GSI

Using App Modernization to Breathe New Life Into Your Legacy Systems

App Modernization

Using paced, incremental modernization processes, GSI puts the power of new technology into companies' hands without making them rip and replace their legacy business solutions.

To compete, grow, and differentiate themselves in today's marketplace, companies need core business applications that propel them to success — not hold them back with antiquated, legacy, or homegrown technology platforms. In this age of digital transformation, many companies with existing systems are considering their options and looking for innovative ways to eke more life out of those solutions while also gaining the advantage of modern technology.

Application modernization answers that call. By making older applications and platforms "new" again, app modernization either updates or replaces that software, adds modern features to it, and provides new capabilities that align with a company's current business needs.

Older systems can be updated with newer features by rewriting code, taken off the mainframe and placed in a hosted environment, or completely replaced with new applications. In return, companies get a chance to take existing applications that have been kicking around their enterprises for years (or even decades) and bring them up to 2021 standards.

App Modernization

It's Not Like Starting Over

The good news is that app modernization doesn't necessarily mean ripping existing software to shreds and starting over. Instead, a consultant like GSI can effectively extend the lifecycle of those existing programs and get them interacting with other applications. The need for app modernization accelerated during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, for example, when companies were forced to turn on a dime—and their applications refused to follow suit.

Some of those companies turned to app modernization for help. "For many organizations, legacy systems are seen as holding back the business initiatives and business processes that rely on them," says Stefan Van Der Zijden, VP Analyst, Gartner. "When a tipping point is reached, application leaders must look to application modernization to help remove the obstacles."

Application modernization services address the migration of legacy to new applications or platforms, including the integration of new functionality to provide the latest functions to the business. Modernization options include re-platforming, re-hosting, recoding, rearchitecting, re-engineering, interoperability, replacement, and retirement, as well as changes to the application architecture to clarify which option should be selected.

Incremental Modernization

With GSI's app modernization, companies get:

- Incremental modernization
- The ability to move/upgrade applications at your own pace
- Updated legacy applications
- Refactoring of monolithic applications into microservices

Incremental modernization is especially important for the company that doesn't want to replace an entire business system in order to gain the latest functionalities. At GSI, we can take an application that has a database and then extend that database while leaving the application intact. We can also break off one piece of an application and make it more flexible, agile, and modern (a process known as "separation of concerns").
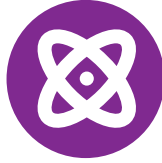
When you make changes to one piece of the application, you don't have to go through and retest the entire program; you simply segment it out and assess that single piece. This helps reduce the overall cost of ownership for the software while also making your system landscape more adaptable and future-proofed. For example, if your business processes change, you know your system will be able to adapt because you've already reviewed your application inventory and changed it as needed.

App Modernization

The More Modular, the Better

App modernization works best when based on a modular approach—think of how you would snap several Legos together to build a house. GSI uses a similar strategy when modularizing entire suites of applications one Lego at a time. This allows companies to pace themselves versus using the"big bang" implementation approach.

As evidenced by events like the 2020 SolarWinds hack, leaving aging legacy systems "as is" is a risky proposition. Modernizing those systems helps companies create more durable, available, and secure applications that can truly contribute to their organizations' success.

Through paced modernization, we can limit the risk of having your applications fall apart or become otherwise unusable. By having GSI modernize your legacy applications, you'll be able to decrease the amount of time, manpower, and resources spent on managing these applications on a daily basis. Then, you can reinvest that time into delivering a high level of value to your customers, continuously improving your business strategies, and creating an organization that stands out from the pack.

For more information:

Contact us today to learn more. You can also email us or call (855) 474-4377.

GSI, Inc.

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