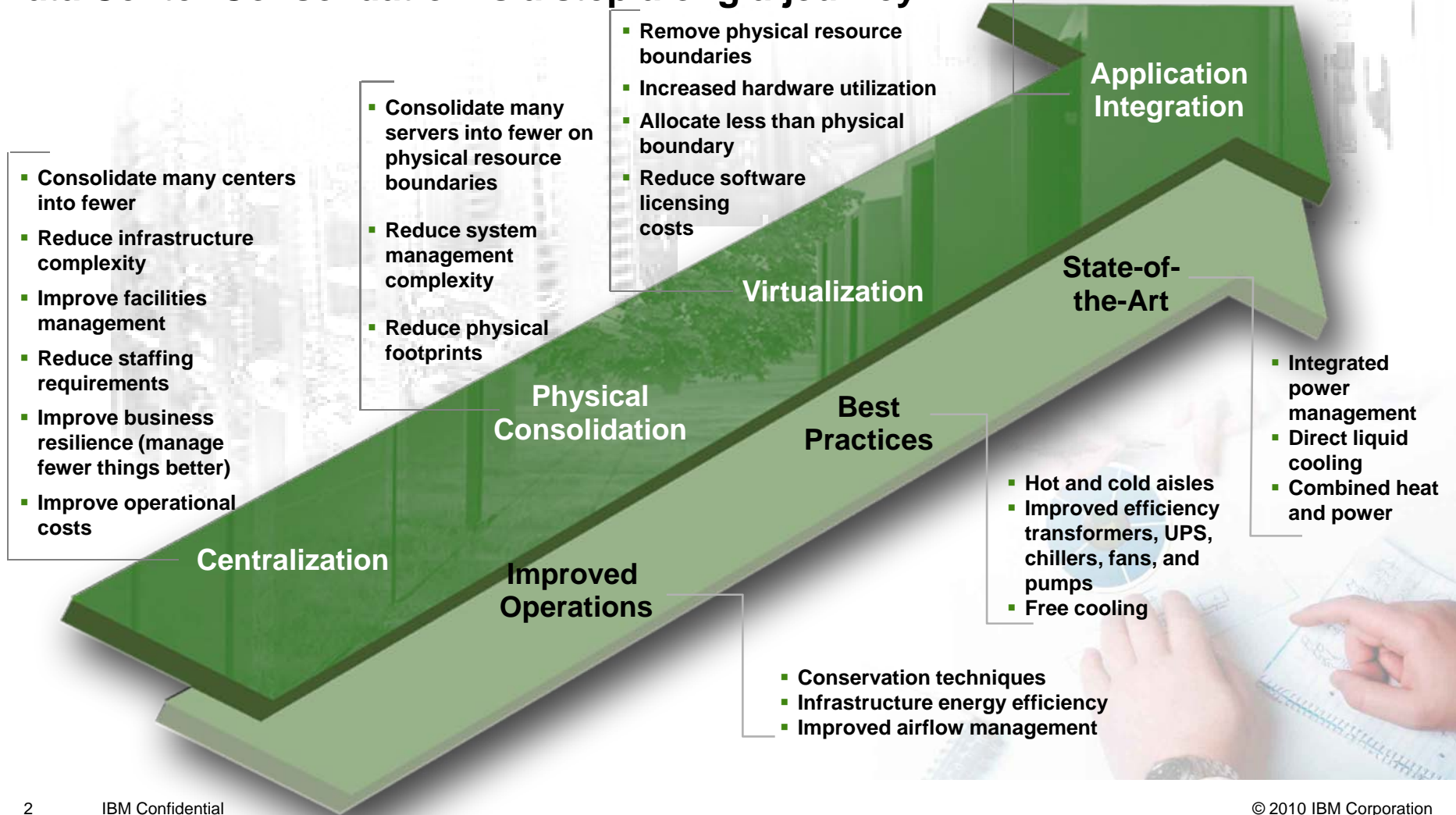


Data Center Consolidation and Modernization Best Practices

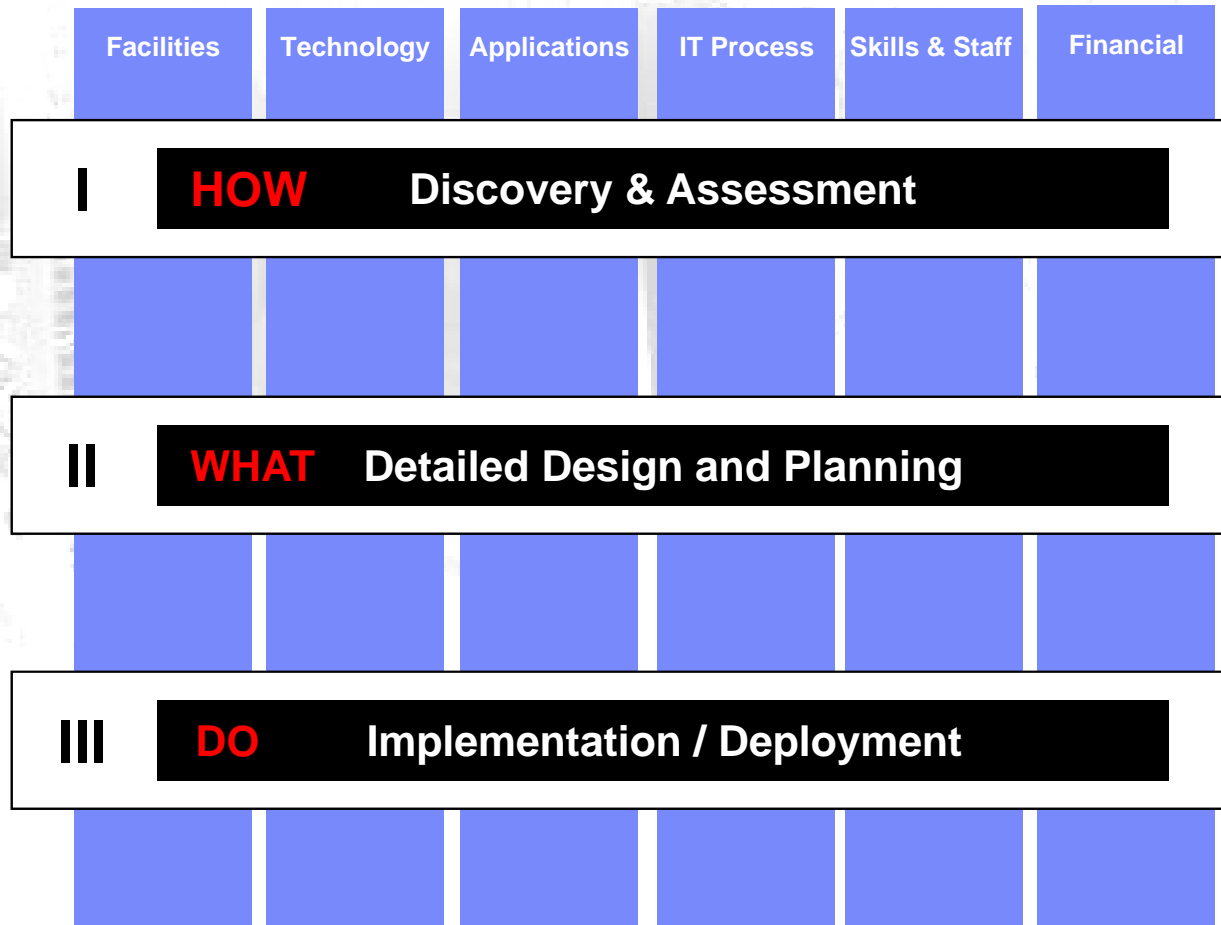
Data Center Consolidation is a step along a journey



Data Center Consolidation and Modernization Best Practices

Experience and Methodology is Critical

Data Center projects are normally executed in three phases:



- **Phase I - Assessment** deals primarily with the design, planning and estimating required to prepare for the consolidation.
- **Phase II - Detailed Design & Planning** finalizes the detailed target solution, migration plans and risk mitigation plans.
- **Phase III – Implementation** executes the consolidation and validation of systems and services

Data Center Consolidation and Modernization Best Practices

Build a Blue Print for Success

- Understand what the expectations are of the business and executive management to align the goals and critical success factors with business needs
- Start with a strategy, then technology
- Create strong linkages between the business and IT infrastructure
- Take an integrated and holistic approach
- Project governance procedures
- Keep it simple

Data Center Consolidation and Modernization Best Practices

Collaborate with Experts

- Experience Counts
- Work with experts with business domain and industry experience
- Skills that span the life cycle of the project
- Proven track records and certified consultants
- Dedicated project teams
 - No day jobs that share responsibilities with the project
- Use tools that are non intrusive or disruptive and have a proven track record
- Experience with regulatory requirements, firewall and IP addressing issues

Data Center Consolidation and Modernization Best Practices

Take Advantage of the Opportunities that a Data Center Consolidation Provides

- Consolidating a data center is about moving applications and data and developing the appropriate migration models to meet the requirements.
- A data center consolidation project affords the opportunity to evaluate the current environment and map out the future environment by evaluating future technologies
- Standardize the technology platforms
- Virtualize servers and storage as part of the consolidation
- Inventory of all assets and storing or developing a CMDB
- Financial gains

Data Center Consolidation and Modernization Best Practices

Lessons Learned From Past Consolidations

- Inappropriate sense of urgency
- Business and IT activities are done independently with no or limited connection
- The structure under which the consolidation is going to operate is not clearly defined, so control of the consolidation is unclear
- Too many goals competing at the same time e.g.
 - Improve service, Reduce cost, Grow strategically, Innovate
- Improvement attempts are made while moving resulting in lengthened timescales and increased risks
- The consolidation is run as a democratic process
- Confusion on what to do, turns into detailed investigations with a lack of targeted actions
- IT functions not considered during the initial planning phases
 - “We can always make the technology work”