Chapter 9

Pattern-Based Cloud Migration: Take Blockchain as a Service as an Example

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ABSTRACT

To migrate on-premises business systems to the cloud environment faces challenges: the complexity, diversity of the legacy systems, cloud, and cloud migration services. Consequently, the cloud migration faces two major problems. The first one is how to select cloud services for the legacy systems, and the second one is how to move the corresponding workload from legacy systems to cloud. This chapter presents a total cloud migration solution including cloud service selection and optimization, cloud migration pattern generation, and cloud migration pattern enforcement. It takes the pattern as the core, and unifies the cloud migration request, the cloud migration service pattern, and the cloud migration service composition. A cloud migration example of blockchain system shows that the proposed approach improves the cloud service selection, cloud migration service composition generation efficiency, migration process parallelization, and enables long transaction support by means of pattern reuse.

DOI: 10.4018/978-1-5225-7268-8.ch009
INTRODUCTION

With the skyrocketing of the cloud computing deployment, the demands of cloud migration increase dramatically. To migrate the on-premises business systems to the cloud environment faces challenges (Linthicum, 2017). Firstly, the complexity of business systems and the diversity of operating environment lead to complex initial states of the cloud migration. Secondly, the diversity of the cloud computing environment causes the complexity of the target environments. Thirdly, the diversity of cloud migration services worsens the cloud migration. Besides, the cloud migration is also subject to the constraints of time, cost and other non-technical factors. The cloud migration plan generation faces two major problems. The first one is how to plan the target cloud environment and cloud service selection of the legacy systems. The current cloud migration approaches usually adopt experts’ recommendation basing on the users’ prefers and constraints (Al-Masri & Mahmoud, 2007a, 2007b). The automation mechanisms are usually unavailable. The second one is how to perform the cloud migration, i.e., how to move the corresponding workload from legacy systems to the cloud services. Manual migration is expensive, time consuming and error prone. Recently dedicated cloud migration services emerge in the market for fine granular cloud migration (Huang, Gao, Zhang, & Xiao, 2017).

However, migrating existing on-premises enterprise applications to cloud is still a costly, labor-intensive, and error-prone activity due to the complexity of the applications, the constraints of the clouds, and the limitations of existing migration techniques provided by migration service vendors. It fails to handle complex legacy system migration. Approaches have been proposed to find out the most cost effective solution by composing multiple migration services from different vendors together to complete specific migration task (Fan, Wang, & Chang, 2011; Frey & Hasselbring, 2010). They are sandbox approaches and these only provide one-off solutions by calculating without verified precedent. These approaches adopt exhaustive searching based algorithm with pruning to improve the efficiency. In these sandbox approaches, the metric for migration service selection and composition is usually simple, e.g., only the total cost. In fact, the reliability, privacy and other nonfunctional constraints should be considered as well. Besides, there are other nontechnical factors that will impact the selection. For example, a customer may prefer services from specific vendors. More critically, a case by case solution discovery approach has not explicitly process logic for tracing, benchmarking, debugging and optimization.
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