



Application Modernization Guide

Support For Your Business Case



Table of Contents

Introduction

Is It Time for a Refresh?

Is It Time to Rehost?

Is It Time to Rebuild or Replace?

Conclusion



Introduction

Software applications are at the heart of every business. They help to improve efficiency, connect business processes, communicate seamlessly, analyse business trends and respond to market demands.

Not only are they an asset to your business, in the case of customer-facing applications they can also become a source of revenue and a competitive differentiator. Nowadays, everyone wants secure, quick and reliable access to vast amounts of information, right at their fingertips, and from any device they choose. With end-of-life software and hardware deadlines looming, and more companies undertaking digital transformation projects, how we use tech is quickly and continually evolving.

In this dynamic environment, software and applications are subject to a defined lifecycle and require on-going checks and maintenance to ensure they continue to work as effectively and securely as they did when they were put into place. Any application that's not working optimally could also cause you to lose customers or top talent who become frustrated by lagging, outdated systems.

How to Know Your Application Needs Attention

Digital transformation is often cited as one of the main drivers for application modernization projects and it's true that to take advantage of some of the innovations of the data-centric era, modern hardware and software platforms are a must.

“ ... legacy systems can lack the flexibility and scalability to keep up — especially given today's tech-savvy end consumers. They are often handcuffing the business with what we call legacy technical debt. It's a real problem. Modern concepts like microservices, the cloud, and mobile computing are simply beyond many legacy technologies. - Deloitte



But even if a major transformation undertaking is not in your immediate plans, you need to pay attention to how your legacy applications are performing and what needs to be done today to ensure optimal performance. Lagging performance and declining productivity, security concerns, increasing maintenance time and costs or users complaining about the applications are signs it's time to take action.

Application modernization doesn't have to be a massive transformation project. Project scope and scale can vary greatly depending on your business goals, application age and any new requirements.

Application Modernization Action Plan

Every application goes through different stages in its life. How do you know if you need a simple tune up or a complete overhaul? Our survey will help you identify some of the issues that impact applications to help you understand where yours might be in its lifecycle.

Our Application Health Check is broken into three sections – [Refresh](#), [Rehost](#) and [Rebuild/Replace](#) – but it is possible some applications might need more than one of these strategies (like a refresh and a rehost) to provide users and companies with the solution they really need.

While you might think you know exactly what stage you're in, we recommend reviewing all three sections for a full picture of the current state of your application and steps you could start taking to modernize it.



[Let's Get Started.](#)



Is It Time for a Refresh?

Application refresh is the most common and frequent update to an application.

A refresh can refer to a wide range of changes but modernizing the customer-facing user interface (UI) is one of the most common refresh projects. Other examples include updating the design, branding and icons, improving navigation, light feature improvements or addressing accessibility needs.

There are many signs applications need a refresh. Some of them come on gradually (like slowing performance or negative comments from users) and others seem to develop rapidly. Regular refresh cycles will help keep your application looking and performing at its peak.

But don't think an application refresh is something simple to be taken lightly: Any time you change an application, care must be taken to plan it out right so you don't create new problems while you're solving others.



Common Refresh Signals:

Here are some issues that could be a sign your application is ready for a refresh:

Usage Drops

Whether it's an external software solution or an internal tool, when people stop using it, that's a sure sign there's a problem. You need to assess why usage is dropping and correct the problem.

Complaints are Increasing

Complaints could be esthetic, functional and technical. Keep track of what the complaints are about and prioritize addressing them.

You Need to Comply with Accessibility Legislation

Ensuring your site or application can be read or viewed by those with visual impairments is required in many provinces.



“ Outdated enterprise systems not only slow digital strategies but weigh them down through digital debt — debt from the exorbitant amounts of money spent keeping these old applications running and from the inflexibility that hinders the business. - Forrester

Take Our Survey:

Yes No

Does your user interface look out-of-date?

Does your application lack a responsive design?

Was your application created or last updated prior to Provincial accessibility standards (such as AODA in Ontario)?

Do your customers/employees complain about the layout or design elements?

Is your application difficult for people to navigate?

Is poor or outdated design affecting efficiency and productivity?

Have you, or are you planning to, update your logo or branding?

Does your application have performance issues on different browsers and/or operating systems?

Is your business growing?

Are you targeting new markets (industry or geography)?

Total Your Results

Assign 1 point for each Yes

