

eBook

FROM LEGACY TO LEADERSHIP

A Roadmap for Business Modernization

NUTANIX

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01

Modernization Starts Beneath the Surface

Business leaders are racing to embrace new technologies, from agentic AI and automation to advanced analytics and low-code development. These innovations promise to unlock efficiency, creativity and new revenue streams.

The catch is that they all depend on a technology foundation that's ready to support them.

Too often, that foundation—the infrastructure that runs every workload and application—is treated as an afterthought. The result is that enterprises end up trying to implement ambitious digital initiatives in outdated environments that limit performance, create security risks and slow progress.

While many organizations assume that modernization simply means adding the latest tools to the stack, it requires more than that.

Enterprises need to align technology, business processes and people in a way that empowers them to scale, pivot and compete, all in an increasingly competitive and evolving landscape.

IT plays a central role in this journey, but the ultimate goal is business modernization. And that means achieving the agility, resilience, and innovation capacity that CEOs, CFOs and CIOs need to lead with confidence.

This eBook examines the underlying factors that make or break modernization efforts and lays out the essential steps you can take to build a technology foundation for growth and resilience from on-premises to cloud to edge.

02 Modernization is an Ongoing Cycle

Every wave of technological innovation, from ERP systems to cloud native computing to agentic AI, has forced organizations to rethink how they operate.

According to research by Moor Insights & Strategy*, too many enterprises have underinvested in infrastructure for decades, leaving IT environments to lag behind the workloads they're meant to support. The result is slower performance, higher costs and limited agility at a time when businesses need the opposite.

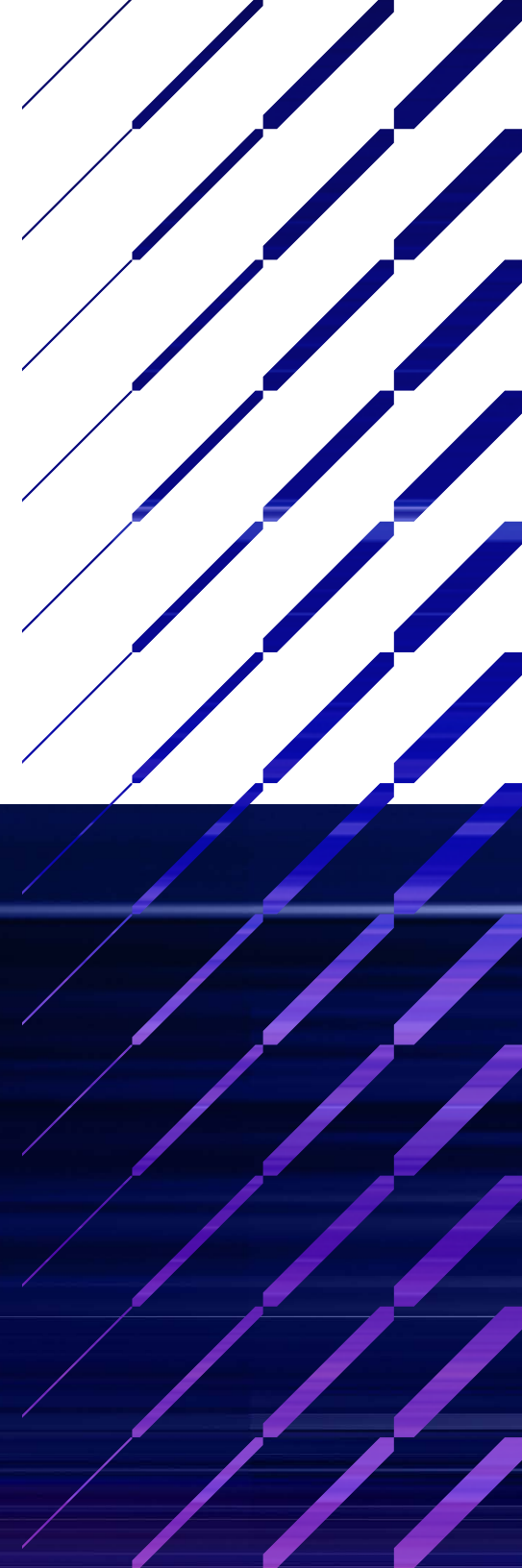
A hybrid multicloud mindset offers a way forward. As a unified operating model that spans on-premises, private and public clouds, and the edge, it gives businesses the flexibility to adapt as technologies evolve.

Boosting Modernization ROI

ROI starts at the infrastructure level. The more capable and accessible the foundational technology, the greater the business value it creates. Legacy infrastructure impedes transformation from the start.

Two other critical factors are operations and organizational structures, or how teams are organized, skilled and empowered to deliver IT as a business enabler.

When all three are aligned, you can maximize ROI and create a technology foundation that scales with business growth.



03

The Pillars of a Modernization Strategy

Modernization requires a dedicated effort to build a technology foundation that supports business agility, resilience and growth. According to Moor Insights & Strategy*, the following seven priorities can help guide you toward a stronger, future-ready enterprise.

Re-imagine Legacy Applications

Identify and prioritize business-critical apps for modernization. Hybrid multicloud platforms enable you to easily move these apps to the most optimal location—on-premises, cloud or edge—without replatforming, refactoring or re-architecting. The goal is a more agile, cost-efficient application portfolio.

Upgrade Your Infrastructure

Ensure that your underlying infrastructure can support diverse workloads. Modern platforms break down and unify silos, optimize resources, and deliver the performance needed for legacy and containerized workloads.

Adopt a Hybrid Multicloud Operating Model

With a flexible and consistent operating model that extends across on-premises, cloud, and edge, businesses can increase agility, reduce costs, and scale as needed. This unified approach allows IT teams to manage diverse workloads with the same tools and processes, transforming IT from a reactive support function into a strategic partner and consultant to the organization.

Embed AI and Automation Everywhere

AI and automation are essential to modernization. Automated provisioning, tuning and security free IT teams from repetitive tasks. AI-enabled management tools turn complexity into simplicity and speed, driving efficiency at scale.

Take Control of Your Data

Most business data lives everywhere, from various databases to data lakes to SaaS platforms. By identifying where all your data resides and automating tuning and management, you can unlock value for business analytics and AI while reducing the operational burden.

Elevate Your Security

Think of security as an end-to-end stack, starting at the silicon and hardware layer. A platform-level approach with trusted connections across your entire infrastructure keeps critical business data protected wherever it goes.

Invest in People

Modern tools only matter if teams are empowered and motivated to use them. Upskilling IT professionals into cloud administrators or data specialists ensures that your organization has the talent to keep business modernization moving.

04 Think of AI as an Accelerator, not a Replacement

AI may dominate today's headlines, but it doesn't operate in isolation. It accelerates existing workloads rather than replacing them. The speed and accuracy of AI models depend directly on the performance of the databases, applications and platforms they interact with.

The success of AI, whether through retrieval-augmented generation (RAG), vector search or other techniques, is directly tied to infrastructure performance. Without a strong technology foundation, even the most advanced AI models can have issues.

Containerized workloads that drive modern business, such as ERP, CRM, or analytics, haven't fundamentally changed.

Each has different requirements for compute power, memory, I/O, and security. In many datacenters, these competing workloads are spread across siloed platforms, leaving infrastructure underutilized and consuming power inefficiently.

AI should be treated like any business-critical workload. But the real opportunity is that AI can add a big performance boost to other workloads. To achieve this, it requires a modern, cloud-ready foundation that can pivot to meet the needs of containerized and traditional workloads.

05 Build a Technology Foundation for the Future

AI may be the focus of most businesses today, but it's the strength of the underlying environment that decides whether it will accelerate or hinder progress.

The path forward is clear. Modernization starts with a foundational technology that unifies and reaches across on-premises, cloud and the edge. This can provide flexibility to support legacy and containerized workloads, including AI and cloud native workloads.

As Moor Insights & Strategy* points out, this means rethinking legacy applications, upgrading infrastructure, adopting a hybrid multicloud operating model, embedding automation, unifying data, strengthening security, and investing in people.

Business modernization is not a single initiative but an ongoing cycle. By taking a holistic, disciplined approach today, you can unlock the agility, resilience and scalability to outpace competitors tomorrow.

Modernize with confidence. The future of your business depends on it.

*A Guide to IT Modernization, March 2025, by Moor Insights & Strategy.

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