

Secure, Scalable, Supported

Your Guide to Modernizing Business-Critical
Apps with HCL Informix[®]

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Secure, Scalable, Supported

Legacy applications are becoming a liability faster than most businesses expect. Mission-critical applications that once gave you an edge are now holding you back. Legacy systems drain resources, limit innovation, and expose your business to costly security and compliance risks. And with more platforms reaching end-of-service every year, waiting any longer is not a strategy—it's a liability.

You've invested heavily in your applications. But as support ends and systems age, staying put means gambling with security, productivity, and your bottom line. The good news? You don't need a complete overhaul to modernize. You just need the right plan—and the right platform—to bring your applications into the future with speed and confidence.

Why Being Off Support is So Dangerous

Risk 1: Your Database is Not Secure

Breaches take an average of 292 days to identify and contain, costing \$4.88M 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 €20 million.²

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Using outdated software stifles innovation, inflates costs, and limits adaptability to explore new use cases. As technology advances, outdated databases may no longer align with new systems, causing integration challenges that impact application performance and the bottom line.

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

² European Union, "What are the GDPR Fines."

Upcoming "End of Service" Dates for Servers and Operating Systems 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)
 - Enterprise and Education, Version 22H2
 - IoT Enterprise, Version 22H2

2026:

- **Windows Server 2022**
(End of servicing: October 13, 2026)
- **Amazon Linux 2**
(End of servicing: June 30, 2026)
- **Oracle Solaris Connector (Sailpoint)**
(End of servicing: January 1, 2026)
- **Linux Kernel 6.6 (LTS)**
(End of Long-Term Support: December 2026)

2027:

- **Windows Server 2016**
(End of Servicing: January 12, 2027)

There's good news! There's no need for a complete overhaul of your database architecture. Upgrading your mission-critical applications from an out-of-support 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 get the modern database you need, but you still need a comprehensive migration plan for your applications.

Almost two-thirds of organizations planned to increase security investments following a breach, a 23.5% rise over last year. This rise may reflect a realization that breach costs related to lost business and regulatory fines continue to grow, along with the potential for reputational damage.

Source: Ponemon Institute, "Cost of Data Breach Report 2024."

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 a microservices-based architecture, optimizing infrastructure, and automating deployment pipelines.

Create Your 5-Step Application Modernization Plan

Insufficient research, discovery, and planning are the most common modernization mistakes. 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

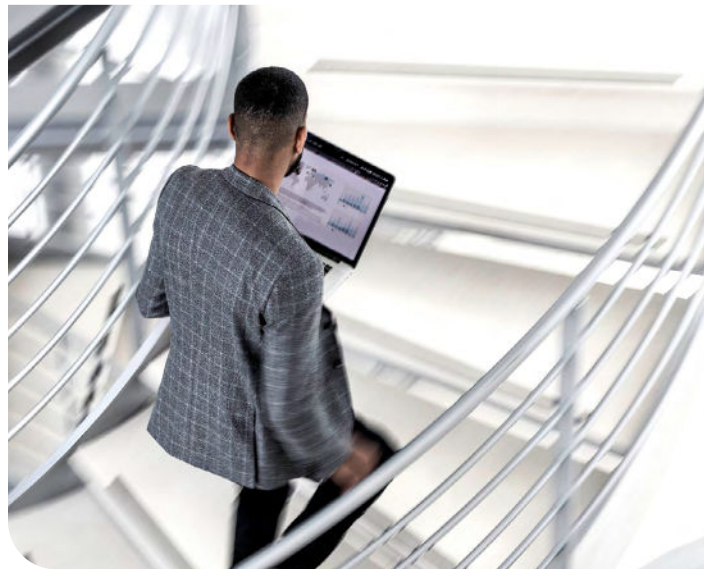
What "success" looks like may differ across your organization. Maybe you're most concerned with maintaining the stability and performance of your existing infrastructure, but your research and development teams may want to test and explore new technologies and concepts. Establishing your goals and objectives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

Step 2: Audit Your Applications

Conduct a 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** to devise the optimal modernization strategy for each mission-critical applications.



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 services available from cloud providers may require a significant learning commitment from your team. Devise a training program uniquely designed for your database administrators, developers, architects, IT, and any other role that's impacted so they can proficiently manage your apps once they're migrated and modernized.

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

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-based architecture 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 application downtime
- Requires careful planning and execution
- Risk of cloud vendor lock-in

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 15

For decades, Informix has been the backbone of high-performance, mission-critical applications. With HCL Informix 15, that legacy gets a major upgrade—bringing you unmatched scalability, modern development tools, and cloud-native flexibility, all without disrupting what already works. Now with support for massive data volumes, external smartblobs, invisible indexes, and Informix 4GL, you can scale faster, optimize performance, and streamline application development—without rewriting your entire environment.

No Application Refactoring Required

Switching to another database like Oracle, PostgreSQL, or SQL Server may incur costs exceeding \$1 million USD in licensing and migration services alone. HCL Informix 15 lets you modernize on your terms—keeping what works, upgrading what's needed, and saving your team months of rework.³ With per-core licensing and **product parity with IBM Informix Advanced Enterprise Edition**, you can invest your money developing new revenue-generating use cases.

Modernize How You Want

Deploy HCL Informix 15 on-prem, in the cloud, or hybrid—wherever your strategy leads. With built-in support for Kubernetes, Helm charts, and REST APIs, you can containerize and scale in minutes, with zero vendor lock-in. It runs on Linux and Windows—and connects seamlessly with your wider IT stack.

³ Database Trends and Applications, "The High Cost of Enterprise Software."

You're Backed by Experts

You don't have to go it alone. Actian's global team of HCL Informix experts, engineers, and partners is here to guide you every step of the way. With over 50 years of database expertise and a 95% customer satisfaction score, we're committed to helping you modernize quickly, efficiently, and confidently.

Ripping and replacing your Informix database with an alternative solution such as Oracle, PostgreSQL, or SQL Server may incur costs exceeding \$1 million USD.

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

Next Steps to Modernization

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

[Find a partner >](#)

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.

