

How do you transition complex legacy IT infrastructures and specifically transactional lifecycle processing and books-of-record applications in any large organisation when it runs many silos of legacy processes?

How do you decide on any specific architecture or strategy when there are always dozens of new and unexpected requirements to be factored in? How do you gain consensus on any solution or approach when the firm has necessarily large organisations and many continuously conflicting deadlines and objectives?

In many firms, IT has become the bastion of application ownership and change control and this has resulted in a situation whereby any innovation is blocked and/or strongly resisted, and it is only authorised if it's limited and completely isolated from production. This is an absolute imperative when there are far too many projects competing for funding.

'It's far too difficult to get any new IT approved'

The outcome from all of the above manifests into battlegrounds between different lines of business and IT, and also within IT over technical or architectural preferences and the next pioneering technology. With so many factions the inevitable impasse is why we so often hear that strong/board level management and major decisions are necessary for any approach to prevail.

IT will say that coding is easy given a complete and thorough specification of the requirement, while the business has many other more significant imperatives than contributing to the production of complex and rigid requirements documents that will be out-of-date and/or limited even before they can be signed-off.

This situation has prevailed for many years and it is now and increasingly apparent that the common constraining factor for every organisation is its lack of centralised and aggregated data and hence no timely and accurate reflection of all current business activities. One recent Tabb Group [survey](#) indicated a 50% of revenue opportunity cost in gaining a centralised and hence accurate view of operational data. Probably more if you factor in the additional cost inherent in every project that is the need to have quality information. Also add the fact that today's technology is many thousands of times more effective than applied when the legacy was built.

It has become increasingly obvious to shareholders, regulators and business lines that business-as-usual with the current IT constraints is unsustainable. The benefits of radical transition are so compelling that early operational transformation would be visible by now if current thinking and approaches were capable.

The eventual outcome for the status quo is a prolonged 'train crash'

If it were possible to build and make ready a new infrastructure capable of running the entire firm the biggest outstanding challenge would be in the transitioning of live data and operations into it. Cutting over an entire organisation into a new infrastructure using a big-bang approach would threaten the organisations very existence, assuming that the extortionate cost building it could have been sustained.

The answer to the problem of truly effective transition is by now perhaps obvious. Current operational data must be regularly transitioned without impact, carefully and efficiently into a consolidated database platform that is capable of remaining flexible, adaptable and able to interactively assimilate inputs from every live application. Adapting such a consolidated database into a new future infrastructure would then be easy and ongoing.

1View software delivers this, it is the result of designing a process which can efficiently capture and distil all current processing and data into a coherent enterprise database. It can do so without negatively impacting or imposing any demands on any live application, indeed it will benefit each almost immediately.

Unlike the restrictive implications and practical impossibility of transitioning any other way, the short and initially low-profile journey that 1View enables will deliver many interim benefits for many of today's organisational processes. For these reasons 1View represents a significantly more cost effective, and perhaps the only viable approach to a truly successful IT transition.