HOW TO UNLOCK THE POWER OF YOUR EXISTING IT SYSTEMS

Outdated legacy systems have cost companies millions of dollars and soaked up budgets that could have been utilized for pushing innovative tech-driven business transformation. Industry research has found that enterprises spent more than half (57%) of their IT budgets on maintenances and support and invested an abysmal 16% on furthering innovation. But this laid-back approach to digitalization and heavy expenditure on maintenance got a wake-up call in 2020 when the COVID-19 brought the global economy to its knees. With a transform or perish mantra, the urgency to make the transition is compelling. Yet, several legacy systems (yes, even COBOL) are still performing the core functions today. Why? Because scrapping them entirely is a scary proposition for companies—it would amount to significant timelines and resources.

THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN IT AND BUSINESS IS REAL

In the modern enterprise, both IT and business functions seek to deliver innovative solutions for customers and internal stakeholders. And that's where their similarities end.

Wrought by their own challenges, aligning priorities between the IT division and other business functions becomes overly tricky, resulting in frustration on both sides. Competition, regulations, tech disruptions, and black swan events drive the business to demand new services and innovation from IT departments at speed and scale. Requests for updates, modifications, and new services are often met with long delivery schedules

that fail to keep pace with the rhythm of the business.

It's a lose-lose situation that leads to lengthy time-to-market, overburdened IT teams, and frustrated business owners. One typical result is that business lines turn to one-off SaaS solutions to solve their problem, leading to increased silos, disparate systems, and Shadow IT that is ungoverned, insecure, and difficult to sustain. Organizations need to opt for a solution that provides their IT teams with the speed and agility essential to deliver the systems vital to innovation.

GEARING UP FOR THE FUTURE

As businesses bounce back from the pandemic-induced downturn, heightened customer expectations, intense competition, and a dynamic business landscape have together created an unprecedented upheaval in how companies operate.

The numbers do the talking: average digital transformation spend for US-based companies stood at $14 million in 2018, and in 2022 spending on digital transformation (DX) worldwide is expected to touch a whopping $1.78 trillion. The app modernization services market, too, is expected to grow to touch $24.8 billion by 2025. Once considered a long-term strategy, digital transformation is now the bedrock of enterprise growth and success.

That said, a significant chunk of companies have already made or are making the shift to digital. Global research firm IDC predicts that as the economy remains on course to its digital destiny with 65% of global GDP digitalized by 2022, it will drive over $6.8 trillion of direct DX investments from 2020 to 2023. And while driving DX requires long-term investment and commitment, low code platforms available today can help speed up this transformation seamlessly while also adding the capability to scale on demand. With innumerable integration capabilities, low-code platforms fit perfectly into your existing IT landscape enabling new and legacy systems to co-exist. That way, businesses can modernize at their own pace, without the risk of rip-and-replace, to meet today's requirements and become future-ready.

THREE STRATEGIES TO MODERNIZE EXISTING IT SYSTEMS

With an incremental approach to modernizing existing applications, businesses can build, deploy, and manage the software needed to drive digital transformation while making the most of their IT investment. There are three ways that you can use a modern application development platform to modernize your legacy systems:

Extend

Extend your systems with new touchpoints and new customer journeys that address your business needs. And do so with minimal risk, cost, or need for special skills to customize your legacy systems

Refactor

Refactor your systems by transforming specific components and creating a modular and interoperable architecture that is agile and flexible

Re-build

Re-build your systems to create exactly what you need at the speed of buy, and create cloud-native and feature-rich apps with existing resources

Let's discuss each strategy in greater detail.

EXTEND

An Extend strategy works well when core systems are functional, and you need to quickly add new capabilities or new customer journeys to address urgent business needs

Just like adding a new garage or an attic to your house without much disruption. In such a scenario, a visual, model-driven development platform with pre-built UX and UI components offers a fast way to build role-specific views into enterprise data without altering the original system architecture. Modern application development platforms provide pre-built connectors to common enterprise systems such as SAP, Salesforce, and Microsoft Dynamics, so you can easily access the data you need.

You can leverage best-of-breed templates and accelerators to get up and running quickly, share real working prototypes with business users to collect feedback, and move smoothly from prototype to production by adding data, business logic, and integrations.

It becomes easier to create and deploy native mobile apps and/or progressive web apps (PWAs) to offer users anywhere, anytime mobile access that the original systems didn't provide. And you can do all this without creating technical debt

REFACTOR

Refactoring involves re-envisioning legacy systems one component at a time. To continue the house analogy, refactoring would be like renovating the floor plan room by room until you've modernized the entire house.

Refactoring allows enterprises to overhaul their legacy IT stack at their own pace, starting with the most urgent needs and working down their list of priorities. As they transform specific functions and integrate them with the rest of the environment, enterprises can breathe new life into their architecture, one component at a time.

Gradually, the entire system—or as much as necessary—will be transformed into a modular architecture. Each refactored component will make it easier to build new applications. All this is possible without disrupting the original systems or creating technical debt in the form of unexpected dependencies.

RE-BUILD

If legacy systems are obsolete and no longer address a company's needs, they can be re-built entirely with a modern visual development platform.

In the house example given earlier, it is akin to knocking down a dilapidated building and starting from scratch. This approach results in a ground-up, purpose-built, cloud-native solution that meets the organization's exact requirements. As is the case with extending and refactoring, re-building doesn't mean throwing out the legacy applications in their entirety.

Thanks to the multiple data connections available to a modern development platform, the new solution can tap into the original data sources so that once the new, cloud-based system is ready to go online, the switchover can happen as quickly and seamlessly as possible.

LEGACY MODERNIZATION ROADMAP: HOW WE HELP COMPANIES ADOPT OUTSYSTEMS AT SCALE

Know what you need to do before embarking on your app modernization journey

ASSESS

    a. Identify what you intend to achieve and at what cost

    b. Explore platforms and tools available

    c. Timelines and expected business disruption

PARTNER

    a. Partner with a service provider with proven expertise

    b. Conduct a feasibility study with the partner

    c. Create a step-by-step vision blueprint

    d. Develop technical enablement plan

FIRST VALUE

    a. Execute adoption plan

    b. Deliver first, second+ apps

    c. Conduct maturity assessment

    d. Initiate executive business reviews

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

    a. Leverage partner's technical consulting capabilities

    b. Enable multiple parallel development teams

    c. Set up a dedicated Center of Excellence

    d. Manage demand, define standards, and drive governance

    e. Regular architecture reviews of technical deployment

SUCCESS STORIES

Leading Medical Equipment OEM

Our client, a top medicine distribution, pharmaceutical care, and pharmacy-based primary care services company catering primarily to the UK and Europe markets, had invested in the OutSystems low-code platform to modernize its legacy applications and digitize existing processes.

They identified their existing Partner portal, developed in 2009, as the first use case to modernize. The Partner portal enabled manufacturers to access real-time inventory data and offered a holistic view of sales data and other critical information.

The application performed poorly owing to its outdated design and functionality. It could not be adapted for disparate form factors such as smartphones and tablets and had minimal user engagement. Besides, implementing bug fixes and enhancements was a significant challenge given limited vendor support.

The client partnered with Aaseya for its OutSystems capabilities around pixel-perfect application delivery and rapid development. We were given the mandate to modernize and digitize the end-to-end processes using the OutSystems platform, making it faster, cutting-edge, and offering impeccable user experience. In a record time of 10 days and with just two developers, Aaseya delivered a thoroughly modernized solution with enhanced performance. The MVP also offered a seamless and considerably enhanced user experience. With Aaseya's support, the client was able to completely overhaul the inactive legacy app that had been in their ecosystem for more than a decade.

SUCCESS STORIES

Leading Pharma Multinational

As a world leader in the pharma sector, our client needed to be ASC 606 compliant. ASC 606 is a revenue recognition standard that impacts all businesses entering into contracts for any transfer of goods or services.

To streamline this process, the client needed a digital solution to drive consistency in financial reporting and reduce the compliance checklist review time. The existing process lacked agility due to manual entries in spreadsheets, did not offer analytics/reporting of revenue recognition, had a three-week-long review process, and did not enable the review of historical data.

Sensing the urgency of the requirement, the Aaseya team implemented and released a Revenue Recognition Tool using the OutSystems low code platform in a short span of six weeks. The team ensured a rapid development and delivery of a pixel-perfect solution following Agile methodologies.

As a result, the client ensured 100% automation-driven compliance with ASC606 with a quick turnaround, reduced checklist review time from two to three weeks to a single day, and delivered a future-ready product for end-to-end integration with external ERP systems.

AUGMENT YOUR IT RESOURCES WITH OUTSYSTEMS

A modern, enterprise-grade application development platform like OutSystems lets companies create innovative solutions to increase productivity and efficiency while improving user experience. This while extracting the most out of their investment in legacy systems. They can extend these systems with new capabilities without increasing technical debt caused by costly customizations or risky-to-update fixes. They can refactor their legacy systems one component at a time, replacing each with a modern, cloud-based application or they can re-build entire systems by creating robust, secure, and highly adaptable applications built on the OutSystems platform.

Give your IT team and lines of business the ability to collaborate on transformational innovations for better user experience, streamlined internal processes, and accelerated growth.

THE BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

How to Unlock the Power of Your Existing IT Systems

Where are we on the app modernization journey?

Enterprises spend 57% of their IT budgets on maintaining legacy systems

An abysmal 16% is spent on furthering innovation

Modernization efforts are critical in post COVID-19 era

Worldwide DX spend expected to reach $1.78 trillion in 2022

The struggle between IT and business is real

Aligning priorities for IT and business is challenging

New services requests have long delivery schedules

Delays cause longer time-to-market & overburdened IT

Siloed approach to problem-solving and Shadow IT emerge

What are the key strategies to modernize existing IT systems?

Extend your systems with minimal risk, cost, or need for special customization skills

Refactor systems by transforming specific components and creating a modular architecture

Re-build systems to create what you need with cloud-native and feature-rich apps

SUCCESS STORY

Top Medical Equipment OEM

Had invested in the OutSystems low-code platform to modernize its legacy applications but could not implement it with the desired outcomes

Partnered with Aaseya to modernize and digitize the end-to-end processes using the OutSystems platform, making it faster

In a record ten days and with just two developers, Aaseya delivered a completely modernized solution with enhanced performance.

Problem

Solution

Outcome

Leading Pharma Multinational

Needed to be ASC 606 compliant, requiring a digital solution to drive consistency in financial reporting and reduce compliance checklist review time

Aaseya implemented and released a Revenue Recognition Tool using the OutSystems within six weeks ensuring rapid development and delivery

Solution ensured 100% automation-driven compliance with ASC606 with a quick turnaround, reduced checklist review time from two to three weeks to a single day

How does Aaseya help accelerate your app modernization journey?

Leverages a modern, enterprise-grade application development platform - OutSystems

Capability to extend legacy systems with new interventions and no technical debt

Enables a phased approach and modernize one component at a time

Can re-build entire systems by creating robust, secure, and scalable applications

About Aaseya

Aaseya is a leading professional services company and an OutSystems partner, specialising in Digital Transformation through the rapid delivery of Low Code and Digital/Robotic Process Automation Technologies.

Our team of experts deliver transformational results for OutSystems customers in multiple countries around the world. We pride ourselves on delivering pixel-perfect responsive applications that work across all channels and use native functionality across iOS and Android devices.

Aaseya, operates in 11 countries, working with Banking, Insurance, Manufacturing and Government organisations, delivering innovative enterprise solutions in the areas of Customer Experience, Business Operations, Legacy Modernization, Case Management, and CRM.

Aaseya is a subsidiary of YASH Technologies, a Global System Integrator, with 6,000 employees serving 450 customers globally, specialising in delivering business transformation through IT.

Learn more at **www.aaseya.com**

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Want to know more? Contact Aaseya now.