



Solution Brief

SnapStart Discovery Engine

Drastically improve the speed and quality of data center asset discovery

IT environments grow and change regularly, by strategic initiative and discrete activity. Major events such as a merger or acquisition impart more sizable shifts. There are innumerable instances where it's crucial to understand the exact inner workings of the IT environment at a given moment. Yet, existing tools are difficult to employ and can take months to complete a scan.

Faster, simpler, complete

SnapStart is a proprietary tool developed by Insight Cloud + Data Center Transformation (CDCT) that inventories and maps data center assets quickly and accurately. Both a data collection engine and centralized database, SnapStart uncovers hidden or forgotten IT components and shadow IT to provide complete visibility and support better decision-making.

Key features and outcomes of SnapStart:

- Scans 10–20x faster than any other tool
- Uses simple commands and runs from a laptop or VM
- Data remains completely on-site — no off-siting required
- Easily updated to meet your needs (adding cloud partners, etc.)
- Imports/exports data directly to/from existing and third-party tools
- Network traffic and CPU demand remain constant and low, whether the scan involves 50 servers or 50,000 servers
- No licensing fees — easy to install and run, and operated by skilled consultants

Tool outputs



Heat map

- Shows dependencies, counts, and criticality
- Identifies migration targets and trouble spots



Inventory counts

- Lists all servers, including those needing remediation
- Finds and identifies “forgotten assets”



Cloud/migration readiness reports

- Displays status, from “scanned” to “cloud ready”
- Provides totals of Platform as a Service (PaaS) candidates



Power BI interactive network diagrams

- Real-time dependency maps from multiple application/host/server perspectives
- Leave-behind for use with Microsoft® Azure® BI and our database

Benefits of SnapStart

- + Get a detailed, up-to-date inventory and map of your entire data center asset base in a fraction of the time it can take with other vendor tools
- + Uncover forgotten IT components and shadow IT
- + Enrich your understanding of your IT environment, dependencies, requirements, and criticality
- + Make informed, data-driven decisions regarding workload placement and cloud strategy
- + Accelerate migration and other activities that drive modernization and transformation
- + Leverage a tool developed by data center experts, run by skilled consultants

SnapStart as linchpin

Major commercial bank drives a transition to hybrid cloud



- Needed thorough discovery as part of planned move out of existing data center
- SnapStart completed a ServiceNow Configuration Management Database (CMDB) data refresh in mere hours, compared with the client estimate of 16–18 weeks
- Tool outputs assessed workloads for cloud readiness and informed solution design
- Client continues to use BI dashboards when making key infrastructure and application changes

Iconic U.S. retailer looks to decrease technical debt and deploy cloud



- Aimed to lower colocation bills and move to AWS within one year
- Discovery performed with SnapStart enabled fast and accurate analysis, dependency mapping, and requirements documentation
- SnapStart reports supported a seamless migration of majority of workloads to AWS
- The company is financially benefiting from the move, and ensuring high performance with our ongoing Managed Cloud services

Multibillion-dollar financial organization pursues modernization



- Planned to move all IT operations and data centers to another service provider who failed to make any progress on a 5-year contract
- Insight was brought in to jumpstart migration and prevent additional loss
- Performed workload discovery and assessment of >7,000 servers and >1,400 apps
- SnapStart data was used to support accelerated migration plan and identify unused storage infrastructure to eliminate prior to migration

Global consumer goods manufacturer plans for cloud transformation



- Set a goal to move 80% of global workloads to public cloud to address aging infrastructure and improve scalability
- Using SnapStart, we performed application and IT inventories and developed dependency maps of their entire, massive IT estate
- Information compiled by SnapStart was used to create remediation roadmaps for replatforming, refactoring, and replacing applications
- SnapStart produced: 50% improvement of data completeness; increase in accuracy confidence from 70% to 98%

Leading convenience store chain needs a zero-disruption data center move



- A planned HQ move led the CIO to seek help with a risk-mitigated migration that wouldn't impact operations or consumers
- SnapStart scanned and mapped hundreds of applications and all client data
- Insight consultants used SnapStart outputs to assess workloads for optimal platforms, from on-premises to cloud to colocation, and design a new environment
- After executing a flawless migration, SnapStart is now helping to build a CMDB for the company

Meaningful solutions driving business outcomes

We help our clients modernize and secure critical platforms to transform IT. We believe data is a key driver, hybrid models are accelerators, and secure networks are well integrated. Our end-to-end services empower companies to effectively leverage technology solutions to overcome challenges, support growth and innovation, reduce risk, and transform the business.

Learn more at:
insightCDCT.com | insight.com

©2021, Insight Direct USA, Inc. All rights reserved. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.
CSSNP-1.0.08.21