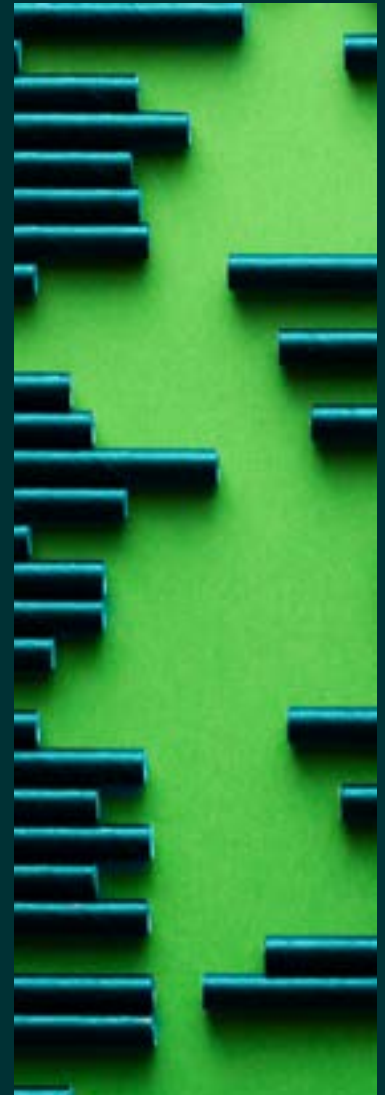


Navigating mission-critical application modernization

Strategies for agile, efficient and innovative crucial ecosystems



Stay ahead of the pack by revamping your essential applications

Deliver value and remain at the forefront of innovation and efficiency

The secret to your organization's competitive edge is interwoven within your business processes, applications and systems. Updating these systems can help unlock next-level performance.

You can enhance your company's agility, flexibility and resiliency by updating your applications to accommodate various modern languages, frameworks and infrastructure platforms. Evolving these applications will empower you to maximize the output of your system of record, making it easier to address line-of-business requests and achieve desired outcomes.

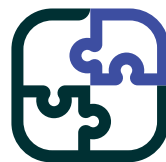
While modernization can keep you on par with competitors and abreast of technological advancements, not all modernization projects will benefit your business. Some may simplify maintenance and reduce costs but could add new risks or increase IT complexity.

The balance lies in informed decision-making. With the correct information and insights, you can steer your project toward success and avoid pitfalls others might face.

Seize the moment

Revamping the technology your business relies on every day requires careful consideration. Simply copying others' modernization strategies won't deliver the results you need. The timing and scope must be tailored to your organization's unique requirements. There's no one-size-fits-all solution.

If you find yourself lagging behind competitors, struggling with customer experience or needing better scalability, the best time to initiate mainframe application modernization is now.



How can you steer clear of project pitfalls? Make informed choices.



Embrace top-down thinking

The days of rigid systems of record are behind us. Successful companies are revolutionizing application development, beginning with the end-user experience and building the technology to support it. And guess what? People expect business applications to offer the ease of use of consumer applications.

However, many organizations need help breaking free from old thought patterns. They're stuck with outdated, bottom-up approaches and monolithic architectures that hinder the introduction of new features and capabilities.

Mainframe application modernization demands a change in basic assumptions. It requires applications that suit the best development practices that strategically bolster your business systems so you can effectively evaluate your solution.



Break free from outdated thinking and systems. Modernize and tap into your business's hidden potential.

Adapt and evaluate — continuously

Mastering the art of mainframe application modernization is a continuous journey. Today's innovation can soon become commonplace or even obsolete with the ever-evolving tech landscape. Staying ahead requires constant adaptation and ongoing evaluation of your solutions.

Don't halt progress. As vendors keep introducing new technological marvels, your users will expect similar innovations in your applications. Even if your modernization project goes smoothly, there will always be more to explore.

Embrace this evolution. Change requests, user demands and management pressures are part of the process. However, strategic budgeting and planning can help avoid unexpected costs and prevent delivery disappointment.



Structure your modernization program around the customer experience, working with modern technologies and your existing applications.

Prepare for personnel challenges

The right team can make or break your mainframe application modernization effort. Remember to consider the importance of having well-prepared and competent personnel.

Evolving legacy applications and systems to modern technologies demands skilled engineering resources. You'll need a team proficient in DevOps processes, continuous delivery methods and agile principles to ensure minimal disruption during the transition.

Specific technical skills are crucial. For instance, if you're moving to a containerized, cloud-native environment, you'll need professionals well versed in these technologies. Docker and Kubernetes are essential for modern scalable applications; your team needs to master them.

Consider your team's role beyond the modernization phase. Will your existing team be reassigned or reskilled? Many companies choose a hybrid approach of reskilling current workforce and hiring new talent from the market. Ensure your entire team — developers, user interface workers, quality engineers and customer-facing personnel — fully support the project. They must be ready to seize the opportunities and meet the responsibilities of modernized applications.



Mainframe application modernization is a symphony of skills. Success demands a tech-savvy team, agile practices and a readiness to embrace the future.



Travel bidirectionally

Approaching mainframe application modernization as a bidirectional journey is key to success. Start by designing your program from the customer experience, working back to the technology. Simultaneously, move forward from your starting point, focusing on the mission-critical solutions powering your business (see figure).

Every journey is unique, with different starting points, technical challenges and end goals. See figure on the next page to begin by understanding the "why" behind modernization. What business benefits do you anticipate? Then, set clear goals and plan your approach accordingly. With potentially hundreds of applications, not all need to be modernized. Determine which ones are the best candidates and prioritize accordingly.



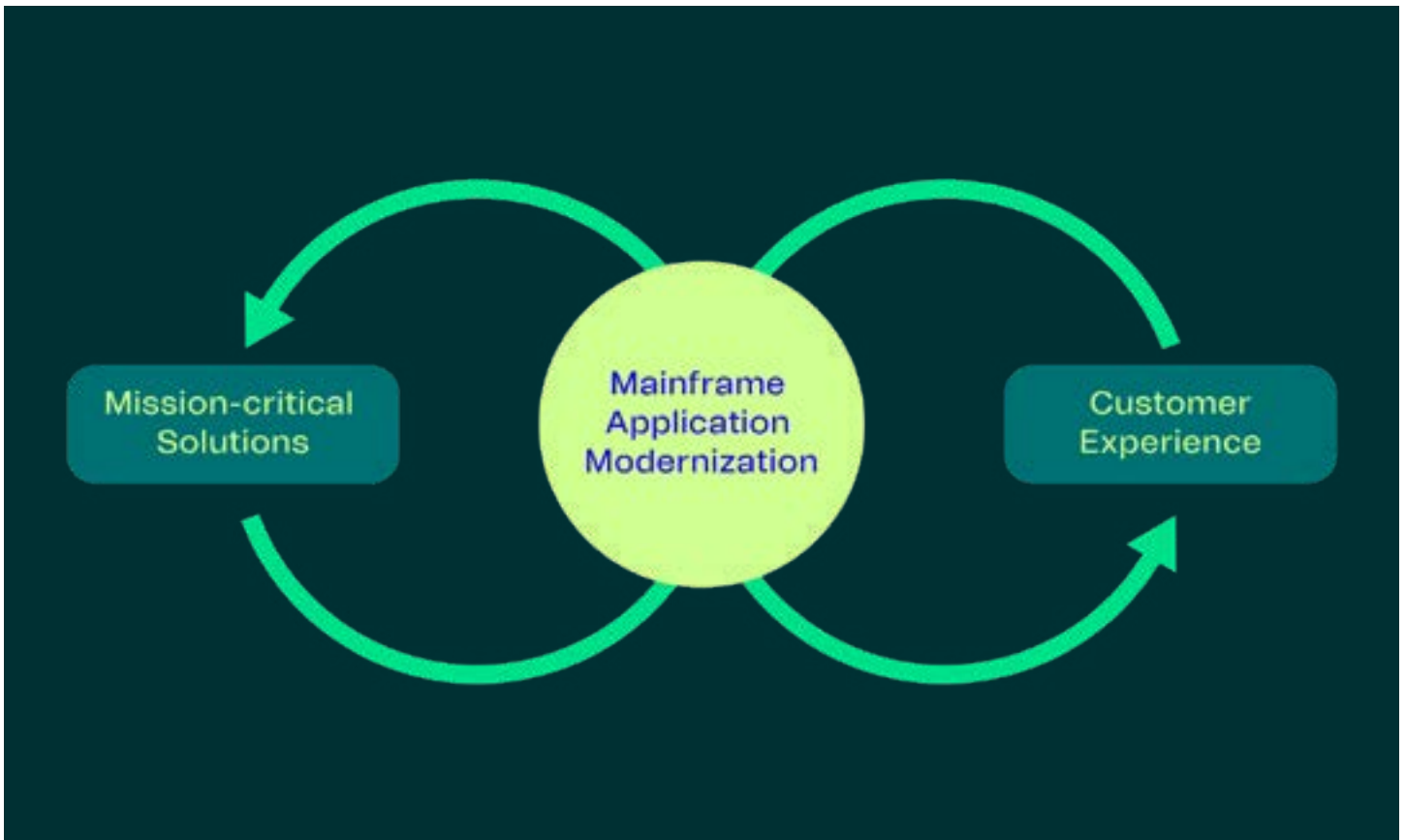


Figure: The bidirectional journey of mainframe application modernization



Design for success by starting your modernization program with customer experience and working both backward to the technology and forward from your mission-critical solutions.

Unlock agility and adaptability for your computing workloads. Discover the most effective approach to execute your plan with finesse. You can empower each application to evolve independently by rearchitecting a large single-unit application into logically smaller functional units called microservices. This incremental change allows for independent development, testing and deployment, ensuring uninterrupted operation and resilience.

Rather than a complete overhaul, by transitioning to a modular microservices architecture and migrating one feature at a time, you can make changes to one part of the application without affecting the software's overall functionality.

While no one has a crystal ball for perfect planning, being ready to respond to evolving needs is crucial. Establish small modernization goals and adapt your plan as needed, aligning with your unique value proposition, return on investment results and business requirements.



A perfect mainframe application modernization project always leaves room for more

Building the foundation for a brighter tomorrow

As companies worldwide embrace the inevitable need for mainframe application modernization, how can you navigate this complex journey while minimizing risk?

Collaborating with a trusted partner can make all the difference. Unlike a one-size-fits-all approach, the key to a successful mainframe modernization journey lies in smart, informed choices that leverage the lessons learned by successful companies before you. Drawing on their experiences, you can ensure your application modernization initiative flourishes rather than fizzles.

With a track record of successful modernization initiatives, Unisys offers unparalleled expertise in various areas, from end-to-end automation to DevSecOps practices, microservices architecture, data analytics, artificial intelligence and more. Unisys is dedicated to updating applications and revolutionizing operations, empowering organizations to stay ahead in a competitive landscape.



Mainframe application modernization success

5 actionable strategies for your journey

Mainframe application modernization is a transformational journey that promises increased agility, improved user experiences and operational efficiency. The following five key strategies can steer your organization toward a successful modernization initiative.

1

Define clear goals

Start with a clear understanding of your business and technical goals. A well-defined modernization scope will guide your journey to success.

2

Leverage legacy knowledge

Harness the power of your legacy systems. Keep your existing business logic intact to ensure a smoother transition to modernized applications.

3

Prioritize user experience

Always keep the user in mind. Modernization should deliver enhanced experiences, and every update should be aligned with user needs and expectations.

4

Invest in the right skills and resources

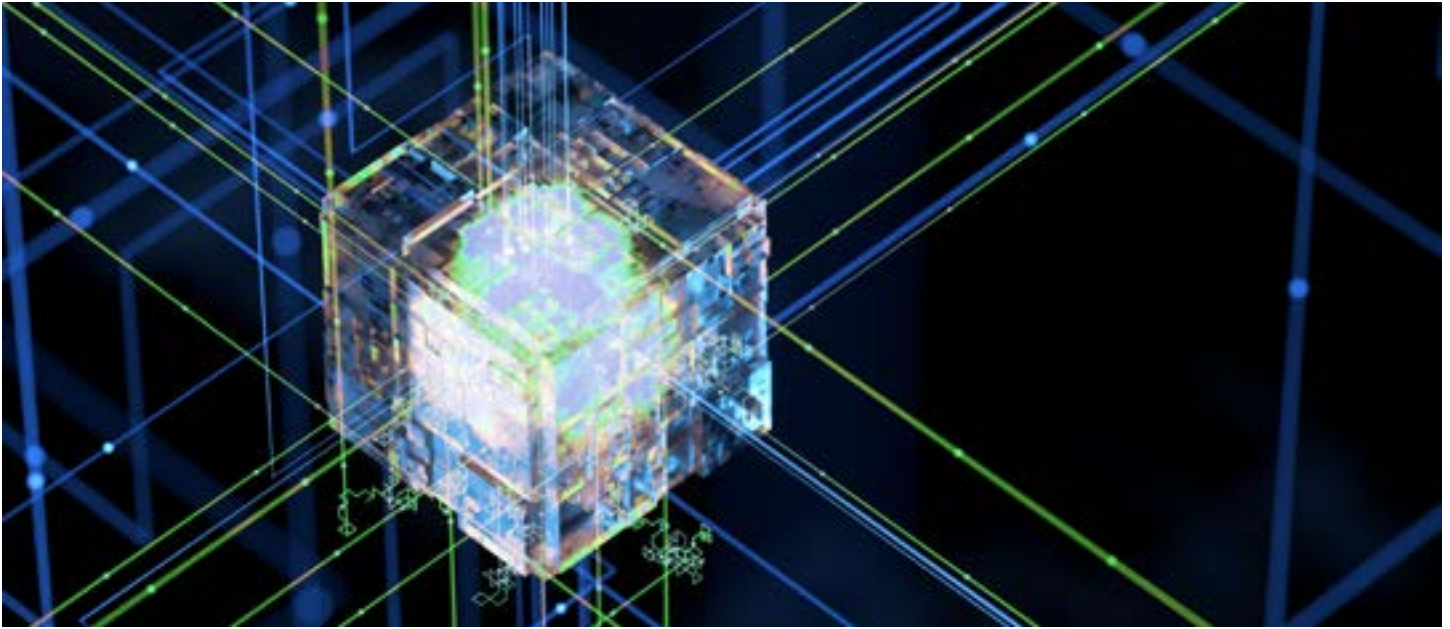
Equip your team with the expertise necessary for modernization. Reskilling, upskilling and hiring the right talent can make the difference between success and failure.

5

Embrace agile principles

Turn your modernization into a journey of continuous improvement. Agile principles like iterative development and continuous testing help you adapt to change, reduce risks and deliver value faster.





How Unisys can help

Success lies not only in the destination but also in how you navigate the journey. Partner with Unisys to unlock your organization's digital potential and propel your business into the future with confidence and ease.

Let an industry leader help ease your journey. Contact a Unisys expert today.

For more information, visit www.unisys.com/mainframe-modernization-services.



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