

How to Score AS/400 Modernization

No big bang, but a destination — the Modernization Matrix method.

SCORE WORKLOADS, NOT PLATFORMS PRIORITIZED SLICES, EACH EARNING THE NEXT
RUNNABLE ON A WHITEBOARD

“The dimensions are industry-standard; the weighting is ours; the scores are yours.”

MYTH TO CLEAR FIRST

There is no native lift-and-shift from IBM i to commodity x86 cloud. Rehosting is real, but it lands on POWER-based cloud platforms — it buys time, it isn't the destination.

The Six Rs, Adapted for IBM i

- 1 Retain on POWER, for now**
Healthy and supported; every retain carries a revisit trigger.
- 2 Rehost to POWER cloud**
Move the tin untouched; exit the data center, buy time.
- 3 Modernize in place**
Free-format RPG, ILE, APIs, a web front end.
- 4 Refactor or rewrite off-platform**
For loosely coupled workloads in decay.
- 5 Replace with a package or SaaS**
For low-value, commoditized functions.
- 6 Retire**
Sunset it and reclaim the maintenance.

Score Out Loud, or Don't Bother

One dimension at a time, spoken, with business and IT in the same room. When operations scores criticality at five and IT scores it at two, that gap is the finding. Score against your real triggers — the retirement, the refresh date, the audit, the ERP decision. The room does the scoring itself; insight a team reaches on its own sticks.

TRY IT YOURSELF

Pick three workloads — one core, one edge, one ambiguous — and score all six out loud. If the conversation stays polite and the scores all agree, you picked the wrong three workloads.

Six Dimensions, and the Physics Between Them

Score each workload across six dimensions. Anchors hold it to the platform; push forces action; criticality — the business capability it carries, order entry or financial close — sets the stakes. Heavy anchors and low push can wait; high push and light anchors is your first slice.

- ANCHORS** Data gravity · integration · regulation
- PUSH** Skills risk · technical health
- STAKES** Business criticality

What the Scores Become

- QUICK WINS**
Slices you could start in the next 90 days.
- STRATEGIC MOVES**
Bigger bets that deserve a real business case.
- WATCH LIST**
Held, each with a named revisit trigger.

Sequence is what separates a roadmap from a wish list.

Want the full version, with the scoring tool and a facilitator? That's the Modernization Workshop — complimentary, half or full day, no code access required. Everything you produce is yours to keep.

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