IT DEBT RETIREMENT– LEGACY DATA PLATFORM MODERNISATION

About Datalynx

Datalynx is an Australian company providing innovative, world-class enterprise data management software and solutions. Established in 2005, Datalynx has a proven track record of delivering complex, large-scale data-related projects and tangible outcomes for organisations in the public and private sectors. Datalynx is a technology partner of all major cloud platform vendors. For more information, visit our website: www.datalynx.com.au

It's no secret the combination of today's rapidly evolving commercial environment and hyper competitive markets drive the need for digital transformation and modernisation at breakneck speed. Organisations focused on long-term success have no choice but to modernise platforms, applications and practices.

For most, digital transformation and modernisation means transitioning to the cloud. Cloud-based technologies offer extensive business benefits, including rapid scalability, opportunities for data consolidation, improved agility, accelerated transformation, more robust data security, better network performance, reduced costs, and compliance

A parallel activity to implementing new technology is the relegation of older systems to “non-operational” status. It is an everyday reality for organisations operating for ten years or more to support a large number of legacy platforms.

While some "short-cut" options may be tempting, simply switching off legacy platforms, only mapping the most recent years' data to a cloud app, or deleting information, are not viable business choices.

The adoption of modern cloud technologies and the management of data in legacy systems are both critical to an organisation’s future success. Those historical applications are often the only way to ensure access to the data that supports ongoing reporting and operational requirements. Furthermore organisations must maintain, store, and protect legacy data to meet compliance obligations for security, privacy, and recordkeeping mandates.

However, maintaining legacy systems is riddled with risks to business continuity, stability, and growth. It is time-consuming, expensive, fraught with security exposures, and demands skills which become scarcer as time goes by. Legacy platforms rarely have the architecture to operate in the cloud effectively without costly, cumbersome integrations that slow modernisation efforts.

The significant operational costs of managing legacy platforms, applications, and data is a vexing challenge for many executives.

It is a commonly known fact that large organisations can have 40 percent or more of their IT budget allocated to maintaining legacy platforms. A recent Couchbase survey revealed that 80 percent of respondents are scaling back digital transformation plans because of legacy system issues.

> **“A legacy system or application is “an information system that may be based on outdated technologies but is critical to day-to-day operations.” –Gartner.**

> **"A 2022 Statista study shows legacy technologies are the biggest barrier to implementing Zero Trust models." – Statista**

THE COSTS AND RISKS OF MAINTAINING LEGACY PLATFORMS, APPLICATIONS, AND DATA

Modernisation initiatives seek to achieve enhanced efficiency and cost reduction. IT management faces the ongoing challenge of enabling new technology while ensuring legacy applications remain accessible after cloud migration or application transition.

The key challenges of maintaining the availability of legacy platforms, data, and applications include :

Escalating support costs

Approximately 30 percent of the average organisation's technology footprint is comprised of legacy platforms. Those older technologies commonly absorb around 40+ percent of IT budgets. Ongoing legacy platform support and licensing costs are significant, as are rising expenses of skills needed to support older technology.

Cyber risk

Nearly every legacy system has a higher risk of exploitation that worsens with time. Aging technology often operates out of vendor support and may even be "end-of-life." It rarely integrates easily with modern platforms, struggles to adapt to a rapidly evolving threat landscape and cannot support full security stack visibility or audit trails. Older platforms are also less viable for modernisation security requirements, including single sign-on, role-based access, multi-factor authentication, or encryption.

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amazon

GDPR violation

€746 million fine

COMCAST

Unprotected database

$33 million fine

EQUIFAX

2017 data breach

$700 million fine

Compliance

There are no exemptions to a growing number of global regulatory requirements governing data handling and security, including GDPR, CCPA, and PIPL. Across Australia, compliance considerations include the Freedom of Information Act, Information Security Manual (ISM), Privacy Acts, etc. Legacy platforms and applications tend to have limited capacity to address evolving compliance requirements for data discovery, control, handling, and reporting.

The damage of non-compliance to brand reputation, customer relationships, profits, and partners can be extensive.

Data protection

The Australian government requires organisations via Information Security Manual (ISM) mandates to ensure protection of data in the cloud or in conventional environments. Legacy applications rarely meet the ISM controls for data protection.

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> **“Over reliance on legacy systems is the biggest barrier to digital transformation.” – SnapLogic**

Record-keeping

Corporate record-keeping obligations include the retention of historical content for extended periods (sometimes decades or indefinitely) requiring ongoing maintenance of legacy systems, applications and data at significant cost.

Declining talent

No IT practitioner is excited to learn yesterday’s technology. With the passage of time there is a diminishing pool of professionals available to support aging technology. In contrast, the costs of the specialist support services required for legacy systems continue to rise.

Lack of agility

Slow, siloed, expensive legacy platforms are no match for cloud-based platforms that enable efficient, operations. Organisations holding onto processes where historical data remains accessible only through legacy platforms face mounting pressure to address evolving business requirements in acceptable timeframes.

Functional limitations

Modern business requires an evolving array of sophisticated analytics and insights. Extending the utility of data is heavily constrained by the limited flexibility of legacy applications.

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THE SOLUTION

LEGACY DATA PLATFORM MODERNISATION WITH DATALYNX DMS PHOENIX

Legacy data platforms typically contain data that is static and is used to serve compliance, querying, and reporting purposes.

Datalynx has drawn on 20 years of experience with complex, large-scale data migration and transformation projects to create the highly innovative DMS Phoenix solution for data platform modernisation to the cloud. DMS Phoenix enables organisations to replace legacy applications with modern solutions that more effectively address their data compliance, analytics & reporting and AI / ML integration requirements.

Combining Datalynx's proven approach with DMS Phoenix's extensive automation means that data platforms can be modernised in a fraction of the time and cost of traditional application retirement offerings.

Unique in the legacy retirement solution landscape, DMS Phoenix retains the data's business context and reporting logic without the ongoing need for the legacy application. DMS Phoenix addresess key business needs around cost and risk reduction, regulatory compliance, and the ongoing use of the legacy applications data.

Datalynx's project guidance and risk management delivers proven, timely, successful business outcomes. DMS Phoenix customers realise compelling returns on investment within the first 12 months of operation.

"Legacy data platform modernisation means "transforming legacy platforms and the data within those systems to reduce IT complexity and costs and improve data usability, collaboration, and business agility"

DATALYNX DMS PHOENIX

DATA PLATFORM MODERNISATION AND LEGACY APPLICATION RETIREMENT

THE DMS PHOENIX SOLUTION LETS USERS COST-EFFECTIVELY

- Protect, preserve, and access critical data
- Run operational reports, new analytics and AI / ML integration
- Address records compliance and data security and protection requirements
- Decommission and retire legacy platforms
- Achieve cost savings and reduce operational and security risks

DMS Phoenix meets the specific needs of government and commercial organisations to cost-effectively manage and extend the utility of legacy data.

BUSINESS OUTCOMES OF LEGACY DATA PLATFORM MODERNISATION

- Significantly reduce IT infrastructure and operational costs
- Improved security and compliance
- Better productivity and operational efficiency
- Outstanding analytics based on a complete data view
- Exceptional customer experiences
- A more agile, competitive, insights-driven business

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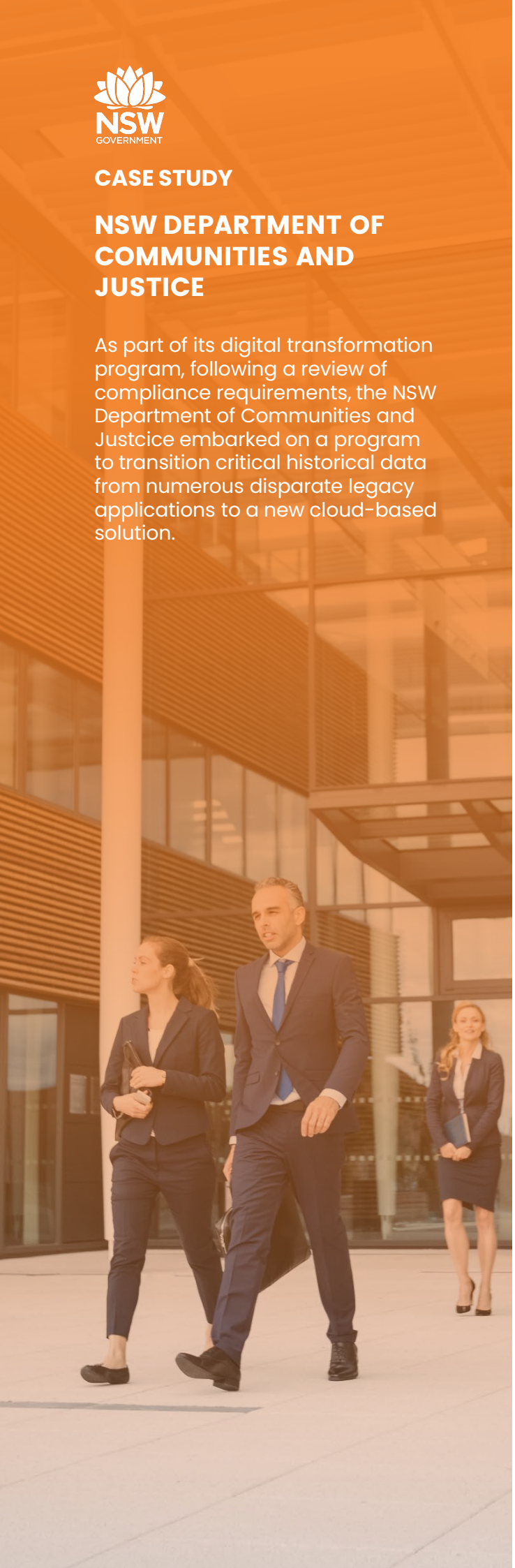
NSW GOVERNMENT

CASE STUDY

NSW DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES AND JUSTICE

As part of its digital transformation program, following a review of compliance requirements, the NSW Department of Communities and Justcice embarked on a program to transition critical historical data from numerous disparate legacy applications to a new cloud-based solution.



THE LEGACY MODERNISATION REQUIREMENTS INCLUDED

- Address compliance obligations for data preservation of up to 50 years
- Ability to present data in its original format for evidentiary purposes
- Data retention in its business context
- Data querying via a simple business interface
- Providing operational reporting, per the legacy system
- Delivering new data analytics capability and analytical reporting
- Retiring the legacy applications and platforms

Using a phased approach, Datalynx successfully completed the migration of the first 12 systems, comprising billions of transactions and terabytes of files, with complete process transparency and zero data loss.

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The client retired the associated legacy platforms, including enterprise ERP and CRM systems and is realising significant savings in operational costs.

Delivered 60 percent faster than conventional approaches

$Millions in cost savings

Billions of transactions migrated

Terrabytes of files migrated

Endorsed by NSW Government State Archives & Records

The Datalynx team provided controlled access to multiple data sets comprising billions of transactions through a standard user interface. Employees now have the information they need at their fingertips to meet customer and operational requests quickly, easily, and accurately.

The initiative has delivered an outstanding ROI, with accumulated operational cost-savings increasing every year. The Datalynx solution has helped the Department address its compliance with regulatory, statutory, and evidentiary requirements.

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Getting started

Experience the difference the Datalynx DMS Phoenix solution can make to your legacy modernisation challenges with our complimentary scoping assessment. To receive your assessment of business benefits, contact sales@datalynx.com.au and start a conversation today.

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