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Modernize Your Business Critical Applications with HCL Informix®

Don't let your legacy applications put your company in harm's way.

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with HCL Informix®

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The imperative to modernize extends across all aspects of the IT landscape. Companies face an urgent need to enhance business agility, break down organizational silos, accelerate innovation, reduce time-to-market, optimize costs, and transform their IT workforce. Achieving these goals requires strategic decisions about how and where to modernize. Your organization needs to leverage the full spectrum of available tools and services to rethink your approach to developing, deploying, operating, and maintaining applications.

Additionally, your company must confront the challenges that legacy systems present. You have invested significant time and resources into developing your business applications, aiming to extract maximum value from them. This investment may have led you to delay modernization, considering these applications' critical role in your business operations. However, the current situation presents a stark truth: these systems are nearing obsolescence or are already unsupported. Maintaining the status quo carries significant risks. Here's why.

Why Being Off Support is So Perilous

Risk 1: Your Database is Not Secure

Unpatched vulnerabilities cause 1/3 of data breaches, costing $4.45M USD on average.[1] Unsupported databases miss critical updates, risking data theft, attacks, and system crashes.

Risk 2: Non-Compliance May Cost You

Unsupported software spells compliance disaster—risking General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) fines of up to €50,000 per breach.

Risk 3: You're Stuck in the Past

A security breach on an unsupported database can lead to excessive costs and extended recovery times, exposing sensitive data to risks for prolonged periods.

Risk 4: You're Unproductive, Inefficient, and Not Prepared for the Future

Using outdated software stifles innovation, inflates costs, and limits adaptability to explore new use cases. As technology advances, outdated databases may no longer align with new systems, causing integration challenges that impact application performance and the bottom line.

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1   IBM, "Cost of Data Breach Report 2023."

Upcoming "End of Service" Dates for Servers and Operating Systems 2024:

- **Microsoft Windows 11**
  (End of servicing: October 8, 2024)
  - Enterprise and Education, Version 21H2
  - Home and Pro, Version 22H2
  - IoT Enterprise, Version 21H2

- **Microsoft Windows Server 2008**
  (End of servicing: January 9, 2024)

- **Oracle Solaris 10**
  (End of extended servicing: January 2024)

2025:

- **HPE's Itanium-powered Integrity servers**
  (End of servicing: December 31, 2025)

- **HP-UX 11i v3**
  (End of servicing: December 31, 2025)

- **Microsoft Windows 10**
  (End of servicing: October 14, 2025)

- **Microsoft Windows 11**
  (End of servicing: October 14, 2025)
  - Enterprise and Education, Version 22H2
  - IoT Enterprise, Version 22H2

There's good news! There's no need for a complete overhaul of your database architecture. Upgrading your mission-critical applications from an earlier version of IBM Informix® to HCL Informix® is simple. Actian offers comprehensive support tailored to your specific requirements, whether you're looking to host on-premises, in the cloud, or within a hybrid environment. With HCL Informix, you have the modern database you need, but you still have to take a comprehensive migration planning approach for your library of applications.

51% of organizations are planning to increase security investments as a result of a breach, including incident response (IR) planning and testing, employee training, and threat detection and response tools.

Source: IBM, "Cost of Data Breach Report 2023."

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Modernization Approaches and Maturity

When done correctly, application modernization can transform your company and unlock new revenue sources with new or expanded use cases. But this does not happen overnight. It takes a concerted, organization-wide effort to rethink legacy systems, adopt hybrid architectures, and embrace DevOps best practices. You can achieve greater agility, scalability, and cost savings by gradually migrating applications to microservices, optimizing infrastructure, and automating deployment pipelines.

Create Your 5-Step Application Modernization Plan

Insufficient research, discovery, and planning is the most common modernization mistake. Often, businesses will wait to modernize their applications until something breaks. But you don't have to learn the hard way. It just takes a little planning.

Step 1: Define Your Strategic Goals

What "success" looks like may differ across your organization. Maybe you're most concerned with maintaining the stability and performance of your existing infrastructure, but your research and development teams may want to test and explore new technologies and concepts. Establishing your goals and objectives and separating the "must-haves" from the "nice-to-haves" is essential. Make sure to run the goals up to a leadership level to set expectations.

Step 2: Audit Your Applications

Conduct thorough discovery by auditing your existing applications and determining which level of modernization is appropriate for each. Compare applications to current standards and best practices in security, encryption, availability, scalability, infrastructure automation, monitoring, proactive failure prevention, and disaster recovery. Use the audit to determine what types of applications you want to migrate, enhance, rebuild, or build from scratch.

Step 3: Determine Strategic Importance

Not all applications are equally important to your organization's success. You will want to modernize your applications with the highest business-criticality first or those that best align with your business strategy. Those could be the applications that drive the most revenue or the ones where security and data privacy are of utmost importance. Rank these applications and work with an **Actian partner** or **specialist** to devise a unique modernization strategy for each mission-critical application.

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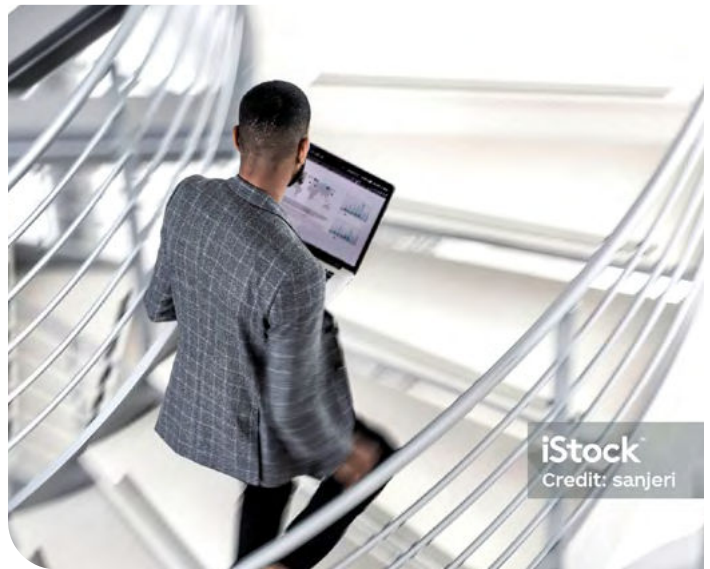
Step 4: Establish Your Data Landscape

Choose an architecture (cloud, on-prem, hybrid), operating system (Windows, Linux, etc.), and data management services to deploy your updated HCL Informix database infrastructure. Devise a comprehensive architecture diagram, including critical integrations and connectors. Map them against your availability and disaster recovery requirements to ensure organizational compliance.

Step 5: Get Ready for a Cultural Shift

Modernization is a team sport. Because IBM Informix has product parity with HCL Informix, your team will already be familiar with the HCL Informix database and tools like HCL Informix 4GL and the HCL Informix Warehouse Accelerator. But, managing a cloud-native or hybrid application can present a steep learning curve. The array of tools, data warehouses, and microservices available from cloud providers may require a significant learning commitment from your team. Devise a training program uniquely for your database administrators, developers, architects, IT, and any other role impacted so they can proficiently manage your apps once migrated and modernized.

For additional best practices or to customize a strategy for your organization, connect with your **Actian partner** or **specialist**.

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The Four "R's" of Application Migration

Once you've devised your application modernization plan, it's critical to think about how you will physically move your applications. There are four main approaches: retiring, rehosting, replatforming, and refactoring.

Retire

As you audit your business applications, you may discover that some are out of use or no longer provide business value. Simply retiring these applications can save costs and allow your team to focus on projects that add value.

Pros

- Cost savings on licensing and maintenance
- Eliminate security risks
- Additional resources for more profitable projects

Cons

- Significant change planning for customers still using the application
- Risk of data loss from the decommissioned application
- Loss of capabilities if not replicated in a new application

Rehost

Application rehosting, popularly known as "lift and shift," is the process of moving an exact copy of your workload and application architecture to the cloud or a new on-premises server. It can be automated to help you quickly adapt legacy systems to the new cloud platform.

Pros

- Fast and cost-effective migration
- Minimal disruption to existing users
- Optimize and rearchitect applications gradually after migration

Cons

- Applications typically gain little to no additional functionality
- Inefficiencies could lead to high cloud spend over time

Replatform

Replatforming is the process of enhancing an application's features through architectural modifications while preserving its essential functions.

Pros

- Improve performance without the complexity of a full refactor
- Drive innovation with cloud-native tools and benefits
- Enhance operational efficiency

Cons

- High cost of initial migration including application downtime
- Requires careful planning and execution
- Risk of cloud vendor lock-in

Refactor

Refactoring involves reimagining how an application is architected and developed, often leveraging cloud-native features. When refactoring an application originally built using rigid architectural patterns (such as the three-tier model), you can take advantage of newer approaches like microservices and serverless computing.

Pros

- Improve application performance and user experience
- Easier to maintain, understand, and extend your applications
- Make incremental application improvements with DevOps practices

Cons

- High cost of initial migration including time to refactor and application downtime
- May experience new bugs or previously unknown impacts of new technology
- Risk of cloud vendor lock-in

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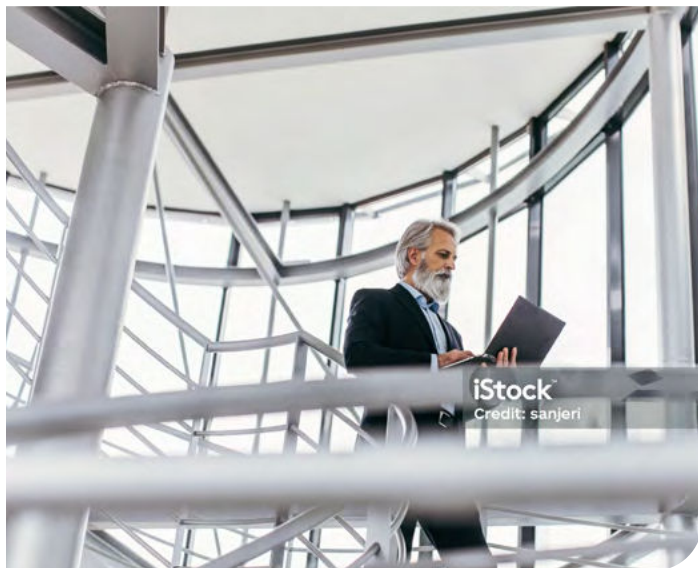
Regardless of your chosen migration strategy, HCL Informix enables you to migrate and modernize your applications with minimal friction. Opt for deployment in containers, virtual machines, or on a brand new server—whichever suits your needs. The migration process is straightforward, allowing you to upgrade your instance effortlessly while taking advantage of the latest innovations in cloud services.

Why Modernize with HCL Informix?

The Informix database has reliably supported mission-critical applications for decades, processing more than 2 million transactions per second with full consistency, concurrency, and resource utilization. HCL Informix offers an easy, low-cost, and flexible way to upgrade to the latest release and get back on support. The Actian team is dedicated to ensuring the long-term success of HCL Informix, fostering innovation in your mission-critical applications for decades to come.

Modernization Without the Headache

Application modernization is filled with opportunity costs, but keeping Informix as your database is an easy choice. Ripping and replacing your Informix database with an alternative solution such as Oracle, PostgreSQL, or SQL Server may incur costs exceeding $1 million USD. This includes the database licensing and consulting fees necessary to establish your new

2   Database Trends and Applications, "The High Cost of Enterprise Software."

database environment.[2] With per-core licensing and product parity with IBM Informix Advanced Enterprise Edition, you can invest the money you would have spent on migration services to explore new revenue-generating use cases.

When you modernize with HCL Informix, you can migrate your applications in just a few easy steps to quickly benefit from the latest enhancements in performance, security, availability, and usability. The ability to stay current with the latest updates, patches, and fixes helps reduce security and non-compliance risks while improving compatibility and database functionality.

Modernize Your Way

HCL Informix empowers you to modernize your way with on-prem, cloud, or hybrid deployments. With cloud-native options at no additional cost, you can deploy to one or many clouds via Helm charts in Docker containers with Kubernetes orchestration (GKS, AKS, EKS, and OpenShift) in just minutes. There is no vendor lock-in. This cloud-native option decreases time-to-value, reduces operational costs, and saves valuable developer time. HCL Informix runs on your choice of Linux 86-64, Linux on Power Little Endian, Windows, AIX, and Solaris Sparc operating systems, and you can easily extend your applications to your wider IT environment with native connectors and APIs.

You Are Not Alone

As you modernize, Actian's team of local partners and data experts are available to support you on every step of your journey. Actian, with more than 50 years of database expertise and 95% customer satisfaction, is committed to your success. We are committed to investing in the core team that drives the Informix heritage forward. With a shared vision, our team of architects, engineers, technical support staff, professional service providers, and product managers work tirelessly to ensure the enduring legacy of Informix for future generations.

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>
> **Source:** Database Trends and Applications, "The High Cost of Enterprise Software

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Next Steps to Modernization

Connect with one of our **Actian partners** or **specialists** to learn how you can modernize your out-of-service Informix applications with HCL Informix.

Get a demo >

About Actian

Actian makes data easy. We deliver cloud, hybrid cloud, and on-premises data solutions that simplify how people connect, manage, and analyze data. We transform business by enabling customers to make confident, data-driven decisions that accelerate their organization's growth. Our data platform integrates seamlessly, performs reliably, and delivers at industry-leading speeds. Learn more about Actian, a division of HCLSoftware: **www.actian.com**.

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