FROM MONOLITHIC MAINFRAMES TO CLOUD FOR FASTER TIME TO MARKET

Time-to-market has always been a critical success factor in staying ahead of the competition and in today's digital era, speed is a fundamental necessity for enterprises. This is directly applicable to financial services firms that are being hit by competition not only from within the sector but also from new-age technology firms. In such a scenario, legacy systems such as mainframes – an integral part of heavy-duty computing across industries - are forcing financial firms to bear the twin crosses of slow response times and high costs.

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As per a study by Greyhound Research, a leading global analyst firm, legacy modernization continues to be one of the top three priority areas in digital transformation among technology leaders. 72% respondents cited significant maintenance costs, sluggish responsiveness, and time-to-market challenges as the top reasons for moving away from mainframe legacy.

AGEING PLATFORMS

The same reasons compelled a major US-based financial services firm, an Infosys client, to undertake modernization of its accounts receivables and loyalty platforms. These business-critical platforms were riddled with rigid workflows, sluggish performance, very high maintenance costs, and slow time-to-market for critical updates. The root cause - the ageing platforms were built on rigid monolithic mainframes, which had grown complex and were difficult to maintain.

Having decided to modernize these platforms, the firm partnered with Infosys for the task. The Infosys team recommended a three-step approach for legacy modernization of the platforms.

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3 STEPS TO MODERNIZATION

The first step was to perform an 'as-is' analysis that involved knowledge documentation to analyze the current state of the applications through reverse engineering. The analysis revealed significant functional and technical redundancies. Majority of the code across the two platforms had never been executed, and both the platforms were riddled with inflexible business processes and complex workflows.

Having identified, tabulated, and categorized the issues plaguing the platforms, the Infosys team developed a scorecard to prioritize modernization opportunities through the Infosys Business Value Articulation (BVA) methodology. BVA provides a framework to analyze the key value levers within a problem area, how they can be measured, and the prerequisites for bringing about the required changes. This approach helps articulate the value of particular initiatives and, in this case, helped the team identify and prioritize modernization opportunities.

Once the priorities were agreed upon, the team set to work. Infosys undertook code modernization, decoupling of business rules from code, and shifting key business rules to a rules engine, allowing the firm to adapt business rules without IT intervention. Infosys also recommended and supported migration of the two platforms from mainframes to a Java-enabled cloud-based platform, thereby accomplishing flexibility and reducing time-to-market and maintenance costs.

The modernization of the two platforms drastically reduced service response times, which fell an impressive 75% to merely 25 minutes. The firm was also able to reduce maintenance costs significantly, with average project costs reduced by 35%. And, most importantly, the firm improved time-to-market by 40% with average project duration cut to 36 weeks.

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FROM MONOLITHIC MAINFRAMES TO CLOUD FOR FASTER TIME TO MARKET: THE FIVE TAKEAWAYS

1. **Adopt** a systematic roadmap for legacy modernization, through a well-devised strategy of analysis, prioritization, and planning.

2. **Perform** as-is analysis through a combination of learning from formal documentation and reverse engineering. Focus on redundancies and key areas of functional impact.

3. **Develop** a methodology/scorecard to prioritize available opportunities and leverage tools, such as Infosys' Business Value Articulation framework, for focused and objective decision making of functional impact.

4. **Simplify** architecture by decoupling business rules from mainframe code. Speed up time-to-market by extracting business policies to make them available for change without IT intervention.

5. **Migrate** monolithic mainframe applications to Java-enabled cloud-based platform to achieve modern, faster, and flexible processes.

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BIG LEARNING:

Speed is critical for competitiveness. Having taken the call to modernize their legacy platforms, our client benefited from the expertise that Infosys brought to the project. While mainframes continue to remain a major bottleneck, it is possible to achieve a responsive and sustainable application platform without lengthy and tedious migrations through a well-devised strategy, backed by experience.

WE DID THIS FOR THEM. WE CAN DO IT FOR YOU.

Learn more about how to modernize your legacy systems by reaching out to us at **askus@infosys.com**

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