



WHITEPAPER

Accelerating Digital Transformation with **MODERNIZED APPLICATIONS**



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A BRIEF

- There's never been a better time than now to accelerate digital transformation.
- According to IDC, digital transformation could generate \$18 trillion in additional business value for organizations.
- MarketsandMarket.com notes that the global application modernization services market is “expected to grow from USD 11.4 billion in 2020 to USD 24.8 billion by 2025, at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 16.8% during the forecast period.” The top factors driving the application modernization market are cloud services, large-scale migration of workloads to cloud-based and Service-Oriented Structures (SOA), rising focus on transforming and modernizing legacy systems, and a “rise in demand for modern infrastructure to ensure business continuity.”
- As organizations grapple with the hard-hitting COVID-19 pandemic, upgrades to modern infrastructures and applications have become necessary. This comes as organizations embrace remote work to maintain workforce productivity and ensure business continuity.
- Technology advancement, changing customer needs, and improved software functionalities due to changing business landscape are driving the demand for application modernization.
- To modernize respective applications, enterprises need to ensure the complexities of compatibility with existing legacy applications do not outweigh the benefits provided by modernized applications.
- Cloud application migration services are at the center of application modernization.
- There's heightened adoption of application modernization services by SMEs across the globe. This is expected to propel the growth of the overarching application modernization services market as SMEs seek to enhance agility and reduce TCO.

INTRODUCTION

Digital transformation (DX) has become a critical discussion issue for forward-thinking organizations and competitors. For many, digital transformation stands out as a vital differentiator of our digital age amidst the rapid digitization spree accelerated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Questions about how firms can effectively leverage digital technologies to provide high-quality services and products to their customers and gain a competitive advantage over their rivals continue to dominate.

As the debate carries on, it's clear that modernized applications underpin digital transformation success. Modernizing applications is one of the critical strategies for accelerating digital transformation. Modernized applications are essential in enabling value, continuous delivery, greater agility, and DevOps.

Organizations that have embraced application modernization while identifying and effectively navigating the associated complexities are reaping big rewards. That said, modern CIOs have a unique opportunity to lead digital transformation strategies within their enterprises. As a top CIO, proactivity and strategic planning are your greatest virtues. That means doing away with antiquated software that creates insecurities and inefficiencies and graduating to modernized applications that deliver business value.

This whitepaper explores how organizations can accelerate digital transformation with modernized applications for even more growth and productivity.



MODERNIZED APPS VS. TRADITIONAL SOFTWARE

Traditional software systems have evolved to support growing business needs. But as companies embrace digital transformation, traditional applications can be challenging including limiting employees to complete their daily tasks on time.

For many organizations, upgrading from legacy applications to modernized software systems provides more flexibility while reducing costs through improved efficiency and reduced risk of outages. Investing in new technology that helps automate workflows and processes is key to assisting businesses to accelerate digital transformation efforts.

In many cases, a shift towards modern software solutions makes it easier for companies to build new apps or quickly update existing systems without spending months on custom development projects. In other cases, technology like enterprise app stores offers employees access to pre-built apps that can be integrated into an organization's existing ecosystem without custom code.

Either way, as enterprise applications increasingly move away from traditional models and toward modern ones, modernizing your applications is business-critical.



THE BUSINESS CASE FOR MODERNIZED APPLICATIONS

The ROI that comes with digital transformation is undeniable. Many CTOs and CIOs are aware that digital transformation is essential. However, it's a challenge to get started with digital transformation for your business.

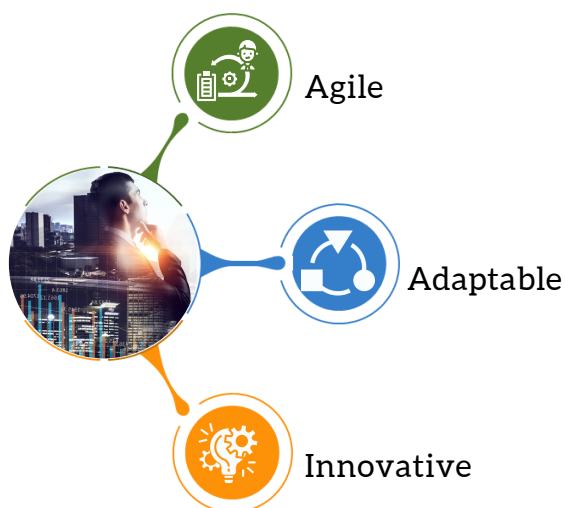
The best way to hack digital transformation is to leverage modernized applications.

Modernized applications are more flexible, cost-effective, and easier to manage than their traditional counterparts. This allows you to focus on what's important: making your business run better, faster, and smarter than ever before.

It's a seamless transition that positions you to stay ahead of trends and evolve faster than your competitors—leaving them wondering what hit them. Whether you want to increase security, optimize costs or integrate seamlessly with other systems, modern applications will allow you to do just that, and more.

THE ROLE OF MODERNIZED APPLICATIONS IN DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

IT modernization is more than just a buzzword; it's an essential part of modernizing for success. Every business needs to be;



To achieve these qualities, you must use technology as a tool to innovate—not to stifle innovation by clinging on to old systems. Businesses that have successfully adapted their IT infrastructures are seeing great returns on investment (ROI) and experiencing significant increases in operational efficiency. By adjusting your infrastructure, your company can attract top talent, grow its brand and maintain market share in today's competitive climate.

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Investing in modernized applications and software development for business process re-engineering should be a top priority for every enterprise. Without modernizing or upgrading your software, you'll find it challenging to keep up with customer demands and stay ahead of your competition.

If you want to keep up with digital transformation—or accelerate it—modernization is key.

Here are a few tips on how to achieve that goal:



No. 01 – Define Clear Goals

When planning out software modernization projects, set clear goals and make sure they align with your organization's overall objectives (as well as SMART objectives). Be sure not to bite off more than you can chew by defining an achievable target before undertaking any modernization project. So, plan accordingly.



No. 02 – Identify Pain Points

One of the most important first steps in software modernization is identifying problem areas. Whether it's a specific team or department that would benefit from revamped technologies or outdated systems that need replacement, be clear on where you want to see improvements before moving forward.



No. 03 – Bring Business Partners on Board

While business execs are critical components of digital transformation efforts, don't forget about other stakeholders—especially when putting together a business case or writing a modernization plan. No department should have autonomy over IT investments or go through processes alone; they all play integral roles in digital success and must work together to succeed.



No. 04 – Hire New Talent

It might seem unnecessary to hire new team members if specific teams aren't lacking manpower, but there are other benefits to hiring developers and designers.

Hiring fresh talent brings fresh perspectives and expertise into your organization, making it easier to find new ways of doing things. In addition, having another pair of eyes reviewing applications during development can ensure mistakes aren't made. Finally, getting outside opinions on legacy applications can lead to more realistic deadlines and more accurate budgets for application modernizations.



No. 05 – Get Buy-in From Leadership

As mentioned earlier, changing even one department requires everyone's support—from leadership to front-line workers. Remember that leadership needs time to get used to change. Keep them involved throughout modernization efforts, so they're informed and updated every step of the way.

PRINCIPLE CHARACTERISTICS OF MODERNIZED APPLICATIONS

Modernized applications preserve how they function but offer changes to the user interface, data feeds, and underlying database structure designed to facilitate new technologies' deployment.

Connectivity



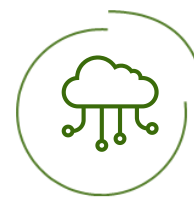
The technology that connects all devices, applications, systems, and people to each other is the backbone of digital transformation. It allows companies to collaborate seamlessly, wherever they may be in the world.

Mobility



Accessing all information anywhere, anytime on any device. It allows employees to work remotely, enabling them to be more productive and spend more time with their families.

Cloud



The cloud is the platform for digital transformation. It allows companies to scale quickly, reduce costs and improve security. The cloud can be used to accelerate any business process, including managing and analyzing data.

ACCELERATING THE TRANSITION TO A MODERNIZED APPLICATION ENVIRONMENT

When it comes to business-critical applications, downtime and performance issues can have serious consequences, like missed sales opportunities or lost customers.

Modernizing your application environment is an essential step in eliminating these risks. However, it also may present some challenges you may not be fully prepared to face on your own.

Fortunately, you can implement the following steps to help ensure a smooth transition that will save you time and money in the long run.

1) Learn About the Shift toward SaaS Solutions

As many businesses have discovered, Software as a Service (SaaS) is increasingly becoming an attractive option for solutions that were previously delivered on-premises. SaaS essentially streamlines workflows and can reduce costs considerably. That's the reason many businesses are turning away from legacy solutions in favor of cloud-based ones.

Moving away from legacy solutions can be quick and easy if your company takes its time to learn SaaS systems and capability.

2) Examine Key Factors Impacting the Transition

A successful migration requires careful planning, but it also involves examining key factors that will impact how your organization approaches modernization.

These factors fall into two main categories:

- Technical requirements
- Business considerations

Business teams that fail to address each phase and planning step can find themselves with an outdated application environment. At the same time, organizations that do not plan and budget adequately are at risk of creating budget overruns or overspending their annual IT budgets. Understanding key factors such as these helps set realistic expectations, so you're ready when it comes time to move forward with your migration.

3) Understand Legacy Systems Migration

Every organization's IT environment is unique, making it challenging to find one-size-fits-all solutions.

To start preparing your application environment for modernization, you'll need a clear understanding of how your current systems function, how they might perform in an updated environment and what new capabilities are required.

Start by learning about cloud services and potential ways to migrate data and applications that can be used as stand-ins until you're ready to modernize. Mapping out these changes will help you determine whether or not an outright migration is feasible, saving you both time and money.

4) Budget for Outsourcing

Since some modernized applications are more complex and require additional programming talent, it might be necessary to outsource development efforts.

If so, ensure that your budget includes adequate funds for outsourcing services. Most companies underestimate how much it will cost to outsource new application development. If you're not careful, your budget could quickly spiral out of control.



SIX STEPS FOR SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION MODERNIZATION



No. 01 – Don't rush

Application modernization is a big project, and it's tempting to dive right in and start updating code. Still, you first need to develop an in-depth understanding of what problems your applications face and how they fit into your business processes.



No. 02 – Examine all your options

Making sure every possible option is on the table when weighing risks and rewards will help guide decisions down the line.

For example, if you can easily upgrade existing systems without abandoning them entirely, do it. It'll save time, workforce, and potential costs while keeping downtime to a minimum. But if nothing else works out, remember: Going green doesn't mean having to throw away perfect hardware.



No. 03 – Make data migration a key focus

Data is essential and critical for analytics-driven decision-making. Organizations need access to valuable and timely information about their customers, partners, and financial performance—all areas where legacy platforms can fall short

As such, migrating data from one system to another is critical in any significant overhaul. Ensure you understand data migration best practices and how it could impact your business.



No. 04 – Plan ahead for future updates

If you decide to update old applications instead of starting over, don't just update for now. Plan for future upgrades and improvements so everything doesn't come crashing down around you.

Doing so calls for serious collaboration among business, IT, and DevOps teams because changes in one area may affect others. You don't want to end up halfway through a project only to realize something else must change ASAP.



No. 05 – Seek Expert Advice

There are countless ways to approach application modernization projects, so there's no right way or single template for success.

However, working with an experienced partner can help you understand where you are currently in your digital transformation journey and recommend a strategy based on experience that fits your business objectives and technical needs.



No. 06 – Measure Results before Moving Forward

Keep track of everything involved in each step along the way—not just cost overruns or software bugs but also employee morale, service disruption levels, and other factors that impact company operations. Such help decides whether or not applying similar solutions elsewhere makes sense in the future.

Ideally, you should keep measuring even after launch to gauge overall satisfaction and identify areas for improvement. Remember, not all that glitters is gold.

MODERNIZATION PROVIDES IMMEDIATE BENEFITS

Many companies are still using older technology. By implementing newer systems, you can get many benefits:



Improved Security

While no organization can eliminate security threats, modernized applications are inherently more secure than legacy versions. Increased cyber-attacks and reliance on cloud storage mean your apps need to be up-to-date. Cloud-storage makes it easy for IT departments (and employees) to store data in a centralized place, but older applications are vulnerable because they were built before these standards existed.

Upgrading lets you reap security benefits like encryption, auto-backups, and password protection. Plus, new technology also helps you track who is accessing which files—so valuable data isn't at risk of being lost or stolen.



Faster Development Cycles

Due to increased developer productivity, businesses can iterate on new products and services more quickly with modernized software.

A modern software stack reduces complexity for developers, who can spend more time working in their domain expertise and less time fighting with inflexible software.

Developers also constantly review what they've done and how they've implemented a solution, which helps prevent mistakes that lead to security flaws. This results in shorter development cycles, higher developer productivity, and better code security.



Quick Time to Market

Quickly build your apps on modernized software and cloud-based frameworks so that you can get products to market faster.

In doing so, you'll reduce risk—and also cost. You'll need fewer resources and minimal IT management experience, which will give you more time and resources for innovation. As a result of reduced time spent managing IT systems, you'll save money on your infrastructure costs.



Increased User Adoption

An optimized user experience will help your team be more efficient, which leads to greater productivity and happier employees. And with user experience becoming a table stake for any application, end-users expect speed, responsiveness, and reliability from software applications.

With modern applications, users can quickly achieve their goals and feel less limited by software functionality. App modernization spearheads a better user experience giving your organization an edge.

What's more, modernization allows for flexible and quick software updates making it easy for IT departments to keep business applications current with new features and security patches without impacting employee productivity.





Efficiency

In most cases, new software will be more intuitive and easier to use than legacy apps. And it may even help you accelerate your time-to-market as well.

All in all, investing in an updated application is worth it if you can save time, effort, and money down the road by streamlining processes—and modernizing makes that possible.



Reduced Operational Costs

With quicker and more efficient modernized applications, firms are able to drastically reduce IT costs.

They also have access to advanced features that allow for greater mobility across devices and more efficiency within workflows by upgrading. These improvements streamline day-to-day operations by eliminating redundancies and cutting out time-wasting tasks.



Scalability

Unlike old applications that may not handle your growing business, modernized apps scale with your business processes. With increased scalability comes increased security. Legacy systems aren't designed with today's cyber threats in mind, making them vulnerable. Upgrading to newer technology significantly reduces exposure and risk from hackers, malware, and other hazards.

Scalability also enables future extension capabilities and functionalities that enable your infrastructure to easily handle future business growth.

Many organizations find that adopting modern platforms improves every aspect of the business.



THE TRANSITION TO MODERNIZED APPLICATIONS

The process of transforming your applications to a modernized platform is an investment. But there are some great opportunities to accelerate that transition and extend beyond your organization's current capabilities. To do so, you need to know where to start and how to plan for success as you look toward digital transformation.



No. 01 – The How

Ask yourself how and what should you upgrade first? How will accelerated change cost less in the long run? Does accelerated change make more sense for in-house developers than cloud-based service providers?



No. 02 – Why It Matters

The process of digitally transforming business through technology is valuable for any business. If your company wants to make real progress, you must realize that transitioning from antiquated application systems to modern ones (or renovating your older platforms) requires careful planning and strategy.

Any approach needs people who think about project management and IT strategy at once. Any process also needs partners with deep expertise in design patterns for modernization and leaders who understand which projects are essential versus those that may yield diminishing returns. Without effective partner selection and alignment, your ability to move efficiently is limited.



ACCELERATE YOUR MODERNIZATION JOURNEY WITH PRONIX

Having focused experts on hand makes getting started easier overall. With experts focusing efforts on designing and implementing strategies related to cloud architecture, Agile, and DevOps infrastructure, you don't have to navigate these potentially messy areas on your own—which saves time overall.

Pronix offers a unique approach to continuously enable businesses to migrate their aging infrastructure to modern digital platforms.

- We work with you to assess your existing applications.
- We co-create a modernization strategy tailored and aligned to your business goals. Whether that's to digitize, improve ROI, achieve faster time-to-market and market agility, improve inefficiencies, reduce TCO, and more.
- Our application modernization and integration services cover all application lifecycle stages to deliver scalable application modernization results.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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"We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to contribute to the Pronix Inc".



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