



Technology healthcheck

MRI for CIOs

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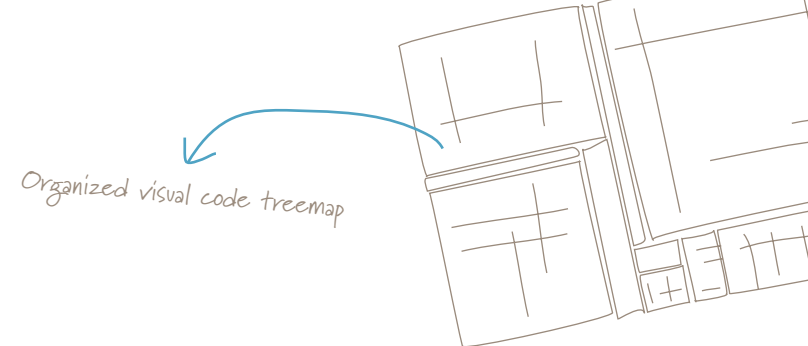


ThoughtWorks offers a way to map even the most complicated systems landscape with results that are backed up by facts, concise, and ready for tactical decision-making or long-range budgeting and planning.

With the cumulative impact of growth, mergers, downturns and market changes, the typical IT base is made up of a disparate mix of legacy systems and newer technologies of varying (and often hidden) complexity. Using the most advanced techniques, we go in-depth to measure and report on systems in several dimensions relevant to technical staff and executives.

Pressure to keep up with business demands often leaves little time for routine let alone preventive maintenance, which leads to growing technical debt. In this situation, it can be hard to take stock and identify the best opportunities for big improvements, innovation and cost savings. These issues can be even more difficult for executives who have to make far-reaching strategic decisions without clear visibility of what they have inherited. Often technology leaders don't have a single clear view of their systems portfolio – making decisions in semi-darkness.

Vital signs



ThoughtWorks' Technology Healthcheck is an easy way to make sense of a complicated IT platform and spot opportunities or deferred costs that may be latent there. This can include hardware, support and infrastructure evaluation in addition to applications. The Healthcheck can be a critical input to plans and budgets, or can be used tactically to prepare for fast action backed up by information that is meaningful to all stakeholders. Advanced tools and techniques go deep beneath the surface of new and old systems, no matter the technology, to answer important business questions.

ThoughtWorks' Technology Healthcheck is for any organization that has to plan for and make informed decisions about:

Legacy systems

Does your business depend on legacy technology? We will figure the relative ROI of maintenance vs. rewrite or replacement, but also identify deficit areas where maintenance will return the most value if the system is retained.

Mergers and acquisitions – dealing with a consolidation?

Our Healthcheck can map the best way to consolidate a portfolio, taking account of technical factors such as architectural fitness, performance and scalability as well as business fit, value and flexibility for the future.

Basis for IT planning

What's good, what's not, what's missing – in your IT landscape.

Budgeting

What to leave, what to fix.

Early warning signs

Are problems hidden beneath the surface?

Specific business cases

The hard evidence needed for build vs. buy, other IT decisions.

Advanced software and diagnostics – in plain language

ThoughtWorks' Healthcheck uses engineering techniques and diagnostics based on the latest software and IT thinking, industry experience and insight from academic research. We're not beholden to any vendor and our consultants are not afraid of challenging perceived wisdom.

How we do it is tailored to your specific needs and environment. A typical Healthcheck might include the use of:

- ✦ Toxicity tools that enable at-a-glance visibility and comparisons of system quality on a variety of dimensions important to the organization
- ✦ Tools that measure how extensible and easy-to-maintain systems are
- ✦ Treemap visualization techniques to highlight where and why development effort is best directed.

"From practice improvement through software delivery, ThoughtWorks are the consummate professionals in getting things done, better."

Daniel Oertli, REA

The bottom line

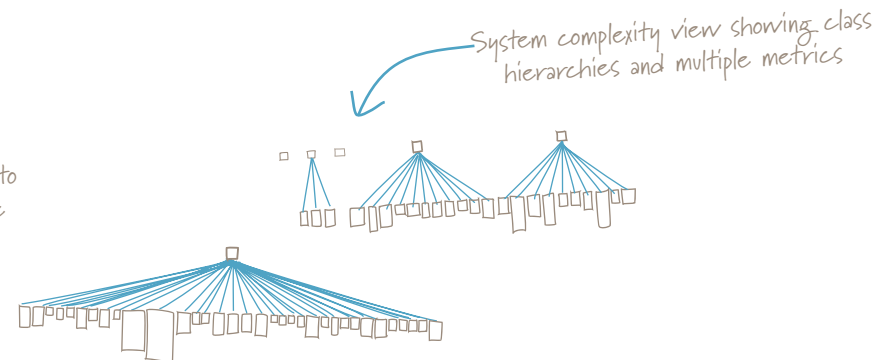
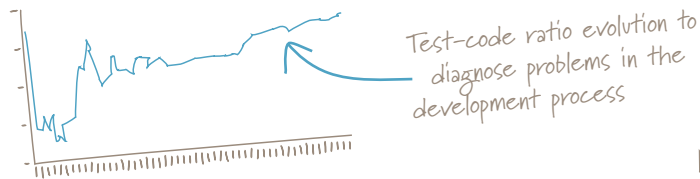
ThoughtWorks' Technology Healthcheck is a highly-focused engagement with clear outcomes and results that can be generated within days, rather than months. We look at architecture, applications and business needs, creating a roadmap grounded in metrics and presented in a way that speaks plainly to all involved – both business and IT. From here, leaders can plan resources in an informed manner to support business goals, avoiding hidden technology-related traps and unforeseen costs.

Crossing diverse market sectors and business goals, the Healthcheck provides the intelligence needed to direct resources to the right places, at the right time and in the right order of priority. In short, it helps organizations to minimize waste and maximize the value of their IT and software investment.

Fast answers to tough questions

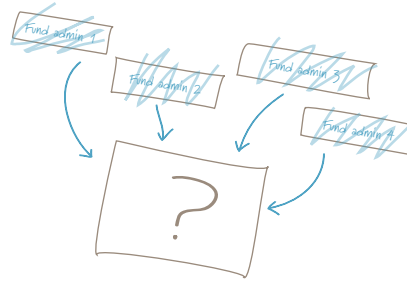
When organizations need to make sense of their IT and software investment, the Technology Healthcheck from ThoughtWorks provides fast answers to tough questions such as:

- ✦ Our IT systems are in a mess and we don't know what to tackle first
- ✦ We need to cut costs quickly, what can we afford to lose?
- ✦ Which of our legacy systems should we maintain vs replace?
- ✦ We want to make changes, but what are the risks?
- ✦ Where are the shocks lurking ahead?



for example

Questions answered



Australian Wealth Management

When Andrew Todd joined leading financial services company Australian Wealth Management (AWM) in early 2008, his first priority as Chief Information Officer was to start consolidating the application portfolio he had inherited.

AWM had grown extensively through mergers and acquisitions to become one of the ASX 200 companies. The company was responsible for a large number of different funds, retail and corporate superannuation and other financial products. These were handled by multiple systems with different capacity levels that had evolved at variable rates, some for more than a decade. AWM wanted to ensure that its IT could support its continued expansion.

The Technology Healthcheck was undertaken to answer two specific questions: first, to confirm whether to consolidate four different fund administration systems into one existing system; and second, whether it would be necessary to rebuild an existing website for AWM's financial advisors, members and investors.

ThoughtWorks visualized key characteristics of the system and delivered the technical due diligence that AWM required. The outputs were captured and conclusions presented by making extensive use of mind mapping. This highly visual style allowed effective communication of the results across the business and had an immediate impact where long reports would have failed to do so. The process took less than two weeks.

Supported by the findings, AWM decided to consolidate all of its fund management systems onto a single existing system that the Healthcheck had proven would be able to handle all of the requirements. Coupled with this, the Healthcheck confirmed that the company would benefit from rebuilding the website from scratch. Since then, AWM has continued to expand, merging with IOOF to create an entity that has over \$100billion under management.

that's it →

A trusted partner

ThoughtWorks is a global IT consultancy trusted by many of the world's leading businesses with their most complex and critical systems. We deliver consulting grounded in reality, build custom applications and help organizations across all market sectors to drive Agility, working to an exceptionally high standard.

Our size and presence in the Americas, Europe, Asia and Australia allow us to provide big company services with small company interaction. We are large enough to make a significant impact, but small enough to dedicate executive attention to each of our clients and craft individually tailored solutions for them. Our consultants are experienced, creative and talented specialists who split their time between advisory and delivery work to ensure they are always connected to reality and remain at the forefront of their field.

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To find out how you could benefit from a Technology Healthcheck, please get in touch. Full contact details are available on our website.

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