BMC ZSolutions:

What Does it Take to Modernize the Mainframe?

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Digital Business: Windfall or Downfall?

You know the future of your business depends on technology.

The signs are everywhere: increasing customer expectations, shifting regulations, and mobile apps that rewrite your IT requirements by the second.

While everyone is focused on the rapid-fire demands of the digital world, many businesses like yours are finding that IT needs to be more streamlined than ever. No one can afford slowdowns when developing applications or accessing their business-critical data. Some may point a finger at the mainframe, thinking it's the culprit holding you back. After all, it requires highly specialized skills and can have some esoteric user interfaces and heavily customized code.

You might try to counter these concerns by adding people or outsourcing mainframe management. Or, you could consider taking specific workloads off the mainframe altogether. But what you'll soon learn is that any alternative platform simply cannot deliver the performance, availability, security, and reliability that you and your customers expect.

The truth is, your mainframe is still the most powerful, stable, and secure platform available. Instead of abandoning years of investment, you need to modernize and optimize the mainframe. Imagine an autonomous mainframe that continuously manages, diagnoses, heals, and improves itself. That's possible when you apply intelligent automation, pump rich data into analytics engines, add built-in domain expertise, and put machine learning to work.

To truly modernize the mainframe, you need to address these key challenges:

A complex infrastructure that hinders performance

Massive, unmanageable data growth

A different mindset taking over IT—one without knowledge of the mainframe

Here's how ...

Your Challenge:
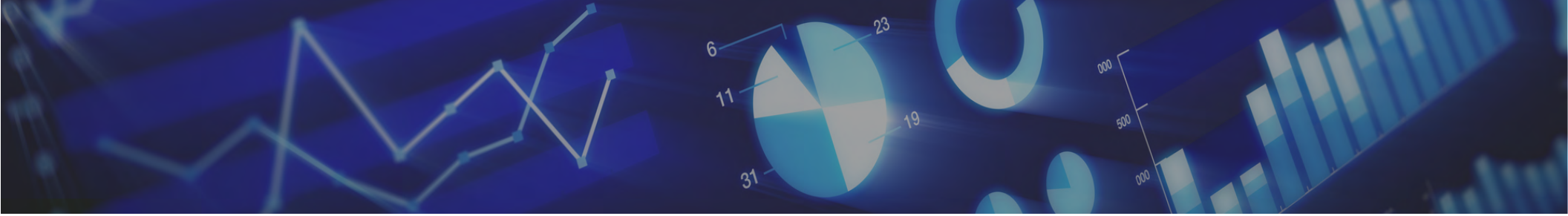## An Overly Complex Infrastructure

IT performance is critical to running an agile, adaptable, and successful organization. After all, you need stable business processes and a responsive infrastructure if you're going to prosper in the fast-changing digital economy. As mobile devices and the IoT increase the complexity of your mainframe workloads, it's become increasingly difficult to monitor performance and anticipate problems.

Because it's so difficult for any one person to see how all of the pieces of the environment work together, tracking down the source of a performance problem requires the effort of several seasoned experts—many of whom are working across different technology silos. Even with a full team working together, combing through multiple places to understand a problem and isolate its root cause inevitably lengthens resolution times. You know you must instantly respond to infrastructure problems, but without the appropriate levels of transparency and predictability, you'll struggle to avoid slowdowns. And the longer it takes to resolve an issue, the greater the damage to your reputation and bottom line.

By 2025, an average connected person anywhere in the world will interact with connected devices nearly

4,800x per day

or one interaction every 18 seconds.[1]

The BMC Solution:
Preempt Operational Challenges

Knowing what's happening in your mainframe environment is critical to your IT infrastructure—and your business. With BMC, you can free your team from time-consuming tactical projects and refocus their energy toward much more strategic matters.

With the help of intelligent automation and advanced machine learning, your team can manage, diagnose, heal, and optimize your systems in an intuitive, efficient manner. With machine learning that uses real-time and historical data—and leverages predictive analytics—you'll have the continuous insight you need to quickly answer new business demands, respond to problems before they arise, and eliminate the costs associated with time-consuming diagnostic activities.

You can take this automation a step further by defining rules that help you better control your mainframe environment. Your team simply provides the conditions and the security levels, then defines the necessary corrective actions. They'll act faster and be better positioned to never miss a critical incident.

And with the help of "what-if" modeling, you'll respond to emerging demands with the utmost confidence and certainty. By analyzing the cost benefits of changes before rolling them into production, you can make well-informed decisions that help you save money while delivering what the business needs most.

Your Challenge:
Massive Data Growth

Data makes your business tick. It's how you provide exceptional, secure service to your clients. But despite the influential role it plays in driving your organization forward, many stakeholders find they aren't able to access the data they need without waiting weeks—or even months—for it to be delivered. Much of this critical information remains deeply embedded within your mainframe environment.

But as you begin juggling an increasingly large volume of customers, transactions, workloads, and databases, it gets more and more difficult for your business users to separate what's useful from what's just noise. So instead of helping to drive your competitive advantage, the increasing volumes of data can quickly become disorganized. Worse yet, because it houses so much sensitive data—like credit-card transactions—your mainframe has become a prime target for cybercriminals. So it's not just slowdowns you have to worry about: the more sensitive data you have on the mainframe, the higher the risk of security breaches.

90%

of executives believe that **data will play an important role** in their organization's future, but the majority of employees are still out of the loop:

only 28%

of business leaders actually **have access** to the data they need to do their jobs.[2]

The BMC Solution:
Take Control of Your Data

Business leaders and consumers demand uninterrupted access to data and applications—even as new technologies increase the load your mainframe shoulders every day. By working with BMC, you'll keep your data at peak performance 100% of the time, separate the useful data from the clutter, and funnel what's most important to the business.

With the help of next-generation database management utilities, you can automatically perform regular maintenance without affecting performance or availability. You'll be able to reorganize data while keeping it available to your applications—and simplify a number of data-management tasks—making it easier to give customers and data-driven business users what they need, when they need it.

Moreover, you'll be able to automatically establish a link between your mainframe environment and external analytics platforms. By extracting the insights hidden in your mainframe data, you'll be better equipped to identify trends and understand their impact on performance, operations, and the customer experience. And because you can feed this same data into SIEM applications, you'll also be able to strengthen data security.

And with an intuitive suite of recovery solutions, you'll be able to coordinate your efforts across multiple database systems—and provide your auditors with proof of your recoverability—without lasting disruptions.

Your Challenge:
The Generational Shift

The rise of digital business is highlighting just how critical the expert IT professionals responsible for your infrastructure and operations truly are. For decades, keeping the mainframe running at peak performance has relied on continuous fine-tuning, countless manual processes, deep expertise, rework, and pressure to constantly double check the hand-offs between development and operations teams.

Unfortunately, many of these highly skilled mainframe experts have retired—or will do so soon. And as a younger generation begins taking their place, the processes that served the mainframe well for years are quickly becoming outdated. These new mainframe professionals expect modern user interfaces and automated processes. Fail to provide the simple, intuitive experience they expect, and you could find yourself in the midst of a talent shortage at the very moment you can least afford it.

By 2020,
1/2 of the CIOs
who have not transformed their teams' capabilities will be **displaced** from their organizations' digital leadership teams. [3]

The BMC Solution:
Create a Contemporary Experience

Mainframe newcomers don't have the experience or desire to perform the complex interventions of the past. However, they do boast the contemporary skills that are critical for your future. With BMC, you can give the newest members of your infrastructure team the modern experience they expect.

With built-in, automated intelligence, you'll enable even the least experienced users to easily and efficiently manage complex mainframe environments. By providing a centralized architecture that gives multiple mainframe technologies a cohesive look and feel, you'll make it even easier for your teams to execute their day-to-day work and take whatever steps are needed to keep the mainframe running at peak performance.

With the help of our integrated visual dashboards, your team will have an at-a-glance view of the status of operations across the full breadth of your mainframe environment.

This way, your staff can keep a sharp eye on performance and capacity utilization, quickly make sense of critical data, and discover and resolve issues in minutes instead of hours.

By empowering your newest hires to treat the mainframe like any other component of the enterprise, you'll shorten onboarding times and help them make productive contributions to the business from day one.

Why BMC?

With BMC, you'll be able to control, secure, and be confident in the integrity of your business-critical data. With built-in domain expertise, you'll detect and correct operational challenges before users notice a problem. You'll simplify operations and reduce your reliance on error-prone manual processes, freeing up your team for more strategic matters. And you'll separate useful data from the clutter, so you can funnel key insights to business leaders when they're needed most.

With BMC, you can:

Prevent problems rather than reacting to them: With insights that span every tier of your infrastructure, you'll strengthen your ability to meet key performance indicators, maintain business services, and quickly address critical incidents.

Automate and simplify mainframe data maintenance: You'll make your data easier to maintain, manage, and recover, so you can focus more attention on using the key insights it holds to truly differentiate the business.

Secure your business-critical data: With the ability to feed real-time data directly into SIEM applications, you'll detect security threats sooner and strengthen your ability to prevent breaches.

Give infrastructure and operations a modern advantage: You'll simplify and automate mainframe operations, helping you attract talented newcomers and turn them into productive team members faster.

To learn more, please visit our web site.

1   Data Age 2025, IDC, April 2017
2   Straight Talk About Big Data, McKinsey
3   Gartner's 2018 Hot Topics for I&O Executives