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Unlocking your business potential

Empower modern applications with Unisys and AWS

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Imagine a world where your applications aren't just a means to get the job done but true drivers of growth and innovation. A world where your business operations run like a well-oiled machine and your employees achieve more than they ever thought possible. Sound too good to be true? This world is within reach with application modernization enabled by Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Unisys.

The essence of application modernization is simple: choosing the right solution to satisfy your needs. This could mean anything from rehosting, refactoring and rearchitecting to rebuilding legacy applications to align with a new cloud environment. But the goal is always to improve agility, security, compliance, and, eventually, deliver on business outcomes.

Why should you care? Because in today's fast-paced market, staying ahead of the curve is no longer a choice - it's a necessity. Public cloud has leveled the playing field, giving enterprises of all sizes and types the same tools to compete and operate. And there are numerous tools on AWS to help you modernize, and Unisys is the company to help you put them to use.

Modern applications help bridge the IT-business divide

A growing divide separates what companies expect from their IT departments and what those departments can deliver. Enterprises need help to pivot agilely and overcome security and compliance challenges.

Application modernization can help enterprises bridge this disconnect and meet these challenges confidently. Rather than a one-and-done step, application modernization is ongoing and must be continuously reevaluated as business needs change.

With the shortage of workforce knowledge of legacy technology, cloud-ready millennial employees have become even more important allies in this process. With their extensive knowledge of the latest technologies, they can help drive innovation and push companies toward a more modern, cloud-based future.

The bottom line is that modern applications are now a must-have for enterprises eager to benefit from digital transformation.

Application modernization benefits

Modernizing applications enables organizations to differentiate from competitors by increasing business agility and demonstrating innovation to deliver numerous business and IT benefits.

Business benefits

Flexibility to meet changing customer demands

Competitive edge

Confident app launches

Faster time to market

New revenue streams

IT benefits

Low technical debt

Increased security and compliance

Robust applications

Low business risk

Reduced TCO

Is your organization ready to modernize its applications?

How your organization approaches application modernization will be unique to your applications, business priorities and workforce skillset. It is a continuous process with no shortcuts to success. However, repeatable, robust modernization guidelines, industry standards, accelerators, reference architectures and platforms can provide reliability and predictability during this journey.

No matter what variables you're dealing with, preparing thoroughly for modernization is essential. This is where AWS can be of great help by providing you with a range of technology options from which to choose. With Unisys, you can assess the risks involved in your modernization program, develop a clear plan and determine the right AWS approach for your organization's unique needs and constraints.

For example, many enterprises are constrained by budget and time, but it could also include an appetite for risk, your enterprise DNA and your workforce availability. With the latter, consider the percentage of your workforce ready to work on modern applications and competent with the cloud, DevSecOps and other modern technologies.

What to ask when planning for application modernization

To effectively plan for application modernization, it's essential to ask the right questions about strategy and governance, future mode of operations, your workforce and your technology landscape.

Strategy and governance

- Is your enterprise scalable enough to modernize multiple apps?

- Do you continuously evaluate your strategy and governance policies?

- Have you assessed and accepted the risk profile?

- Are you choosing the right AWS services and regions?

- Do you have the tooling necessary to adapt to applications on AWS?

Future-ready workforce

- How will you upskill your workforce?

- Which employees throughout the organization can act as application modernization advocates?

Future mode of operations

- Have you defined future team responsibilities and enterprise protocols?

- How will you ensure a smooth transition to modern applications?

- Can your business and IT processes handle application modernization?

- Do you have training and evangelization prepared to educate stakeholders on new processes?

Future technology landscape

- What's your strategy for future-proofing modernized applications?

- How will you apply AI to modernize and build intelligent applications?

- How will you prioritize applications for modernization?

Common pitfalls—and how to overcome them

Application modernization is arguably the most crucial step in digital transformation, but success isn't certain. In fact, 70% of organizations fail when attempting digital transformation initiatives1, like application modernization. Unisys has the experience, technology and solutions to fast-track your AWS services adoption.

Common pitfall	How to overcome it with Unisys on AWS
• Undefined business outcomes	• Define business outcomes and enterprise strategy and build a roadmap before app modernization
• No risk evaluation or course correction	• Continuous risk evaluation, reporting and course correction when needed
• Single approach to all applications across the enterprise	• Business-need approach for the best-fit solution, whether a serverless application, microservice or something else
• Assuming app modernization takes a single multi-year, multi-million-dollar effort	• Giving equal time to strategy, governance and operational change management
• Buying trendy technology and believing it's your only option	• Taking small and continuous steps toward innovation in application modernization
• Believing that application modernization automatically reduces TCO and technical debt	• Choosing the best technology for your organization
• Focusing entirely on the technology aspect of application modernization	• Recognizing that TCO and technical debt are reduced only if modernization is done right

How AWS services support application modernization

Modernizing your applications can be complex, but AWS services are designed to simplify it by offering tools for planning, building and running your applications more efficiently. Unisys helps you unlock the full potential of AWS services by providing strategic business models for every application modernization phase. (See the table.) Benefit from proven patterns and playbooks that can guide you in effectively using AWS resources to modernize applications. Leveraging a unique minimum viable product (MVP) built using the vertical slice approach and combining AWS' technology building blocks results in solutions targeted to your business outcomes.

Partnering with Unisys enables you to adopt and succeed with a shared responsibility model on AWS, guiding your teams at all levels, including leadership, architecture, development and security.

These processes help you accelerate your application modernization and prepare for the future as you adapt to changing business priorities.

A secure, robust set of modern application solutions can jumpstart or revitalize your efforts no matter where you are in your journey. These range from cloud-native solutions built using modern microservices to SaaS-based easy buttons using the AWS platform to reduce time to value.

As a system integrator, Unisys leverages these AWS services to tailor reliable, secure solutions for always-on, always-available applications that offer low time to value and lower total cost of ownership, maximizing ROI.

[1] Flipping the Odds of Digital Transformation Success | BCG

How Unisys and AWS support each phase of application modernization

Plan

- Unisys provides an application rationalization solution and ROI calculator to build, track and manage application modernization initiatives effectively.

- Unisys uses the AWS Well-Architected Framework, service catalog and design methodologies for enterprises to set up a robust application modernization practice in the cloud.

Build

- AWS provides various foundational modern computing solutions, purpose-built databases, enabling services and API services.

- AWS and Unisys advocate a "developer-first" and "application-first" culture for IT divisions.

- Unisys integrates AWS application development services, Unisys accelerators and partner solutions for a seamless developer experience.

- Unisys application modernization processes enable autonomous Digital Application Capability teams to supercharge application modernization.

Run

- Enterprises can confidently run modernized applications with high availability and robustness on the AWS cloud.

- AWS provides comprehensive observability, security, billing and alerting services for enterprises to run their modern applications securely and competently.

Unisys excels at application modernization on AWS

With several AWS credentials, including AWS Advanced Consulting Partner, AWS MSP Partner and AWS Migration Competency, Unisys has the expertise to support clients' application modernization on AWS.

For example, California State University sought help migrating its Common Management Systems from on-premises to hybrid cloud to provision key application components. These include services students use to register for classes, manage schedules, check grades and pay bills.

"No student will tolerate slow applications—they expect IT systems to respond instantly," said Michael Berman, chief information officer for the CSU Officer of the Chancellor. "A modern cloud infrastructure fosters an environment where software programmers can develop the mobile and flexible services students expect."

Unisys recommended AWS, and the migration resulted in:

- 30% improvement in application performance

- 33% cost savings through simplified support requirements

- 37.8% decrease in annual infrastructure costs compared to running applications on-premises (from $4.5 million to $2.8 million)

Besides AWS's transaction-handling capabilities, "our strong partnership with AWS was also a factor," said Rudy Gonzalez, client executive and managing director for the Unisys CSU Program. "We work effectively together to ensure cloud environments operate efficiently and securely while also applying optimization measures to keep costs down."

Learn more

Are you ready to unlock the full potential of your business and drive growth and innovation with modern applications? You can confidently embark on this journey with AWS and Unisys as your trusted partners.

Explore how you can accelerate your modernization efforts with Unisys and AWS and contact us to begin working together to create a brighter future.

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