

Mainframe Migration

CANDID

Mainframe Cloud Migration Saves a Global Enterprise
\$5 Million Annually



Mainframe operations have become a concern for some of the world's largest enterprises. A global consumer products corporation teamed with Candid to move its legacy applications to public cloud platforms as part of an overall initiative to modernize operations.

Many of the world's largest organizations rely on mainframe computer systems for their operations. However, this technology is outdated, expensive to maintain, and these legacy systems are incompatible with modern software development tools. Further complicating matters is that mainframe-trained IT professionals — who have managed these systems for decades — have retired or can be hesitant to embrace new solutions.

For these reasons, mainframe operations have become a concern for some of the world's largest enterprises, including a global, multi-national consumer products corporation. The company was highly dependent on key legacy applications that were running on legacy mainframe systems. One mainframe still hosted 26 essential applications that processed more than \$21 billion in financial transactions each year.

Interested in keeping these transactions running smoothly — while decreasing operating expenses — the organization decided to deploy a \$34 million enterprise migration. The goal was to modernize IT systems and retire a data center nearing its end of life, despite the challenge of existing mainframes running on proprietary hardware.

Candid Selected to Ensure a Seamless Transition

The organization was understandably concerned that it wasn't possible to replicate the performance, scalability and reliability of the mainframe environments and understood it would not be a simple lift-and-shift initiative. However, further delay would only increase the risk that the company's outdated applications could turn problematic and disrupt business operations.

To mitigate these risks, and manage the unique considerations involved with a migration of legacy systems, the company teamed with Candid to move the mainframe applications to

public cloud. The Candid team has proven experience in helping global enterprises migrate comprehensive, and often disparate, operations to cloud platform environments.

Public cloud can support large mission-critical applications, allowing companies to achieve high performance across the enterprise, eliminate risks in fragile, difficult-to-maintain applications, and create a flexible, modern infrastructure. With the technical knowledge and project management expertise to plan and manage successful mainframe-to-cloud migrations, Candid assured the company that all the prerequisites were in place to make this move.

A Proven Migration Strategy for Flawless Execution

To remove barriers in moving forward with the mainframe-to-cloud migration initiative, Candid put a strategy in place that provided a creative approach. The large-scale mainframe migration to public cloud process used an innovative mainframe emulation software and an automated deployment plan. Candid managed the logistics and execution to public cloud, transforming applications that processed data in batches based on schedules to a modern architecture. Activities that took place within the plan's blueprint required the migration team to:

- Locate and analyze source code for mainframe-based applications
- Recompile x86 processor software, originally based on IBM mainframe technology
- Modify single-system mainframe applications to expand into a distributed processing topology
- Recreate batchmode and online transaction processing to offer the green screen experience
- Convert legacy mainframe databases into a single, modern off-the-shelf relational database
- Integrate enterprise Active Directory-based authentication

versus system-based authentication

- Include access control capability for user authorization based on Active Directory

Operations Expenses Plummet by More Than 90%

The primary challenge was to achieve the same performance level that mainframes provide after moving the commodity to public cloud. The implementation required great care to ensure that the migration initiative was carried out efficiently and on schedule without disrupting business operations.

Candid delivered the expertise and tools needed to successfully complete the mission-critical migration initiative, allowing the company to achieve increased performance and modernize mainframe applications. The enterprise and the IT organization were able to achieve striking benefits, including:

- Reduced operational expenses to 10% of the costs required to license and support mainframe hardware and software tools — a \$5 million savings annually
- Improved operability with enterprise software running on a modern, flexible infrastructure
- Decreased dependence on disappearing mainframe skills and unrecoverable tribal knowledge
- Improved opportunities to continually modernize technology and boost business agility

These benefits were accomplished along with converting mainframe application software into software running on modern-day virtualized commodity hardware. The initiative also fully emulated the same levels of integration, interoperability, online interaction and batch transaction processing capabilities within the public cloud environment. With these achievements, the company is better positioned for growth and ready to compete more proficiently.



Contact Candid to find out how we can put advice into action for you.

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