

Out of Support, Out of Time

Modernize Your Applications with
HCL Informix[®] Before It's Too Late

Table of Contents

- 3 Why Being Off Support is So Dangerous
 - 3 Risk #1: Your Database is Not Secure
 - 3 Risk #2: Non-Compliance May Cost You
 - 3 Risk #3: You're Stuck in the Past
 - 4 Risk #4: You're Unproductive, Inefficient, and Not Prepared for the Future
- 5 A Modern Approach to Shield Your Company with HCL Informix

If your database is no longer supported, your business is exposed — increasing your risk of a data breach.

Many organizations delay renewing support to cut costs. But unsupported databases come with serious risks: security vulnerabilities, compliance violations, system instability, and rising internal IT burdens. Staying competitive now means staying secure, supported, and ready for what's next.

With the release of HCL Informix® 15, there's never been a more critical time to act. The latest version delivers breakthrough capabilities including dramatically expanded storage limits and external smartblob support for high-volume object storage, among other features to accelerate application development and modernization.

HCL Informix 15 is built for the realities of today's enterprises, offering Kubernetes-ready deployment, updated REST APIs, and seamless scalability for data-intensive workloads. These innovations are designed to keep your business running efficiently and securely—with the flexibility to grow across on-prem, hybrid, and cloud environments.

This eBook breaks down the real risks of staying off support—and shows how Actian makes it fast, safe, and cost-effective to modernize with HCL Informix.

Migrate and Modernize

Actian can help out of support companies:

- Migrate to HCL Informix with minimal risk, time, and resources
- Retain application compatibility with HCL Informix
- Solve challenges today and tomorrow — migrate to HCL Informix and move to a robust cloud-native option, at no additional cost, when you're ready to start the modernization journey

Why Being Off Support is So Dangerous

Running an out-of-support database can cause significant harm to your business—including leaving your business vulnerable to breaches, increasing costs, and creating barriers to driving efficiencies. That's why you need to carefully weigh security, compliance, reliability, availability, productivity, compatibility, and cost concerns of this approach. Below is an overview of some of the lapses off-support databases can experience and their adverse impact.

Risk #1: Your Database is Not Secure

Unpatched vulnerabilities account for one in three data breaches globally, according to Microsoft. So, ensuring your software is up-to-date is critical. If your database is not supported, you will not receive the latest security patches, updates, alerts, and fixes for newly discovered security issues, leaving you more vulnerable to attacks and malware that can cause:

- Theft of intellectual property
- Loss of confidential business and customer data
- Reputational damage
- Lost business due to downtime
- Legal fees and associated damage claims
- Ransomware payments
- Significant remediation time and effort

All this damage can be expensive. The **Ponemon Institute's "Cost of a Data Breach Report"** estimates the global average cost of a data breach reached a record high of USD 4.88 million in 2024 – a 10% increase over the previous year.¹ Without support, you'll miss out on fixes for database bugs and glitches. This can lead to more effort from internal IT resources to work around issues and can lead to system crashes that disrupt your operations. While third-party support can help resolve issues, it can come with substantial long-term costs, potential reliability issues, and considerations related to the level of database expertise, security, control, and compliance.



Without support, you are missing out on new features, fixes for bugs and glitches, and around-the-clock vendor support.

Risk #2: Non-Compliance May Cost You

Using unsupported software can cause serious repercussions for non-compliance, especially in heavily regulated sectors like healthcare and finance where using current, supported software is mandatory. Legal issues and financial penalties can be substantial. Consider that the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requires covered entities and business associates to "run versions of operating system and application software for which security patches are made available and installed in a timely manner." Depending on the level of culpability, the fine can be up to €20 million depending on the severity of the violation.²

Compliance affects businesses across industries, even less regulated ones. For instance, PCI DSS 6.2 mandates that any entity handling credit or payment card information must safeguard their systems by applying relevant security patches from the manufacturer. Specifically, they are required to install critical security patches within one month.



Unpatched vulnerabilities are the cause of one in three data breaches and can lead to expensive non-compliance penalties.

Risk #3: You're Stuck in the Past

When you're using unsupported software, you won't receive updates for new performance, availability, security, and usability features, which means you miss out on the latest improvements and innovations. You may have a weak security posture because you don't have access to new enhancements that provide higher protection, such as more secure encryption keys and encryption protocols, and the latest improvements in user authentication, access controls, security auditing, and more.

When you encounter issues or need technical assistance with unsupported software, you may be on your own without any guidance, help, and insights from your database vendor. This can result in longer downtime and higher internal support effort or expensive third-party support. Some third-party support providers may not be available around the clock or may not offer the same level of responsiveness as official database vendor support. This can be a problem when dealing with critical issues that require immediate attention.

¹ Ponemon Institute, "Cost of Data Breach Report 2024."

² European Union "What are the GDPR Fines."



Unsupported software can cause severe consequences for non-compliance, especially in heavily regulated industries.

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

You may not be able to keep up with evolving data needs and demands when you're running outdated software, particularly for fast moving digital transformation requirements where old releases can slow you down and lead to decreased productivity and efficiency. Plus, your team will have no or limited access to community assets such as training materials, discussion forums, knowledge bases and articles, certification content, community portals, etc., that get the team up to speed faster and make them more successful. In addition, when you're out of support you don't get to influence the vendor's product roadmap with features and functionality your business would benefit from using.



Outdated software can bring more costs in the long-term, slow down innovation such as digital transformation, and prevent the use of modern technologies and deployment models such as hybrid cloud.

As technology evolves, unsupported software may become incompatible with newer hardware, operating systems, software applications, modern APIs, newer development languages, cloud technologies, platforms, and deployment models such as hybrid cloud. These shortcomings can lead to integration issues, prevent you from supporting new use cases,

and hinder your ability to work with other systems effectively. For instance, you may only have a lift and shift cloud migration option where you simply rehost your database in the cloud instead of taking advantage of a cloud-native option that offers on-demand scalability, portability, and agile development.

Compatibility can also affect your third-party and service provider relationships. As newer software and technologies become more prevalent, vendors may stop offering support or integrations for outdated databases and turn their attention to more attractive opportunities.

Plus, an unsupported database can end up costing you more money. Although one of the reasons you may have terminated support was to save money, you may actually wind up spending more in the long run. This is because you may need additional measures to fill security gaps, develop fixes, and create workarounds to compensate for the lack of support. Further, you may experience an expensive data breach or non-compliance fine that drives up costs.

Help is Waiting! A Modern Approach to Shield Your Company with HCL Informix

To keep your business protected and positioned for growth, it's essential to run a fully supported, modern database. HCL Informix 15 makes it easier than ever for out-of-support organizations to upgrade — delivering powerful new capabilities, seamless scalability, and a clear path to modernization across on-prem, hybrid, and cloud environments.

Whether you're facing performance limitations, rising security risks, or outdated infrastructure, Actian provides a fast, low-risk, and cost-effective way to get current. Our experts help you migrate with minimal disruption and unlock the full value of HCL Informix 15's latest innovations — from dramatically expanded storage capacity to containerized deployment options and smarter application development with 4GL.



Don't let an out-of-support database put your company in harm's way. HCL Informix from Actian provides an easy, low-cost, and flexible way to upgrade to the latest release and to get back on support.

With over 50 years of database experience and a customer satisfaction rating above 95%, Actian is committed to your long-term success. As the engineering, development, and support team behind HCL Informix, we are actively investing in its future and partnering with customers to shape the product roadmap based on real-world needs.

Don't let an unsupported database put your business at risk. Now is the time to modernize, and secure your future with HCL Informix.

About Actian

Actian empowers enterprises to confidently manage and govern data at scale. Actian data management and data intelligence solutions help streamline complex data environments and accelerate the delivery of AI-ready data. Designed to be flexible, Actian solutions integrate seamlessly and perform reliably across on-premises, cloud and hybrid environments. Learn more about Actian, the data division of HCLSoftware, at actian.com.

