The Top Three Reasons Legacy Modernizations Fail

For some companies, the term legacy modernization brings to mind horror stories from other organizations who attempted the process, only to end up being derailed by some major bumps along the way. It is true that this can happen, but the reality is, with proper planning and preparation legacy modernization can do exactly what it is intended to do – bring legacy applications into the modern, mobile world. The following are the top three reasons for modernization failure, and how it can be avoided.

Improper Pitching

As mentioned, for some, legacy modernization is a scary idea. If the initial pitch does not provide all of the information, your project is likely never going to see the light of day. Make sure you can explain the exact ways legacy modernization will benefit the organization, including the overall decrease in costs of maintenance. Devise a strategic plan that helps all of those involved in the decision making process understand the benefits of completing the project, as well as the problems that will arise in the future if the project is not completed

Incomplete Documentation of Needs

Legacy modernization is considered for a number of reasons, but the main ones are overall functionality, lowering of maintenance costs, better agility, and more efficiency. However, even though there are several changes needed, there are still some parts of the old system that function properly, and work well for the organization. Additionally, the core business processes are likely still needed. In cases where the effort failed, it is often due to failure to document this to the vendor. Organizations need to take the time to make sure that the new system allows for the basic functions and processes that will still be needed. They may have to be tweaked to use them in the new system, but if the vendor knows what you need, they can make sure that legacy modernization includes them.

Doing It Alone

Legacy modernization is one area that should not be attempted independently. If you do not know everything about the process, it will fail. There are too many unique skills needed to carry out the process in the most useful and beneficial ways. Working with a third party that has the experience and the expertise will ensure that your project comes to fruition in the best possible ways.

-Mike Miranda writes about enterprise software and covers products offered by software companies like Rocket Software.