To make matters even more complex, many of this conglomerate’s divisions require that individual machines retain multiple versions of the same application. For these to all continue to function, these had to be installed in a specific order.

There also were other challenges that would be an obstacle to almost any Windows 10 migration at scale, creating huge amount of manual intervention (and so slowing the process right down) and expenditure.

01. Application Volume

Above a certain size, any organization is extremely likely to be managing thousands of individual apps.

As the engineering firm prepared for Windows 10, it became evident that the number of applications in use were in the tens of thousands.

With most IT teams relying on Configuration Manager inventory to track tens of thousands of application entries with, perhaps, only one in 100 being a real application of interest, it's no wonder application management is so difficult with that much noise.

02. Application Sprawl

With hundreds of applications in use across the organization, and individual devices commonly running 30 or more, managing that volume is hard.

What's worse is that each installed application is a potential attack point for cyber-attack. These applications also have a cost impact as there will be a subscription or maintenance charge associated with each installation. This is known as "application sprawl." If those applications aren't being used, then these vulnerabilities and costs should be avoided if possible.

03. Scale and Precision

Meanwhile, for any global organization—or, indeed, for any kind of conglomerate—there is still greater complexity around application management during a migration.

Different lines of business have different organizational policies and (crucially) licensing agreements. It's imperative your Windows migration project respects and honors those specific application policies.

Manual ... or Automated?

Once, these applications would all have had to be manually installed by support staff. That process could take anywhere from two days to a couple of weeks. Looking at a global Windows 10 migration, this was going to be far too long, expensive and disruptive a process. In addition, the engineering firm in question needed to be able to provide a customized load for each user. Surely there should be a way to automate the process?

Initially, we worked with a third party to try and utilize an SCCM imaging tool. This was an improvement, but the process was still taking around 20 minutes per load. This was proving nowhere near quick enough to keep up with the required pace of migration. The vendor just couldn't keep up. Its build rate was about half the target rate. Ultimately, we opted for 1E's Windows Servicing Suite and its Application Migration tool. This allowed the client to deal with all the challenges listed above, through a curated software catalog that automatically distinguishes between real applications and noisy ones.

Application Migration allowed IT to set specific migration rules during the migration. This was not only significantly more efficient, it was also millions of dollars cheaper than the previous automated approach. The ability to view a machine prior to migration saved our client precious build time so they could make sure they were happy with the load before the migration happened.

Whatever solution you settle on, it's important, as you plan your Windows 10 migration, to establish whether application management could indeed impede or slow down your progress toward Windows 10. It bears repeating: Applications are the reason we all use Windows in the first place, something 1E is clearly cognizant of.

ABOUT 1E

1E is redefining endpoint management. We believe that you win or lose at the endpoint: there is no room for compromise. Our solutions help keep every endpoint secure and current with the latest software and applications. That's every device in every location, fully automated, and in real time. We also deliver instant endpoint detection and remediation at massive scale, minimizing risk for your business and impact on your network. Over 1,700 customers around the world, including Dell, ING, Nestlé, BNP Paribas and Ford Motor Company, rely on 1E to gain unprecedented insight and control over their IT estates.

Learn more at www.1E.com and follow [@1E_Global](https://twitter.com/1E_Global).

Follow us on:



CONTACT US

UK

CP House
97-107 Uxbridge Road
London W5 5TL, UK
Tel: +44 20 8326 3880

USA

5 Penn Plaza, 9th Floor,
New York
NY 10001, USA
Tel: +1 866 592 4214