LDC Via: a new way to migrate

Overview

The traditional approach to migrating an IBM Notes / Domino application to technologies like Sharepoint can be laid-out as follows:

- Assessment
- Rationalisation
- Planning
- Design review
- Migration
- Deployment

This is a significant undertaking, and the planning stage especially is onerous. Planning involves mapping individual document attributes from the Domino application to tables and columns in a relational database, and these tables have to be designed accordingly, with foreign and primary keys, specified column types, indexes, and so forth.

LDC Via takes a different approach: you are pushing data from one document store to another which means honing—even removing—some of the stages involved in the traditional migration process. SQL tables? Sharepoint lists? Mappings? Forget them.

A new entry-point to your data

So, we can simplify the planning and design review stages, but what about the actual migration and deployment steps? And what about the end result, usable and useful applications?

Offerings such as "QuickApps for Sharepoint" from Dell go some way to providing a new bare-bones "entry-point" to freshly-migrated data. LDC Via similarly provides simple data viewer functionality. But it also goes much further: the included **LDC Via Lens** tool provides organisations with the ability to set up custom screens to present their migrated data and build simple applications..

LDC Via Lens is a configuration-based solution that allows you to select which fields are presented in on-screen forms, with field labels, simple data types, drop-down lists, mandatory fields, and computed items. In addition, LDC Via Lens also features configurable collection filters which are analogous to "views" in classic IBM Notes / Domino applications.

Your content, your way

Of course, migration isn't just about the documents. What about their content? What about rich text? It's important to try and preserve rich text with full fidelity. LDC Via will consider plain text, MIME content, embedded images, quoted printable content, and renders it all.

LDC Via also offers support for Notes-specific constructs like doc-links and document response hierarchies.

Security

When migrating to Sharepoint, the Dell offering provides a number of options around provisioning Notes users in their new Sharepoint environment, assigning security accordingly which then feeds through to a number of look-up tables in the SQL Server back-end.

Similarly, LDC Via knows all about Domino security. User accounts can be created and mapped (from LDC Via credentials to original Notes addresses) in one simple step. Document-level security is honoured with readers and authors attributes in the LDC Via platform, and users can be assigned (or denied) access to individual databases en masse.

Features

Applications: in addition to LDC Via Lens, LDC Via offers a number of standard "application templates", i.e. simple, responsive web front-ends which use the LDC Via API to present content to end-users. These templates include a discussion forum, a document library, a read-only mail archive and a Teamroom-style application.

Comprehensive user management tools allow super-users to set up and edit users, assign access rights, and more.

A solid infrastructure for freshly-migrated apps built on standard, proven tools and platforms like node.js, MongoDB and Amazon Web Services.

Document store: no need for tedious mapping exercises or tiresome planning processes: simply use your data in a way that is both familiar and powerful.

Programmability: we offer an industry-standard RESTful application programming interface (API) which is both well-documented and powerful. Your developers can implement applications in the language of their choice using tools that are familiar and productive.

Sharepoint vs. LDC Via

Sharepoint	LDC Via
Instance limits: Sharepoint Online (Enterprise version) currently has a limit of 100GB per site collection and 300 site collections per account.	**LDC Via (Enterprise)** allows for an unlimited number of databases and documents, with a "soft" storage limit of 50GB—this can be flexed to whatever is required.
Planning: in addition to mapping Domino fields to Sharepoint / SQL Server, consider whether you should use lists (flat collection of defined records), pages (data documents) or libraries (collections of binary files) for each component being migrated.	No mapping required; documents map to documents. Documents using the same form definition are grouped together in "Collections". Schema are not enforced, so documents in the same collection can have different fields.
Data types: if you elect to migrate to custom lists, be aware that this entails an understanding of over a dozen data column types: user, boolean, choice, lookup, etc. You will then need to map your required Domino attributes to these—potentially for each document and view type in your application.	All documents in LDC Via are stored in MongoDB's binary JSON format (BSON). There are no enforced schema types, so fields require no mapping.

Wrapping up

LDC Via offers out-of-the-box applications, the powerful, configurable LDC Via Lens, cloud and on-premises deployments, an industry-standard data store in MongoDB, a comprehensive application programming interface, user management tools, document-level security, and much more. This all adds up to the best-of-breed data migration tool for IBM Notes and Domino applications.

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References

Dell Software, "Overcoming the Top 8 Challenges during Notes-to-SharePoint Migrations"

http://dell.to/1UE0VAQ

About LDC Via

LDC Via was founded in reaction to the clear need for a high-quality and simple mechanism to move data out of legacy IBM Lotus Notes/Domino systems and into a modern platform.

LDC Via grew out of the "London Developer Co-op", which itself was founded in 2008 as a small group of technologist with deep and lengthy experience in IBM Lotus Notes and Domino development, as well as other technologies including Java, .NET, PHP (Zend, Wordpress, etc.), AngularJS, node.js and more.

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