



Upgrading Infor XA: The path to greater business value

At Infor®, we're constantly improving our solutions to keep pace with our users' evolving business requirements. And Infor XA is no exception. The new version, Infor XA 9.2, is an integrated suite of applications with capabilities that extend beyond core enterprise resource planning (ERP) to include enterprise asset management (EAM), product life cycle management (PLM), supply chain management (SCM), and more. The new solution is cloud ready, so you have implementation options, including Infor's continued commitment to IBM System i-based cloud environments, supported with System i experts. To improve usability, Infor XA 9.2 features a new interface designed using Infor Ming.le, Infor's comprehensive platform for collaboration.

Infor developed the significant enhancements available in Infor XA 9.2 with a single overriding purpose—give discrete manufacturers like you an integrated suite of applications that can help streamline your business processes and simplify your information technology infrastructure. Infor also has taken the next step—building the expertise and processes to help Infor XA users move to the latest version in a way that saves you time and money, and delivers tangible improvements to your business.

As an Infor XA user, you know the business case for upgrading your core enterprise software solution doesn't rest solely on the availability of advanced functionality. There are other important considerations.

Can you complete the upgrade quickly, efficiently, and without disrupting your ongoing business operations? Can you make the case for the upgrade in terms of value to the business, so you get the executive commitment and budget you need to move forward? These are critical questions. Infor has the expertise, proven experience, and defined processes to help you answer, "Yes," to both questions.

The business case for upgrading

To help you make the business case for upgrading your Infor XA solution, you can work with Infor Value Engineering, a dedicated team of experts who collaborate closely with you to help quantify the benefits of an upgrade. Infor Value Engineering uses a systematic approach to help you understand how well your current solution version meets your business needs and, if an upgrade is warranted, the value it will deliver. The Infor Value Engineering methodology includes these key steps:

Point of view: Infor Value Engineering compares your performance against industry averages across a wide range of key performance indicators (KPIs) and then quantifies the benefits you can expect by improving those KPIs.

Benchmarking assessment: The team next uses an independent, third-party company to conduct an in-depth benchmark analysis of your key business processes against industry standards and best practices. This analysis compares your KPIs against more than 16,000 data points from 45 diverse industries. You'll get a detailed report documenting the potential business benefits of upgrading your Infor XA solution.

Value discovery: Infor Value Engineering works with your key business process owners to understand the challenges they have with their current Infor XA version and identify areas of where the latest release can help. The team also will help you build a detailed new solution architecture and upgrade roadmap.

Infor Value Engineering then delivers a “board-ready” business case that includes the proposed solution architecture and roadmap, projected business process improvements, and the return on investment you can expect. The business case document compares the total cost of ownership for on-premise and cloud implementations, so you can decide which is best for your company.

Follow a systematic approach to upgrading to Infor XA

In the Value Realization phase, Infor Value Engineering follows a collaborative process to help guide your Infor XA upgrade and measure its business value. The three parts of this process include:

Steering committee participation. Infor Value Architects and Infor consultants collaborate with your steering committee to develop and monitor the upgrade action plan against the roadmap you created in the Value Discovery phase.

Ongoing business process benchmarking. Infor Value Engineering helps you conduct ongoing performance reviews of the upgrade based on the KPIs established in the roadmap, and helps you modify KPIs when new opportunities for improvement are identified.

Customer Innovation study. Infor Value Engineering will develop a case study, documenting the financial and strategic benefits of an upgrade.

New cloud options

Infor XA is now live in an IBM System i-based cloud hosted by Infor, giving customers an opportunity to benefit from the many advantages that cloud computing can provide. Infor XA deployed in the cloud offers the same functional footprint as an on-premise installation, which means that cloud users get Infor XA's full range of core functionality, as well as access to Infor Ming.le, Infor Visual Planner, Infor F9 Reporting, and other Infor ION® integrations.

Companies are increasingly moving to cloud deployments because of the potential to improve the performance and cost effectiveness of their IT processes, as well as increase their business agility. By migrating your Infor XA solution to the cloud, you can:

- Take advantage of Infor's long-term commitment to offer an IBM System i-based cloud environment and support it with specialized System i technical skills.
- Redeploy your internal IT resources to focus on higher-value projects.
- Benefit from automatic upgrades to the latest Infor XA capabilities.

Make the move—quickly and efficiently

Keep pace with changing competitive pressures and take advantage of enhanced Infor XA capabilities by upgrading to the latest version. At Infor, we're investing in new Infor XA functionality to help you operate an efficient and competitive manufacturing business. And we're offering the strategies and resources to make it easy for you to get the greatest possible value from your technology investment. Isn't it time you made the move to the new version of your trusted Infor XA solution?



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