Re-architecting Legacy Systems is the Keystone for Transformation

Legacy modernization lays the groundwork for the modern enterprise

An Ovum White Paper

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Contents

Executive summary
Introduction
Key observations
Building the adaptive enterprise is the top priority
Modernization is critical for the success of digital initiatives
There are several approaches to legacy modernization
Repurposing legacy code is the commonly taken approach
Re-architecture is the most reliable way to modernize legacy systems
Re-architecture works better when an automated approach is taken
Conclusion
Appendix
Methodology
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Executive summary

- Ovum carried out extensive research to understand the various options available to enterprises that are approaching the problem of modernizing legacy systems.
- Our research concluded that modernization, though a very important aspect of enterprises’ efforts to enable business agility and digital transformation, is often sidelined due to the high risk and high costs involved in modernizing legacy systems.
- At best, enterprises make halfhearted, piecemeal efforts to modernize, but these do not offer optimum results.
- There are several methods available for enterprises to modernize their legacy systems such as replacing existing systems with a commercial solution, rebuilding a custom system from scratch, or repurposing existing code so that it can function on newer platforms.
- Of the above, repurposing existing code is the most popular option due to the relatively lower risk involved. Repurposing can be accomplished in one of several forms – virtualization, code migration, re-architecture, and taking a service-oriented architecture (SOA) approach.
- Of the above, the most practical and complete solution to the modernization conundrum is re-architecting legacy systems, which provides the necessary framework to bring greater agility into existing systems while retaining the inherent business logic and data that fuel the enterprise.
- Re-architecting has traditionally been a resource-intensive exercise, but with the advent of automation it is possible to significantly reduce the time, effort, risks, and costs associated with a re-architecture effort.
- However, the automation tool employed needs to be able to analyze existing systems, identify relevant business logic, create documentation for processes where they do not exist, and create predefined templates for modern architectures while retaining the core business values of the legacy system.
- Taking a tool-driven approach can help enterprises mitigate many of the major bottlenecks that often turn a modernization exercise into a veritable nightmare.
Appendix

Methodology

This white paper was sponsored by Ciber and draws on Ovum's existing research on the application modernization space as well as Ovum’s proprietary tools and databases. The views expressed in this white paper are based on Ovum’s ongoing research into the technology and services markets, including ongoing conversations with vendor, advisory, and enterprise customers.

Ovum Consulting

We hope that this analysis will help you make informed and imaginative business decisions. If you have further requirements, Ovum's consulting team may be able to help you. For more information about Ovum's consulting capabilities, please contact us directly at consulting@ovum.com.

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