

# CIO guide to rebuilding and replatforming legacy applications





# Companies that have been in business for years often struggle

with outdated applications. If the apps your business relies on haven't kept pace with technological advances, user experience will suffer, competitors will surpass functionality, and maintenance costs will expand over time.

Moreover, as applications age, your company faces an increased risk of suffering a security breach that inhibits operations or results in a loss of data. Modernization can be daunting because these applications are vital to your business operations. Is the financial investment and time commitment worth the risk?

Delaying modernization can affect productivity and slow business growth. Modernization must be addressed sooner than later because your business's success depends on it.

There are two ways to approach application modernization: replatforming and rebuilding. Which option you choose depends on your business's budget and needs. Replatforming can help you modernize many applications quickly and cost effectively. Rebuilding, while expensive and time-consuming, provides long-term sustainability and adaptability. Either approach can help your business, whether you modernize only a handful of applications or thousands.

This e-book will discuss these two types of modernization approaches. You'll learn about the benefits of application modernization, the difference between the two methods, and more.

## How do you know when to modernize?

While there are many reasons to modernize your applications, below are six of the most common:

- **Cloud migration:** Business objectives require cloud migration of applications.
- **Incompatibility:** Applications aren't compatible with current technology because they're outdated.
- **Source of bottlenecks:** Old, low-performing applications slow down productivity and cause bottlenecks for the entire business.
- **No support:** Vendors no longer support the maintenance of your application.
- **Expensive:** Operation and maintenance costs are continually increasing.
- **No mobile access:** Employees and customers can't access applications because the apps don't work on mobile.

## Three benefits of rebuilding and replatforming legacy applications

Rebuilding and replatforming your legacy applications offer many benefits that provide business stability in the ever-evolving technology landscape, including:

**Future-proof your business:** Regardless of how functional your legacy applications are today, they'll eventually become incompatible with modern technology. By rebuilding and replatforming them, you stay ahead of the curve. This enables your business to be more agile, adapt to future technologies, and gain a competitive advantage over companies that are slow to modernize.

**Be more productive:** Legacy apps can often be riddled with difficult-to-diagnose technical issues. Rebuilt or replatformed apps, however, will run more smoothly. Technical incidents can be identified, supported, and maintained easily. Modernized apps also lack the technical limitations that slow down staff productivity.

**Improve the customer experience:** In our technology-driven world, customers are used to efficient, high-quality, and seamless experiences that provide what they want when they want it. Legacy apps are often slow and glitchy, leading to disappointed users and lost business. Rebuilt or replatformed apps can improve customer engagement and satisfaction, improving your business reputation.

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Application modernization can significantly boost annual business revenue through better user experience and productivity gains.



## Replatforming vs. rebuilding

OnX can modernize legacy applications in two ways. If your organization needs to transform applications quickly, replatforming is ideal. For large applications critical to your business, rebuilding is likely the better option as developers can redesign the app from scratch. Below are detailed descriptions of how each modernization process works:

**Replatforming** is when an application or part of an application is optimized and moved to the cloud or modern hardware. Developers alter the application's code to operate in and take advantage of the new environment's features—without changing the original application's structure, features, or functions.

This method is quick, affordable, and efficient. The process saves time and frustration because it enables developers to reuse familiar

development frameworks, programming languages, and existing caches in applications.

**Rebuilding, or refactoring**, is when an application's components are rewritten or redesigned from scratch while maintaining its scope and specifications. The rebuild process is more expensive than replatforming and can take several months or even years to complete. But it does have key advantages.

The transformed application can scale according to usage and demand and is supportable long-term. What's more, your business becomes more agile and efficient. You can leverage new technology and third-party platforms by rebuilding, enabling you to implement new features, functionalities, and processes.

## How to get started

Modernizing your applications may feel like an overwhelming process, but it doesn't have to be. You can start with only a few if you have many applications you'd like to modernize. A gradual approach helps you understand how the application modernization process works and benefits your business.

During the initial assessment by OnX, we can identify potential applications for modernization. Usually, these apps are small to midsize and between five and seven years old. Quickly transforming these first applications can dramatically increase their performance and build momentum in your business.

# The benefits of modernizing with OnX

More and more businesses are aware of the need to modernize applications. The reasons to do so vary. You may want to reduce your infrastructure costs, create more adaptable apps, or improve customer experience. Regardless of your goals, rebuilding or replatforming legacy applications with OnX can offer you many advantages.

- **Outsource to a team of experts:** Building a team is costly and time-consuming. By outsourcing your application modernization needs, your company can move faster to reach project goals as OnX experts guide the replatforming or rebuilding process.
- **Save money:** OnX has the certifications and proven experience to transform your applications efficiently and reduce costs in the process.
- **Gain momentum:** OnX has helped countless clients with their application transformation. Our proven methodology and agile development framework can get your products to market sooner and build momentum for your business
- **Enjoy dependable support:** OnX can support an ongoing modernization process, ensuring the necessary resources are available when you need them.

Whether you choose to rebuild or replatform, OnX has the expertise and certified staff to help you modernize the most complex applications.

**Contact OnX** today to learn which type of application modernization process is right for your business.





**From developing and deploying modern apps and the secure, scalable platforms on which they run to managing, monitoring, and optimizing their operations, OnX Canada is the trusted partner businesses need to thrive in the application era.**