

# Optimizing Your Mainframe Investments to Unleash Value

## Mainframes remain stalwarts of business

The mainframe that you used to know has been replaced by something far more powerful. But to capitalize on its potential, you need to first unleash its value. The latest mainframe, IBM z13™, is the world's fastest commercial computer with massive pipes for handling data and 10 terabytes of memory. While supporting real-time transactions, the mainframe is simultaneously performing predictive analytics for fraud alerts, offering buying recommendations, health diagnoses and more. The mainframe continues to run most of the world's IT infrastructure. And beyond heavy-duty transaction processing, it's now the enterprise backbone, combining structured data with unstructured data and delivering greater business intelligence.

The logic and data on mainframes are strategic assets, and IT leaders are taking notice. Not only are mainframes here to stay, but IT leaders need to think carefully about their approach to IT strategy planning. They also need to consider ongoing economics if they want to continue to deliver the innovation demanded by today's agile and application-oriented businesses. But with shrinking budgets pervasive across all aspects of IT, leaders are challenged to reduce IT spending in order to free up financial resources for big data, analytics, Internet of Things (IoT) and other initiatives that will move the business forward.

## Maintaining legacy systems vs. developing new capabilities

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Among IT leaders, there is this perception that the mainframe is expensive. It's a perception that is perpetuated by a history of inflexible pricing and licensing models, redundant tools and a lack of relevant skill sets. Not surprisingly, cost center owners are under pressure to reduce the costs of the mainframe portfolio. Some are accomplishing this by enabling resource flexibility using external skill sets to provide necessary maintenance and support services. Others are consolidating systems and software to reduce licensing and maintenance costs. While these and other strategies can help lower costs, the scope, cost and most effective prioritization of them may not be obvious in the absence of an upfront assessment that provides an accurate view of the existing environment.

But, the challenge doesn't end with cost reduction. Rather, the savings must be reinvested in order to future-proof the IT infrastructure by developing new capabilities that meet the evolving requirements of businesses and their customers. This is known as mainframe modernization, and there are a number of different strategies that vary greatly in complexity, time requirements and costs. It's not always apparent what strategy is best, particularly in the absence of a methodology that enables stakeholders to make an informed decision. But with an effective methodology, it is possible to choose a strategy that balances an organization's short and long-term business goals enabling technology innovation balanced by cost-savings optimization.

## Tackle both challenges head on

“Imagine a machine where removing parts doesn't affect performance, but instead, creates greater efficiencies. CA Core Systems Consulting Program makes the dream a reality.”—VP Operations, Leading Financial Services Company

It is time for IT leaders responsible for the mainframe to tackle both challenges head on. The first step in the journey is to identify tools and processes and find where to eliminate unnecessary expenses. The second is to fuel innovations from the gain in these new operational efficiencies. Of course, orchestrating such a change must involve a holistic enterprise-wide approach in the context of overall data center strategies.

Consider that, multiple tools from different vendors—some of them at risk of going out of business—often results in software change management dependencies, negative impacts to production, vendor time management disruptions and more. Putting aside the obvious operational headache, when enterprises are already trying to get COBOL and Java® developers to speak the same language. Such a diverse toolset is logistical nightmare.

These days, it seems just about anyone can make the recommendation to replace products in an enterprises' portfolio. But, most lack the ability to quickly spotlight inefficiencies and the simple awareness of just how big a change it is and the impact it can have. It's not a quick and easy proposition. It takes time, a whole team effort, and there are risks and potential costs to the business during the transition that must be balanced when executing.

IT leaders need a partner they can rely on—one who understands their challenges and has developed the means to help them through this change. And one with seasoned expertise and automated conversion and migration technologies. That's why top IT leaders turn to CA Core Systems Consulting Program.



### Step Three–Conversion/Migration

A suite of repeatable migration tools then automates the migration process from the existing mainframe to a CA solution. This reduces the risk of keying errors while accelerating time-to-value. What's more, Core Systems Consulting Program simplifies the conversion execution of vast amounts of jobs, definitions, JCL, etc., which helps to ensure a successful transition. And the program augments the existing staff with experts sourced from both an internal CA team of highly trained professionals as well as those from 35 partners.

### Step Four–Follow-up

Auditing tools provide visibility into the current status of the environment—using the results as confirmation of completion. CA tracks first-year progress to ensure everything is running optimally and clients are completely satisfied.

The results  
are clear

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To date, the CA Core Systems Consulting Program has helped 400+ customers, and demonstrated a 24 percent portfolio reduction with an associated 14 percent vendor reduction. Total, it's helped customers achieve an average \$1.4 million in reduced annual OPEX spend.

CA Technologies approaches software portfolio rationalization as a strategic partner. Identifying where to reduce complexity and eliminate redundancy is just the first step. Our approach envisions a strategic future-state approach, taking into consideration not just technology costs, but your overall IT OPEX, personnel costs against evolving business and organizational requirements, and creates a plan to reach that outcome.

**Contact your CA Technologies sales or services representative today for additional information on how you can unleash the value of your mainframe or to receive a free assessment of your environment and the potential optimization savings.**



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