



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](https://insightCDCT.com) | [insight.com](https://insight.com)

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