

IS IT TIME TO MODERNIZE?

HERE'S HOW TO FIND OUT— AND WHAT TO DO NEXT

Whitepaper By

Pegasus One 1440 N Harbor Blvd #900 (714) 485-8104 info@pegasusone.com



MODERNIZATION STRATEGY



PREFACE

Thinking about modernization? If improving efficiency, competitive advantage, innovation, and scalability have been top-of-mind lately, modernization can help you not only reach those goals, but also position your business to take advantage of opportunities that arise in the future. As with any major initiative though, achieving results through modernization requires having a smart, strategic roadmap to guide you.

IS IT TIME TO MODERNIZE?

According to a 2020 IDG research report, more than 40% of organizations surveyed admitted that they had abandoned their IT modernization efforts. In most cases, this was due to not having a clear strategy in place to lead the way. But knowing when to modernize is just as important as knowing how to modernize, so let's start there.



ASK YOURSELF THESE QUESTIONS

HOW AGILE ARE YOU?

- 1. Is your app deployment process too complex and time-consuming?
- 2. Are you consuming a lot of resources just to keep your apps up and running?
- 3. Are your mission-critical apps running on a platform that is scalable, adaptable, and secure?
- 4. Do your enterprise apps run on platforms that enable them to be managed consistently?

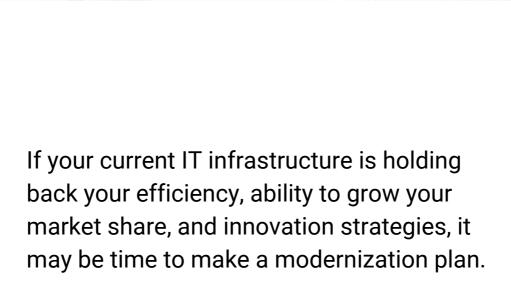


ARE YOUR USERS AND DEVELOPERS HAPPY?

- Are your user interfaces, mobile apps, and APIs delivering the response times and resiliency users need?
- Are you developers as efficient and productive as you need them to be?

IS YOUR OVERHEAD IN CHECK?

- Are apps running in virtual machines eating up resources?
- Do you have a handle on managing your software licensing?
- Are you struggling to find experienced and cost-effective support for legacy apps?



Modernizing your IT infrastructure is best approached as a tiered strategy that includes assessment, approach, resources, and roadmaps to launch. Let's take a look at a typical path.

TIER 1: ASSESS & PRIORITIZE

First off, it's essential to evaluate where you are today to help inform where you'll need to be for success in the future.

- Audit your current applications and processes in use, and the makeup and capabilities of your team
- Identify process and system inefficiencies that are impacting results, along with the business improvement and growth opportunities you'd like to take advantage of
- Define your modernization goals to provide an anchor for your strategy

TIER 2: OUTLINE YOUR APPROACH

In determining how you will approach modernization, it's essential to break free of the "all-or-nothing" mindset in favor of flexibility, moving thoughtfully and deliberately toward your goals.

- Pinpoint applications to be modernized based upon the information gathered in your Tier 1 assessment
- Ensure that your app modernization plans work in lockstep with your business processes and market demands

TIER 3: CONSIDER RESOURCES

In developing an approach to modernization, your most important asset is your people; make sure you have a robust, capable team to effectively support your transformation.

- Assemble an experienced, proven team (internal, outsourced, or hybrid) that will be charged with executing on your strategy
- **Earmark** department leaders who will be responsible for training teams

TIER 4: BUILD YOUR ROADMAP

There are a lot of moving parts to a modernization initiative, and some will be specific to your business, industry, or infrastructure; here are some core elements you can build your roadmap around.

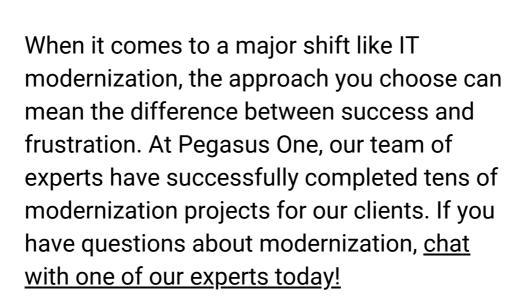
- Group applications that are integrated/interdependent to be modernized together
- Document potentialrisks and challenges that could affect outcomes or jeopardize goals
- Map each tactical step to your end goals to ensure that each one supports goals
- Develop a process for stakeholder review and feedback
- Acknowledge how modernization may impact your company culture, and ensure that change management plans are in place
- Build a budget that includes contingency funds and get leadership buy-in for both the transformation and the cost

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TIER 5: TACTICAL EXECUTION

Now it's time to take action and drive your strategic plan from implementation to launch.

- Mobilize your modernization team and hold regular check-ins to identify roadblocks, adjust resources, and ensure that processes continue to support goals
- **Implement** testing protocols and conduct concurrent training to facilitate user adoption
- Develop a plan for ongoing innovation to keep your infrastructure agile and positioned to support your future business needs



TALK TO US

Call us at (714) 485-8104
Write to us at info@pegasusone.com
Or visit us online at: www.pegasusone.com

1440 N HARBOR BLVD #900, FULLERTON, CA



















