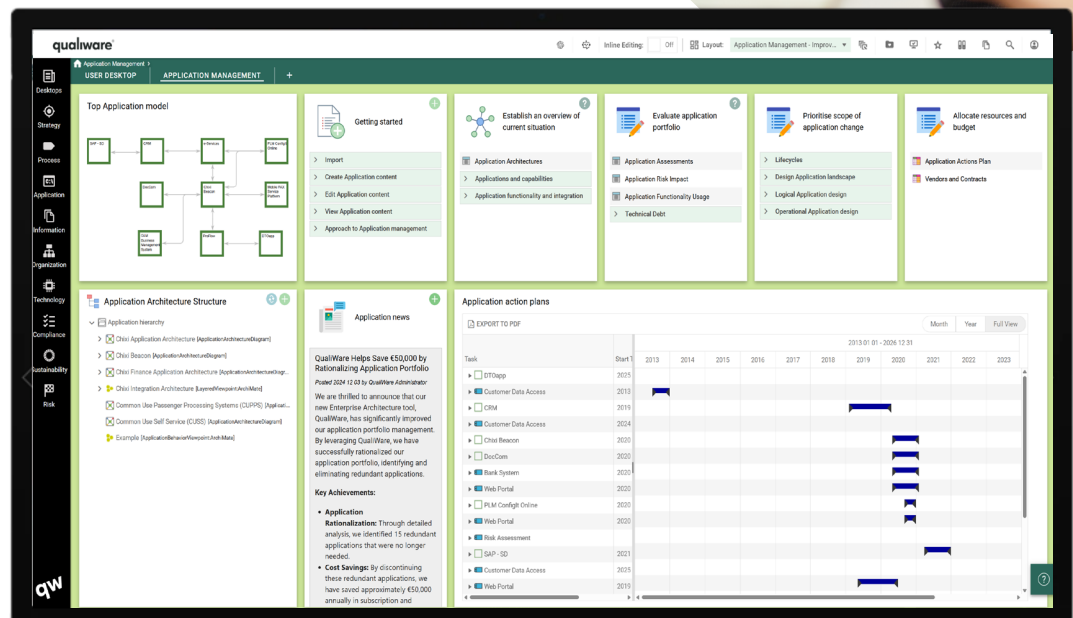# Application Portfolio Management

Why Application Management is Mission-Critical

Applications are the backbone of modern business. From frontline operations to strategic decision-making, nearly every part of an organization relies on technology to function and grow. But without a clear overview of the application landscape complexity creeps in fast. This means; what's running, what it supports, who owns it, and what it costs.

Most organizations are dealing with:

- A growing number of applications with overlapping functionality
- Outdated or underused systems eating up budget
- Constant changes to mission-critical apps, often without coordination
- Pressure to innovate, modernize, and cut costs, all at once

That's where APM comes in. It provides the visibility and structure needed to track usage, costs, dependencies, and value, so you can ensure your application landscape supports your business strategy.

- Purpose driven desktop for Application Portfolio Management.

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Take Control of Your Application Landscape

Application Portfolio Management (APM) is about making sure your applications actively support your business strategy. When IT and business are aligned, technology investments become sharper, and more impactful. With APM, you can:

- Cut costs: Identify overlaps, eliminate redundant apps, and focus spend on what creates value
- Ensure strategic alignment: Understand which applications support which business goals
- Clarify ownership and responsibility: Break down silos and distribute accountability
- Boost agility and innovation: Prioritize the initiatives that truly drive transformation
- Reduce risk and stay compliant: Handle Shadow IT, improve governance, and stay audit-ready

Combat Shadow IT with APM

In most organizations, IT isn't centralized anymore: departments often bring in their own tools to solve local problems, leading to fragmented systems, hidden costs, and growing security risks. This is the reality of Shadow IT.

Without a shared overview of the application portfolio, it becomes nearly impossible to control spend, ensure compliance, make informed decisions about upgrades, consolidation, or retirement, and align IT with actual business needs.

A strategic approach to Application Portfolio Management puts you back in control. By mapping the application landscape across departments and involving the right stakeholders, you gain the insight needed to decide which systems to invest in, which to phase out, and how to align everything with the business goals.

Application Management is a Team Effort

Application Portfolio Management only works well when it reflects the reality of your organization. That means IT can't build and manage the portfolio alone. To get a true picture of how applications are used, supported, and valued, you need input from across the business, from finance and operations to compliance and strategy.

QualiWare is built to make collaboration easy. The platform supports co-creation, so different teams can contribute directly with insights, data, and ownership. This ensures that the application landscape is technically accurate and strategically relevant.

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Business Outcomes

Cost Reduction

Most organizations are spending more on applications than they need to, often without realizing it. Redundant systems, overlapping functionality, and outdated technologies quietly drain budgets year after year. Without visibility, it's hard to know where the waste is hiding.

With Application Portfolio Management in QualiWare, you gain the insight needed to take control. You can identify which applications deliver real value, where functions are duplicated, and which systems no longer support business goals. This makes it easier to decide what to keep, consolidate, or retire.

Organizations that approach APM systematically often reduce application-related costs by up to 30%, according to Gartner.
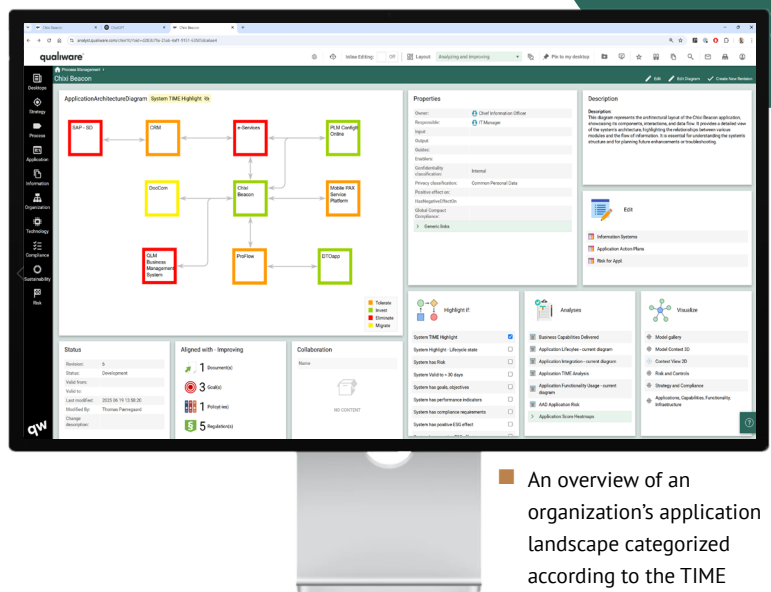
Strategy to Execution

QualiWare gives you the structure to align IT with business strategy: By mapping relationships between strategy, objectives, capabilities, and the applications that support them, you get a clear view of how IT enables your business. Roadmaps, ownership structures, and cost tracking bring visibility to ongoing projects and initiatives, making it easier to prioritize, allocate resources, and stay on course.

Optimization, Agility & Transformation

QualiWare makes it easier to plan and prioritize IT changes. With full visibility into the application portfolio, you can spot where improvements are needed, assess the impact of change, and focus resources on what matters most. Whether your organization is going through a transformation, preparing for M&A, or migrating to the cloud, QualiWare helps you stay in control of both the current and future state.

Reduce Risk and Stay Compliant

In a time where the average data breach costs millions, its vital to know where your risks lie, and how to act on them. With APM in QualiWare, you gain the control and insight needed to manage risk proactively. You can assess which applications pose security, regulatory, financial, or operational risks, and put clear actions in place to address them. Documentation, ownership, and control measures are all connected in one system, making it easier to stay ahead of audits and compliance demands.

An overview of an organization's application landscape categorized according to the TIME framework. This framework helps organizations assess and plan which applications to keep, improve, move, or retire.

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Key Components

Application Rationalization

With QualiWare, you can evaluate your application portfolio against your strategic, operational, and financial goals. Pre-built reports and tools like TIME assessments, lifecycle overviews, project planning, and cost-benefit analysis help you identify which applications to keep, improve, or retire.

Lifecycle Management

Applications and technologies don't stay relevant forever. Over time, business needs shift, systems age, and new solutions emerge.
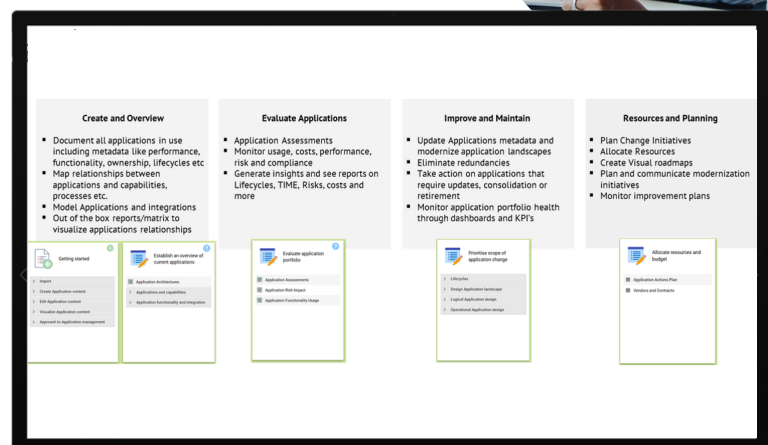
QualiWare gives you the tools to manage every stage of an application's life, from initial investigation to retirement. You can define lifecycle phases, create project plans, and visualize the impact of planned changes. This makes it easier to coordinate upgrades, avoid technical debt, and ensure your IT landscape keeps pace with business change. This practice is a key part of maintaining a healthy application landscape.
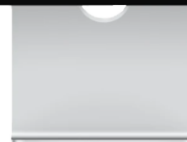
Integrations

In a modern IT landscape, no application operates in isolation. Systems exchange data, trigger processes, and depend on one another to deliver value. QualiWare helps you map and manage how applications interact, from data flows and dependencies to ownership and integration points. By documenting these relationships, you gain the visibility needed to assess the impact of change, improve data governance, and strengthen system resilience.

Risk Management

QualiWare gives you a framework to manage risk proactively. You can identify critical applications, assess potential threats, and define controls to reduce exposure. Whether the risks are technical, financial, or regulatory, you'll have a clear overview and QualiWare will guide you step by step.

QualiWare gives you the overview of the whole journey with application portfolio management.

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APM Journey in QualiWare

QualiWare provides purpose driven desktops tailored to each area of your APM and Enterprise Architecture work. These desktops guide users step by step, from first input to real business impact, using a clear "Plan, Do, Check, Act" approach.

You begin by importing data and mapping out your current application landscape. As the picture forms, you gain the overview needed to evaluate your portfolio and identify opportunities for optimization or change. From there, you can plan concrete initiatives, track progress, and adjust as needed, all within the same environment.

The desktops are configurable, so you can adapt them to fit your organization's way of working.

APM is a part of Enterprise Architecture

In QualiWare, Application Portfolio Management is one of several focused workspaces designed to support your enterprise architecture journey. Each area, whether it's application management, capability modeling, technology planning, or governance, has its own dedicated desktop.

As you work with APM, you'll naturally start to connect with other parts of the enterprise architecture. Applications support capabilities. Capabilities support strategic goals. Technology and data support it all. The platform allows you to expand your scope gradually, bringing in new perspectives and stakeholders as your needs evolve.

Enterprise Architecture is a continuous process of adapting to change, aligning strategy with execution, and building a resilient organization. APM is often the entry point.

QualiWare's Purpose Driven Approach
To make Enterprise Architecture manageable and relevant across the business, QualiWare offers a purpose-driven approach. This means you don't have to implement everything at once; you start where the need is greatest.

With dedicated desktops for areas like Application Management, Capability Management, or Risk & Compliance, users can focus on their specific challenges while still working within a shared platform. Each desktop supports

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a clear methodology based on "Plan, Do, Check, Act", guiding users through every step — from getting started and building an overview, to evaluating content and planning change initiatives.

This modular setup allows your organization to grow into enterprise architecture at its own pace. You might begin with APM, but as your work evolves, you'll naturally start touching on related areas. QualiWare supports that journey by making it easy to open up new areas and involve more parts of the business over time.

How APM Connects to Other Areas

Application Portfolio Management doesn't exist in a vacuum. As you work with APM in QualiWare, you'll naturally connect to other domains within the enterprise architecture, each adding value and depth to your portfolio insights.

Application Management links directly to Capability Management, helping you understand which applications support which business capabilities, and where there are gaps or redundancies. It also connects with Information Architecture, ensuring that your systems can access, process, and use data efficiently to support decision-making.

In organizations undergoing transformation, APM supports broader initiatives like Mergers and acquisitions (M&A), ERP replacements, cloud migration, or digital business transformation by providing the structure and visibility needed to manage change.

By combining APM with Technology Management, you can align applications with the infrastructure they run on, supporting modernization, reducing risk, and enabling smoother cloud transitions.

You can also connect applications to business processes through Business Process Management, using tools like BPMN to understand how systems support operations. And through Innovation Management, you ensure that your portfolio doesn't just support today's needs, but creates room for new ideas and future growth.

QualiWare enables all of these connections in one platform, so you can move from isolated analysis to a unified view of your enterprise.

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Let's Talk

See how QualiWare can support your journey, get in touch with Sales Manager:

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