

THE TRANSFORMIX COMPUTER CORPORATION



Paas ModernizationInPlace™

A Transformix Whitepaper

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The IBM I is a few small steps from a modernized platform.

In a challenging economy, all organizations are under intense pressure to provide better user experiences and/or reduce costs. For many organizations this means finding more cost-effective IT delivery methods that also support the rapid creation of innovative new services. While on the surface these goals may seem contradictory, for owners of the IBM i (as400, iSeries) it is not only possible but very practical. Such modern trends such as mobile and web application enablement and cloud adoption can be easier for owners of reliable, worthier of retention legacy applications than they are for users who have applications that must be replaced.

Popular thinking makes out all legacy systems to be unwieldy albatrosses that must be either migrated to Linux, UNIX or Windows, radically modified or replaced. However, due to actions taken by IBM and others in the last few years, a closer examination of the IBM i paints an entirely different picture. A close examination of the IBM i by an informed analyst will see little difference in development capability between the platform and a Linux, UNIX or Windows platform. This is easily proved by what we call ModernizationInPlace™ and PaaS ModernizationInPlace.

ModernizationInPlace is a set of tools, techniques and best practices that facilitate the modernization of existing legacy IBM i applications in place on an IBM i platform. This, as opposed to requiring a platform change for modernization. PaaS ModernizationInPlace offers a fast track, low impact way to demonstrate the value and potential of ModernizationInPlace providing a cloud-based sandbox on which to evaluate one or more potential modernization approaches by having others provide the setup and integration. This means that the IBM i application owner can be responsible for simply providing an application save file or uploading the save file to a cloud based pre-prepared dedicated partition.

A Transformix modernization consultant then works with the customer to demonstrate the chosen modernization approach using the customers own application and data. Using this approach dramatically reduces the time it takes to realistically see how modernization can improve the value of an existing legacy application. What this means in practical terms is that you can see a mobile or web application using your own applications and/or data in hours or days instead of years. Furthermore, this is all demonstrated in the cloud. It therefore, gives you an opportunity to investigate the use of cloud based services.

Path to innovation, agility, flexibility and savings

IBM does a lot to promote the modernization features on the IBM i. Moreover, there are many companies that offer modernization services for the platform. Unfortunately, with a lot of choices come information overload. Therefore, it is difficult for someone who is busy keeping the system running to easily evaluate the various choices that are available. PaaS ModernizationInPlace seeks to address this need by choosing a selection of products, techniques and best practices with the goal in mind of providing a path to agility, innovation and savings.

Innovation

End users are increasingly clamoring for access to information via web and mobile interfaces. Venerable reliable workhorse applications are increasingly coming under criticism for such things as their awkward user interfaces and/or the difficulty in getting data from them on demand and in useful ways such as spreadsheets or PDFs. What if all of this could change in a few hours or a few days?

Agility

Rather big bang modernization, ModernizationInPlace offers agility. By that we mean, it offers the ability to modernize in stages and get useful results in relatively short periods of time though a series of smaller, agile projects.

Flexibility

ModernizationInPlace is not an all or nothing one-size-fits-all approach. One of its cornerstones is the use of RESTful API-centric development. This facilitates the flexibility to replace an application or application parts but to continue serving that API. So, for example, one can start out by providing API access to a legacy plant maintenance application with development done with a RESTful API. That application can be replaced by a package at a later date and as long as the API does not change, the user interface (mobile, web) applications that talk to the backend require few if any changes.

Savings

More and more organizations are recognizing the value of using cloud-based services to adapt quickly to market changes and create new revenue streams for companies. The cloud can also be of value in providing new technologies for development and modernization as well.

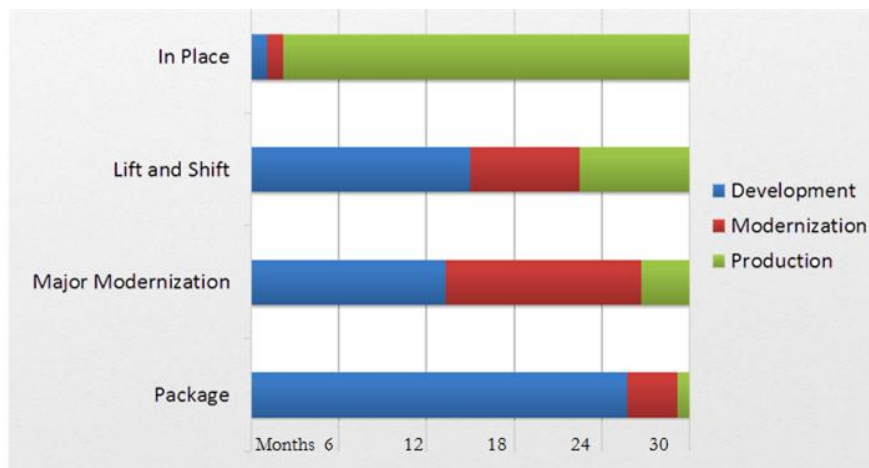


Figure 1 – Time and Money Savings

The PaaS ModernizationInPlace saves time and money in countless ways. Here are a few of them:

- Configuration is handled by outside professionals, this speeds up startup
- Training can be provided to help customers implement the same thing internally
- Limited time is spent learning how to prepare the environment so the customer can concentrate on development
- Reduce costs by paying only for what is used
- Scale up or down at the click of a mouse (future)
- Optimize IT resources and reduce sprawl (and hardware and license costs)
- Remove development constraints based on IT's capacity to deliver
- Improve system availability and reliability
- Provides an opportunity for the customers to evaluate cloud services at the same time

The fast track to application modernization

In their current state, legacy systems make it extremely difficult for organizations to create and launch new services, provide access to a mobile workforce, and accommodate geographically dispersed customers and partners. PaaS ModernizationInPlace enables rapid modernization — as well as ongoing access upgrades — without upfront capital expenditures, helping organizations increase their ability to evaluate tools and approaches and rapidly deploy new services.

Key considerations and best practices for choosing an IBM i modernization approach

PaaS ModernizationInPlace is a flexible approach that can be used for professional services, training, mentoring and/or full modernization services. It is intended to allow customers to purchase as much or as little professional services as possible in order to accelerate modernization of existing legacy systems.

When searching for a modernization professional make sure they:

- Are experienced with legacy application development
- Are experience with modern application development
- Are willing to mentor customers who want to do their own development
- Are available for short term or long term professional service engagements
- Can support customers remotely
- Provide a cloud based modernization option
- Follow best practices for data security and privacy
- Continually invest in developing industry-leading innovations
- Offer additional IT and business services such as systems integration, transition planning, change management and application portfolio rationalization
- Offer pricing models that align with enterprise procurement models

Conclusion

Outdated legacy systems are hindering organizations from innovating to create new revenue streams and support global and mobile requirements. PaaS ModernizationInPlace and the IBM i offer organizations a powerful means to

meet these needs as well as adapt quickly to market changes and reduce costs. The primary benefits of this unique community cloud PaaS offering have been speed to market, operational savings and the ability to keep up with user demand with an always current system.

When choosing modernization providers, you should select vendors who are experienced with legacy application development, modern application development and who offer a menu of choices for assisting the customer in getting where they need to be now and in the future.

Why Transformix

Transformix is both an application migration and modernization company which specializes in integrating legacy applications with modern architectures. We have many years experience with Linux, UNIX and Windows platforms as well as several proprietary platforms such as the HP 3000 and the IBM i. Our focus is to provide value to customers in the fastest, most reliable and least costly way. It is up to the customer to decide if a legacy application is worth keeping. For those applications, we assist customers in finding a way to not only implement web, mobile and API-centric features but also assist customers in upgrading the skills of existing staff to work in these environments.