

# Micro Focus Application Modernization

Through our world-class partners, Micro Focus Application Modernization offers businesses the most reliable modernization strategy to increase the value of their legacy systems.

executive summary

## Overview

While the economy shows signs of long-term improvement, market conditions continue to put pressure on every organization's costs. At the same time businesses are seeking to deliver more value per dollar.

To lower costs and drive business agility at lower risk, modernizing critical IBM mainframe, Windows® and .NET, UNIX and Linux applications is becoming more important for the following reasons:

- To remain competitive, organizations must create and deliver new business value based on innovative use of IT
- A history of investment in, and reliance on, people, processes and technology has resulted in legacy applications which hinder innovation and progress
- Organizations have come to understand the high cost and risk associated with replacing legacy applications with packages or custom-built alternatives

## Modernization Strategies

Organizations seeking to modernize their legacy systems now have four options:

**Re-engineering or 'Rip and Replace'.** Once in vogue, now much out of favor with most organizations due to the time, cost and risk involved. 74 percent of such projects either fail completely, or are significantly late and over budget.<sup>1</sup> This is an extremely high-risk strategy.

**Packaged Applications.** Packages offer a generic alternative, forcing organizations to do business in the manner dictated by the package's functionality. Often this means losing workflow that is fundamental to the way a business operates and involving complex data re-modeling and re-training. 42 percent of implementations are never completed or are more than 50 percent late.<sup>2</sup> This is a high-risk approach.

**Rehost.** Micro Focus application rehosting allows customers to migrate from the mainframe to a contemporary platform. Rehosting is a migration approach that dramatically reduces hardware and software costs by enabling low risk migration of COBOL/CICS applications to modern, open and extensible platforms using Micro Focus Server, a transactional environment for CICS/COBOL applications.

**Application Modernization.** Micro Focus Application Modernization provides a proven path to allow organizations to re-use people, processes and technology for the mainframe as they seek to enhance existing application portfolios by extending them to support the needs of the future with lowered cost/risk and enhanced flexibility. Micro Focus offers industry-leading development environments for IBM mainframe, Windows and .NET, UNIX and Linux applications. The development product that supports these platforms is Micro Focus Studio. This is the chosen path of organizations with a strategic commitment to existing delivery platforms, but who wish to leverage and extend their legacy.

## Drivers for Application Modernization

**Strategic Investment and Commitment:** Organizations with a significant investment in legacy systems understand the profound importance of those applications to the business, as well as the risk of replacing them. Regardless of the production platform of choice, Micro Focus' agnostic position ensures that organizations can rely on a single vendor to provide development and extension capabilities regardless of the environment.

**Cost Reduction:** Micro Focus provides the most productive workstation-based environment for all aspects of mainframe application delivery including code generation, analysis, development, extension, debugging and testing. Application delivery is faster than ever before, yielding high availability and quality. By improving application turnaround time and removing the burden of maintenance tasks from the mainframe, IT costs on core infrastructure and even software will be greatly reduced, and production platform power refocused on running business-critical production systems.

**Reduced Risk:** Micro Focus dramatically reduces ongoing risks by providing a complete, familiar and unified environment for all application delivery. Removing organizational fragmentation will improve the flexibility and availability of IT skills, and therefore operational efficiency. Micro Focus' support of open standards, together with capabilities to extend existing business processes into new architectures, further minimizes risk by removing dependencies on outmoded or proprietary technology, and motivates programming teams with a best-in-class, contemporary development platform.

**Increased Agility:** Micro Focus benefits organizations needing to extend legacy functionality. By helping improve time-to-market of application maintenance and modernization projects, Micro Focus tools free up key staff to work on strategic initiatives such as SOA<sup>3</sup> enablement, Basel II and Sarbanes-Oxley. These tools include capabilities to allow COBOL programmers to quickly and easily extend legacy systems using SOA architectures into J2EE, .NET or Web services, without changing the original code or having to learn new architectures. This further improves organizational dexterity by delivering proven business value into new channels.

Application Modernization results in applications that are:

- Lower-cost (TCO of hardware and software is reduced)
- Higher performance (for processor-intensive applications)
- More open and maintainable
- Agile and adaptable
- Extensible to the internet, SQL/ADO.Net, J2EE, XML and Web services
- Fully exploited through continued re-use

## Summary

Micro Focus' unified environments for application development and high performance cross-platform deployment significantly reduce risks and costs, and offer improved business agility through extension to J2EE, .NET and Web services. Aligning IT to the business with improved application delivery will yield a substantial ROI.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Standish Group.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Gartner.

<sup>3</sup> Service-Oriented Architecture.