



APPLICATION MODERNIZATION

Application portfolio assessment, Agile software development and DevOps services

PIVOT'S UNIFIED PORTFOLIO OFFERING

Through our Unified Portfolio, we deliver solutions across the full lifecycle of our customer's technology investments.

SERVICE CHANNELS

- Integration
- Professional
- Deployment
- Workforce
- Managed

SOLUTION DISCIPLINES

- Workplace Experience
- Application Modernization
- Network Optimization
- Security Fortification
- Cloud & Datacenter Transformation
- Customer Experience

SERVICES VALUE STREAM



MINIMIZE THE RISKS OF LEGACY APPLICATIONS

Although U.S. businesses are rapidly shifting application portfolios to the cloud, most also remain heavily dependent on dozens or even hundreds of legacy, on-premises business apps. Modernizing and cloud-enabling these older apps is a priority for most organizations, but that can be an exceedingly difficult task.

Decades-old applications simply weren't built for today's web and cloud deployment strategies. Although they may have worked well for years and still enable business-critical functions, over time they can become increasingly unstable, difficult to integrate and costly to maintain, and less agile for fast-moving business needs. This is why three-quarters of IT decision-makers in a recent Forrester survey said application modernization has become a high-priority initiative.

Modernization is a significant challenge, however. It requires specialized skill sets, including a working knowledge of older programming languages and development environments. It's a time-consuming process that can steal IT resources from other initiatives. Plus, there's always the risk that software modifications could lead to data loss or cascading failures of related apps and systems.

Pivot Technology Services addresses these challenges with application modernization services offered through its Pivot Digital Labs division. The services are aligned with best practices outlined in Gartner's proven "Fitness and Value Review" methodology, and incorporate Agile software development and DevOps implementation standards to ensure a dependable process with limited risk.



SOFTWARE PROJECT DELIVERY AND DEVOPS

If coding changes are required, a team of application specialists will make modifications identified in the assessment process using Agile software development practices. Unlike traditional “waterfall” development in which all elements of an app are created before testing, the Agile approach focuses on keeping code simple and testing often throughout the life of the project. Agile methodology also emphasizes close collaboration between the development teams and business stakeholders to capture early feedback and quickly get high-quality code into production, giving organizations faster access to new apps that can drive productivity and business efficiency.

A DevOps implementation approach complements the frequent code updates produced during the Agile software development process. DevOps is the general term for practices and tools designed to create a tighter relationship between software development and IT operations, which standardizes and automates release management activities to lower operational risks. Pivot will help customers select and implement DevOps tools that aid in the efficient delivery of applications and services.

HOW AGING APPS HINDER INNOVATION

Legacy applications aren’t easy to replace. Some represent years of development and intellectual property, and provide custom functionality that continues to be essential to operations. Nevertheless, the cost and manpower dedicated to supporting legacy apps can limit an organization’s ability to take advantage of emerging technologies. Gartner says that every dollar invested in digital business innovation over the next two years will require organizations to spend at least three times that to continuously modernize their legacy application portfolios.

Often, these apps are running on aging hardware and operating systems that have reached end-of-life or end-of-support, making management and maintenance extremely difficult and introducing high levels of risk. Migrating to a cloud platform is rarely a simple “lift and shift” process because many legacy apps were designed to run on a single server rather than in the cloud’s clustering scenario. Without revisions, the app could fail during a cluster failover. Additionally, software maintenance and documentation become increasingly difficult as the people who wrote the original code move on to other jobs or into retirement. Often, the original source code is lost altogether.

Modernization projects are designed to preserve the functionality of aging, mission-critical apps while opening up new avenues for innovation. Depending on the app and its function, this can be accomplished in a number of ways. Some applications may only require a new mobile or web interface, while others may call for a more extreme reworking involving rewriting code. In still other instances, apps can be retired or replaced with commodity Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) offerings. Other apps may be packaged and migrated using microservices and containerization technologies.

Whether migrating to a cloud platform, creating a new interface or writing new code, software modernization requires specific skills and significant manpower. Because these requirements are often beyond the scope of what most organizations can handle with limited in-house IT staff, Gartner suggests most organizations would be better off working with a trusted partner. The firm predicts that, by 2021, more than 60 percent of IT organizations will utilize Agile and DevOps services from external providers, up from 27 percent in 2017.

A PLAN FOR TRANSFORMATION

Pivot developed its modernization services to complement the company’s established practices in software development and cloud platforms. An extensive network of vendor partners and on-shore and off-shore development teams gives Pivot the resources to provide local solutions for large, complex projects across a broad geographic footprint.

The first step in a modernization project is a thorough assessment and inventory of the customer’s software stack. Pivot’s collaborative assessment methodology is based on Gartner’s “Fitness and Value Review” toolkit and the TOGAF enterprise architecture design framework developed by The Open Group Architecture Forum.

During the assessment, apps are evaluated based on their overall value, the importance of the business processes they support, maintenance costs and risk of failure. Pivot will also conduct collaborative workshops with stakeholders to produce a TIME (Tolerate/Invest/Migrate/Eliminate) analysis of applications. This analysis will be overlaid with a TOGAF application architecture review, to establish the most logical modernization approach.

© 2019 PIVOT TECHNOLOGY SERVICES. All trademarks or registered trademarks are the property of their respective owners. REF# PTS-1219