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Why mainframe migration is vital link in the consumer products supply chain

Is your consumer products company looking for ways to maximize profits and market share in an interconnected, competitive environment? How are you meeting the changing demands of customers? Are your manufacturing processes and operations geared up for Industry 4.0? How confident are you that the mission-critical applications on your mainframe can deliver competitive advantage, supporting an increasingly digital network of suppliers, and driving business growth, all while keeping costs low?

The industrial internet of things (IIoT), technology-savvy consumers, emerging markets, faltering global trade, and expectations of personalized customer experiences have resulted in new roadblocks in the consumer products sector. Industry 4.0 offers a way forward, a fact that is recognized by many in the consumer products sector. A recent Deloitte report states that 95 percent of consumer products executives are projected to invest $310 billion in Industry 4.0 initiatives by 2023.[1]

Industry 4.0 combines IoT, additive manufacturing, robotics, AI and cognitive technologies, advanced materials, and digital reality to create networks of digital information. Linear supply chains are transformed into ecosystems of nodes for planning, manufacturing, and distribution. The result is a dramatic increase in network and computing bandwidth, which can strain company infrastructure. Periods of downtime or even business disruption can occur. To avoid performance issues that could harm business and potentially shut down parts of supply chain, consumer products companies need to shore up their infrastructure and prepare for high compute demand.

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The barriers to Industry 4.0 in consumer products

According to the same 2020 Deloitte report, many consumer products CIOs and IT leaders are under pressure to invest in Industry 4.0 technologies or risk losing ground to competitors.[2] This is at odds with another, equally strong demand—to be financially prudent in their investment strategies. If your company has a longer history than Amazon but wants to compete with them, you have the dual challenge of implementing rapid digitization while supporting critical supply chain and business systems on aging infrastructure.

Over the years, your company has probably invested millions of dollars in your legacy IT systems, all of which are affecting your agility and causing major chinks in your supply chain. The biggest gobbler of your budget is the mainframe—the home of those core legacy systems. A Flexera 2020 State of Tech Spend reports that consumer products companies expend to spend 42% of their budgets on IT, and many are maintaining six or more on-premises data centers.[3]

An aging mainframe is a major contributor to high IT spend. Updating, fixing, and patching your mainframe to meet digital expectations and prepare for the heavy workload created by IIoT, simulations, smart applications, AI, deep learning, and other Industry 4.0 initiatives can quickly drain your resources. Not to mention the major impact on the performance of your system and supplier, logistics and customer experiences. Legacy system accumulation has woven a tangled web of interdependencies that can make data standardization and migration difficult, labor-intensive, and expensive.

Mainframe migration to the rescue

OpenFrame from TmaxSoft moves your legacy business systems from a mainframe environment to a more modern, open platform. The result is the cost savings and the greater flexibility needed to deliver cutting edge applications, AI, deep learning, simulation, and supply chain ecosystems.

Mainframe migration lets you take your existing mainframe assets and move them to the cloud or on premises quickly and with minimal risk. Your applications work as-is on an open system such as Linux. Underlying business logic does not change. Your business and the measures you have in place to address regulatory compliance and changes and data security are not impacted. Training is minimal. Because the system is open, it integrates with the IIoT, simulation, predictive analytics and other new technology required for Industry 4.0.

What does mainframe migration offer consumer products companies?

If you choose to migrate your mainframe, your consumer products company will benefit from:

- Average deployments of 6 to 12 months – ensuring a very rapid ROI
- Support for COBOL, Assembler, PL/I, Easytrieve and more legacy technologies
- Deployment on AWS, Azure and Google Cloud environments
- A significant reduction in annual run costs for increased investment in innovation
- Horizontal and vertical scalability needed for extremely high performance

- No changes to your existing workforce and skillsets
- No change to the end-user experience or application business logic
- Support for containers and virtualized environments
- Modernization from a monolithic mainframe to a multi-tiered cloud-ready architecture

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Consumer product giant LION migrates mainframe with OpenFrame

BENEFITS

- Maintenance and support costs reduced by 60%
- Improved maintenance productivity
- Easier access to data for analytics and business intelligence
- 20-30% performance improvement
- Development environment set up for IT business continuity planning

What is needed to reduce or eliminate your mainframe footprint?

Partial migration: Reduce or re-platform peak MIPS

If you anticipate keeping your mainframe running for several years, OpenFrame can be a great solution to offload a portion of your batch or online applications to help reduce your peak MIPS and reduce your overall mainframe run costs.

Mainframe Replacement: Move all workloads to a distributed environment

OpenFrame can fully support the move of all your legacy technologies to the public or private cloud. Completely eliminate your z/OS environment and take full advantage of the flexibility and benefits that an open system/cloud environment can deliver.

Want More Reasons for Migration?

For more details on the benefits and drawbacks of upgrading, rewriting and migration, check out this eBook.

1   "2020 consumer products industry outlook: Navigating Industry 4.0 in uncertain times." Deloitte, 2020. https://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/pages/consumer-business/articles/consumer-products-industry-outlook.html

2   "2020 consumer products industry outlook, Deloitte.

3   Flexera™ 2020 State of Tech Spend Report." Flexera, 2020. https://resources.flexera.com/web/pdf/Report-SLO-State-of-Tech-Spend-2020.pdf?elqTrackId=3686e3ff77a84c0782c652a946e277d8&elqaid=5131&elqat=2