Rocket®software

Digital-first strategies steering data-driven modernization of IBM® i*

™

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Introduction

"Digital-first" business strategies are driving the fundamental reinvention of processes, organizations, and entire industries. For many organizations, digital-first supports broader visions of modernizing entire business models, which look to improve systems and analytics and pave the way for smarter and more productive workflows.

Deeper analysis and enhanced workflows smooth away the data challenges that complicate mergers and acquisitions, remove the hurdles that stall the unification of optimized processes with external partners and customers, and enable critical applications with A.I. inferencing capabilities. There is also the end-to-end improvement of decision-making, which upgrades an organization's flexibility and agility.

- Digital-first
- Reinvention
- Modernization

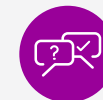## Modernizing entire business models

Improved systems and analytics

More productive workflows

Optimized processes

Improved decision making

Upgraded flexibility and agility.

High-end enterprise platforms – IBM® i

A vital element of this push toward modernization involves existing workloads and databases running on enterprise-class platforms, including what global technology expert IDC Spotlight calls high-end enterprise platforms — like IBM i.

These workloads and databases suffer no diminished importance for the tens of thousands of organizations still using the platforms that leverage them, even during a time of widespread "digital-first" transformations — on account of both their current value and their histories of profound investments of time and money toward design, improvement, customization, and optimization. The significance of these workloads and databases makes modernizing them a critical mission, steered toward tying them to advanced analytics, hybrid cloud transitions, and the inclusion of A.I. into processes and applications. Almost half of organizations queried by IDC also outlined efforts toward integrating enterprise workloads with DevOps and building an API ecosystem. What's become apparent during these many journeys toward digitalization is that no two journeys are alike. This isn't because of the uniqueness of the challenges. What makes a market competitive is a finite number of

organizations pursuing limited resources in the face of a finite number of obstacles. But what makes these modernization journeys distinct is how these common challenges reveal themselves to each organization, shaped by the nuances of individual IT environments and an organization's degree of modernization progress.

> ...IBM i, if kept up to date and included in an organization's modernization initiatives, can play a pivotal role in supporting the organization's digital first strategy."
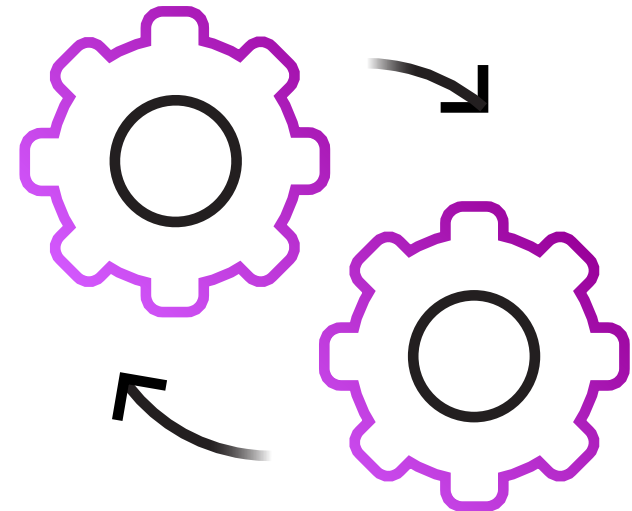>
> **PETER RUTTEN**
> Research V.P., Performance Intensive Computing for IDC

Balancing data-driven advancements with your digital modernization strategy

With IBM i modernization, an adept approach involves a comprehensive balance of data-driven advancements and an end-to-end contextualization of the organization's digital modernization strategy, comprising infrastructure, management, and the developing and enhancing applications and workflows. An organization not considering the uniqueness of its journey — sidestepping analysis of the next modernization step's impact on the entire organization and where that step ranks among organizational priorities — can reverse the course of a modernization effort.

Conversely, when a range of initiatives are spread out over time in conjunction with the continuous monitoring of platform performances within the larger IT environment and business, pain points and bottlenecks can be identified and remedied based on a prioritization scheme. A cadence of continuous modernization creates space for a range of analysis and corrective steps that larger, resource-intensive modernization initiatives preclude. Additionally, the out-sized modernization steps can make a comprehensive analysis and cost-saving correction less likely and can make organizational disruption more likely.
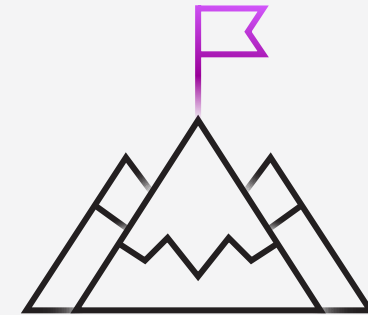
IBM® i integrated foundation for innovation

Concerning the "digital-first" journey, and the dexterity it requires, so many organizations drive their businesses on the IBM i platform to benefit from the minimal administrative support needed for running high-volume transactions and maintaining the core enterprise database, along with offerings like modernized RPG and Cobol, designed to resemble modern languages like Python and Ruby when building business applications as well as finance and administrative systems. There is also the ease of upgrading for new operating systems, the thousands of ISU solutions and custom applications running on the platform without complex integrations, and the accessibility for open-source software like Orion or Visual Studio Code along with compatibility with Java, Perl, and IBM Cloud.

With a bevy of other offerings, IBM i provides a fully integrated foundation for innovation with less clutter, fewer blind spots, and lower operational expenses. This integration allows the platform to run reliably. But, also, it keeps business operations secure with protections that are native to its operational infrastructure, which minimizes dependency on full-time staff and frees up resources for other pursuits.

What's most telling of IBM i's current value is its importance to thousands of companies relying on the platform's applications, critical to success during an era of widespread digital integration. Its future value is evidenced by the platform's capacity for delivering new enterprise-class capabilities, especially when included in a modernization journey that uses a measured roll-out of initiatives to both protect an organization while stimulating its evolution. Rocket Software's suite of solutions for IBM i include a cascade approach that prioritizes end-to-end visibility, identifies the next modernization step that best serves an organization, and builds a strategy to maximize that stage's impact.

Success Story

Rocket Software has helped customers like you plan and execute successful data-driven modernization and automation strategies for IBM i that deliver bottom-line results. Get in touch with us to learn more.

Talk to an expert

Rocket Modernization Solutions for IBM® i

End-to-end visibility of your IBM i application workflows

Rocket Process Insights is a visual tool that lets you see your workflows in totality, giving you the information needed to build an intelligent IBM i modernization plan. It tracks how your organization engages with your IBM i applications' data and business logic and delivers a heat map of the engagement. From that insight, you can create a data-driven plan that eliminates redundancy and wasted time within your workflows. Then, leverage Rocket modernization solutions to build modern user experiences and workflows that provide real results to the business.

Rocket® Process Insights ›

Deliver transformative user experiences

Rocket Modern Experience empowers businesses to quickly build modern front ends for their IBM i applications without needing in-house RPG development expertise. Build the web, mobile, and cloud experiences that employees and customers are looking for and solidify your leadership position in the market.

Rocket® Modern Experience ›

Connect your IBM i applications to the rest of the business

Rocket API enables businesses running IBM i applications to build workflows and innovative experiences that align with how customers and employees engage with your company and not with how IT is built. In addition, it is the only Robotic Process Automation (RPA) solution to deliver quick and significant ROI from automating your IBM i processes. It removes tedious, manual work that causes bottlenecks, introduces errors, and limits innovation without needing in-house legacy development expertise.

Rocket® API ›

Cost-effective high availability and disaster recovery for IBM i

Rocket iCluster's high availability/disaster recovery (HA/DR) solutions ensure uninterrupted operation for your IBM i applications, providing continuous access by monitoring, identifying, and self-correcting replication problems.

Rocket® iCluster ›

Rocket Modernization Solutions for IBM® i

Access host-based systems from browsers or mobile devices

Ensure users can access critical data and applications running on IBM i systems, even when they work remotely. Enable powerful access to host-based applications via browser or mobile device anytime and anywhere while reducing the total cost of ownership on your terminal emulator deployment.

Rocket® Terminal Emulator ›

Build a layered defense against password vulnerabilities

Rocket MFA (IBM i Edition) is designed to seamlessly integrate with IBM i, replacing static password protection with multifactor authentication tokens on both the operating system and application layers.

Rocket® MFA (Multi-Factor Authentication) ›

Simplify compliance reporting and user access to critical systems

Manual security and compliance administration is tough to scale, costly, and time-consuming, limiting your business's ability to tackle new opportunities or challenges. Stay in lockstep with changing regulatory mandates and align IT and DevOps compliance with data laws like HIPAA, GDPR, and PSD2 while minimizing the risk of human error with modernized DevOps for IBM i today. Rocket DevOps enables true end-to-end CI/CD for IBM i+ environments. Businesses can extend holistic DevSecOps best practices to the IBM i, pursue innovative experimentation, quickly respond to compliance audits, and adapt to the ever-changing expectations of processes, technology, or experience.

Rocket® DevOps ›

About Rocket Software

Rocket Software partners with the largest Fortune 1000 organizations to solve their most complex IT challenges across Applications, Data and Infrastructure. Rocket Software brings customers from where they are in their modernization journey to where they want to be by architecting innovative solutions that deliver next-generation experiences. Over 10 million global IT and business professionals trust Rocket Software to deliver solutions that improve responsiveness to change and optimize workloads. Rocket Software enables organizations to modernize in place with a hybrid cloud strategy to protect investment, decrease risk and reduce time to value. Rocket Software is a privately held U.S. corporation headquartered in the Boston area with centers of excellence strategically located throughout North America, Europe, Asia and Australia. Rocket Software is a portfolio company of Bain Capital Private Equity. Follow Rocket Software on LinkedIn and Twitter.

Modernize with Rocket® Solutions for IBM i

Meet digital age demands while maximizing your IT investment. Future-proof your mission-critical applications with Rocket Solutions for IBM i to keep your business ahead of the curve.

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