openlegacy
OPEN INNOVATION

The Hidden Costs
of z/OS Connect

"The most expensive free thing you will ever buy from IBM"
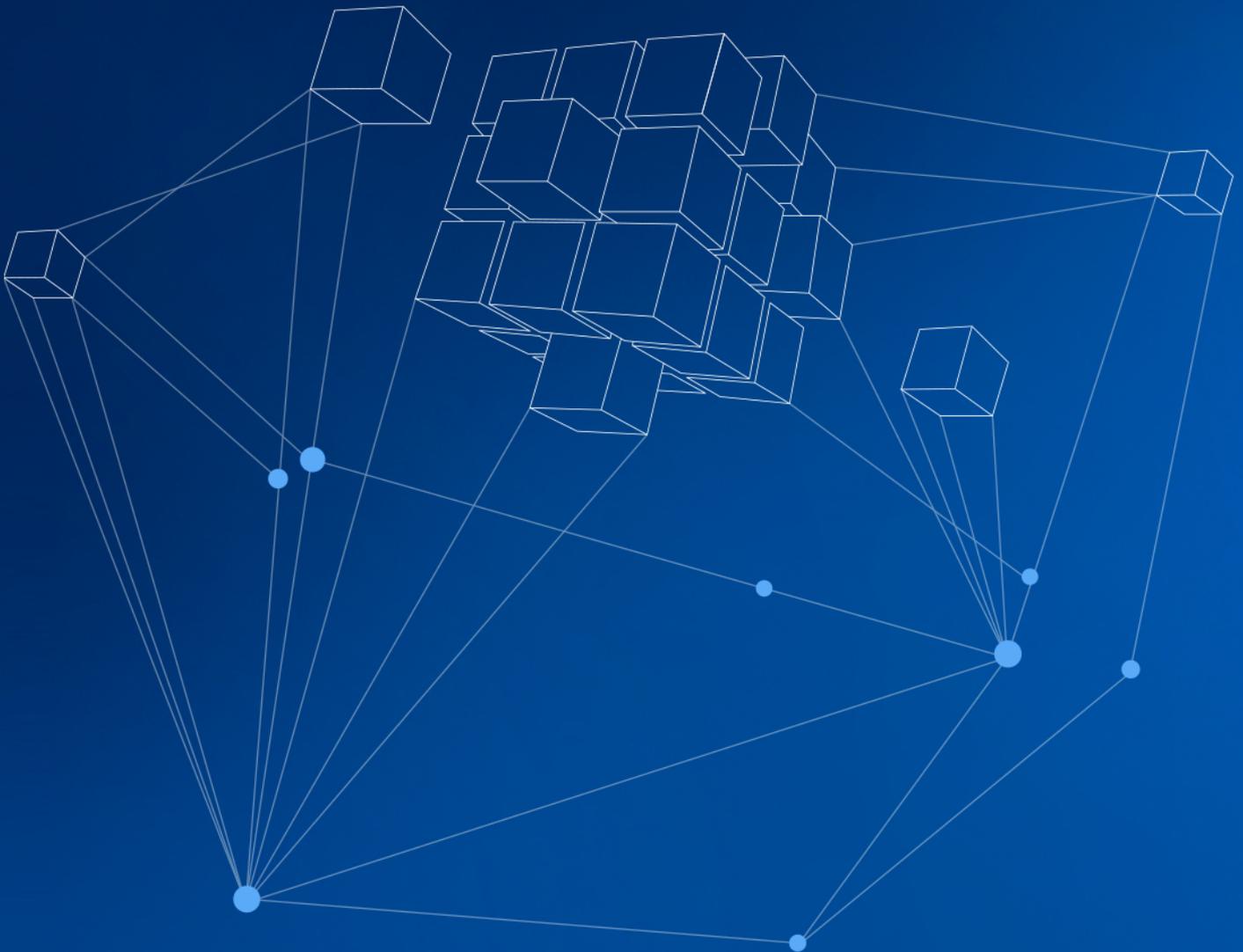
Architecturally, z/OS Connect and OpenLegacy occupy the same space and it would be easy to assume that we do similar things when viewed from a high-level architectural perspective. However, if you break that down into an actual day-to-day functional perspective, the picture looks vastly different.

FUNCTION	Z/OS CONNECT	OPENLEGACY
Setup *What is required of the mainframe for this integration to work*	z/OS Connect requires a dedicated LPAR, setting up and going through the USS side of the mainframe, a liberty server and latest versions of all software components. Suggesting having min of 260 z/OS Connect servers	3 RDO resources for CICS and no setup required for IMS
Understanding *Interpret the Cobol Copybook*	Manual effort needed to translate arcane legacy parameters-areas and create APIs users will understand	Automated
Standardization *Making the Cobol Copybook an easily understandable, maintainable and consumable JSON*	Proven to be difficult for developers to consume. Overly bloated and highly tagged. Not easy to understand and maintain.	Extremely consumable friendly JSON generated through automated tooling
Connect *Connectivity from the service to MF*	Effective Tooling – <u>vendor lock</u> in and highly proprietary	Effective Tooling – <u>open standards</u> based – non-proprietary
Microservice *Wrap the service as a Microservice, with flexibility to deploy anywhere*	Not Available	Automatically generated with clean APIs, private functions that directly call the legacy system, Docker for easy loading onto any system.
Flexibility *Through configuration and injection ability to adopt inhouse best practices, security standards, etc.*	Not Available	Full flexibility - Generated code is standard Java and fully modifiable directly or through templates
DevOps *How the integration meets the needs of DevOps*	Not Available	Full Support Microservices with clean APIs are the easiest way to work in a DevOps manner. Also included are standard Java with junit testing and full automation
Maintenance *How much work will it take to keep the integration up and running*	Given the requirements in the setup of current versions, servers, etc the maintenance is painful. Add in the lack of standardization and vendor lock-in and maintenance gets higher	Easy based on open standards, just like maintaining any Java application

Looking at this matrix, the only comparable aspect of the two products is the connectivity. Both perform that function well, but they take different approaches: IBM's highly proprietary approach and OpenLegacy's open standards-based approach.

In short, z/OS Connect is simply a protocol translator from copybooks to JSON. In doing so it requires enormous amounts of effort in set-up, maintenance and development time. It adds complexity, reduces agility and requires multiple teams and skills to be involved in each process.

On the other hand, OpenLegacy is a modern, complete and comprehensive solution to incorporating legacy assets into digital architectures. It allows you to leapfrog decades of technical debt without paying the price of a migration.

While most of our mainframe customers already have z/OS Connect, and some even got it for free from IBM, they realize that free can be extremely expensive in the long run if it prevents them from going where you need to go.

Additional Considerations

Services – IBM's goal is to maximize the services related to any product sale (or non-sale). One needs to take into consideration the cost of:

1. Implementation
2. Customization
3. Training
4. Maintenance
5. Specialty Skills

Environment

1. Requirement to be on the most current versions – potentially involving upgrade services and additional costs / impacts associated with performing a major upgrade
2. Requirement for a separate LPAR running Websphere
3. MIPS consumption
4. Consumption model pricing

Deployment

1. A closed / proprietary middleware environment
2. Flexibility in deployment options today and tomorrow (e.g. OpenShift)

About OpenLegacy

OpenLegacy accelerates delivery of innovative digital services from legacy systems in days or weeks versus months. Our microservices-based API integration and management software reduces manual effort by automating API creation, simplifies the process by avoiding layers of complexity, and improves staff efficiency and API performance. Our software directly accesses and extends business logic to web, mobile or cloud innovations in the form of Java objects, REST APIs or SOAP. Most importantly, this process is not only fast, easy and secure, but also does not require special staff skills or changes to existing systems or architecture. Together, business and IT teams can quickly, easily and securely meet consumer, partner or employee demands for digital services without altering or replacing core systems. Learn why leading companies choose OpenLegacy at www.openlegacy.com.

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