



The True Cost of Standing Still

Why modernisation Gen applications, or similar legacy platforms, is essential to avoid escalating business and technical risk.



From Cost Burden to Competitive Advantage: **The Case for Change**

Executive Summary

Legacy Gen application platforms have delivered stability for decades, but they now conceal growing inefficiencies and increasing costs. As these systems age, their limitations become more pronounced, restricting agility, raising maintenance overheads, and constraining innovation.

The perceived savings from delaying modernisation are illusory. In practice, the risks of stagnation, spiralling support costs, fragile integrations, compliance exposure, and missed opportunities, far outweigh the investment required to modernise.

This paper examines the risks of inaction, highlights the business and technical benefits of modernisation, and sets out a practical roadmap for organisations seeking to future-proof their application estates.

Contents



1. The Legacy Application Challenge

2. The High Price of Inaction

3. Modernisation Imperatives

4. Benefits Realisation

5. Transformation Results: From CA Gen to COBOL

6. Roadmap for Action

THE TRUE COST OF STANDING STILL

Context: The Legacy Application Challenge

Ageing platforms: Gen (formerly CA Gen, COOL:Gen, AllFusion:Gen, IEF amongst others), provides what was once considered advanced modelling capabilities to users. But, it is now largely considered to be an expensive legacy technology by customers with limited compatibility across modern platforms (cloud, UNIX/Linux, Windows, web, SOA).

Changing expectations: Regulatory scrutiny, digital customer demands, lack of skilled resource availability, and the need for rapid product development are testing the limits of legacy systems.

Strategic pressure: Organisations can no longer rely on legacy technology to deliver cost-effective solutions.

“

Companies spend 70-80% of their IT budgets maintaining legacy systems, leaving just 20-30% available for innovation.

CyberdDB

THE TRUE COST OF STANDING STILL

The High Price of Inaction

Growing Licensing Costs: Steep increases in Gen licensing fees are unsustainable, making each renewal a critical point for most users.

Resource Limitations: Shrinking talent pool and retiring resource leads to a shortage in expertise, often meaning expensive contractors or offshore support.

Stunted Growth and Innovation: Staying on Gen makes integration, scalability and agility more difficult to achieve. Modern platforms unlock automation



Every day on legacy systems is a **step behind the competition.**

THE TRUE COST OF STANDING STILL

Modernisation Imperatives



Automated Code Conversion:

Advanced automation can accelerate the transformation of Gen models into maintainable languages such as COBOL, Java and .Net, retaining the investment in business applications whilst delivering predictable outcomes and reducing risk.



Consulting-Led Strategy:

Successful programmes require experienced guidance to plan and execute Gen modernisation projects, successfully managing all of the constituent elements – approach, timing, alignment with existing initiatives, identification of new technical solutions, coexistence, training, support and governance.



Holistic Portfolio Management:

Beyond conversion, modernisation should involve rationalising the application portfolio, streamlining architecture, and aligning with business priorities.

THE TRUE COST OF STANDING STILL

Benefits Realisation

Modernisation Advantage	Business Impact	Technical Impact
Automated, predictable delivery	Lower programme risk and shorter timescales	Reduces manual effort, faster code conversion
Improved agility	Faster response to regulation and market needs	Simplified updates, streamlined testing
Reduced dependency on niche skills	Less exposure to workforce shortages	Easier onboarding of developers with modern expertise
Strategic alignment	Roadmap linked to business objectives	Phased, manageable technical delivery

THE TRUE COST OF STANDING STILL

Transformation Results: From CA Gen to COBOL

The migration of a global multi-line insurer's legacy commission platform from CA Gen to COBOL, led by TXP, delivered substantial operational and strategic benefits. Completed ahead of schedule within a 9-month timeframe, the initiative successfully replaced outdated technology with a modern, high-performance COBOL application. This transition significantly reduced maintenance costs and operational risk, while enhancing system sustainability and compliance readiness. The project preserved critical business logic through automated discovery and expert validation, ensuring functional equivalence and continuity.

Additionally, the move to COBOL improved maintainability by aligning with widely available skill sets, positioning the insurer for long-term agility and resilience in its IT infrastructure.



THE TRUE COST OF STANDING STILL

Roadmap for Action



Discovery and Assessment

Audit Gen assets, dependencies, and complexity. Quantify risks, costs, and business impacts.



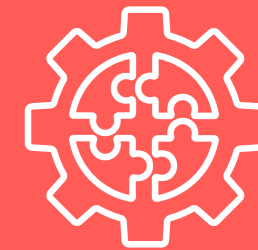
Strategy and Roadmap Definition

Explore your Gen estate to understand the options available and create a roadmap to address the agreed scope



Execution with Automation and Expertise

Apply automated conversion to accelerate delivery, increase predictability and reduce risk. Involve experienced architects to ensure design integrity and integration.



Governance and Future Evolution

Establish governance frameworks, monitor performance, manage risks, and provide skills development for ongoing support

Conclusion:

The true cost of standing still is falling behind.

Legacy Gen systems are traditionally well behaved and have supported business reliably for many years. But, the longer organisations delay the inevitable need to modernise the greater the potential for exposure to financial, operational, and reputational costs.

Modernisation is not simply a technical upgrade, it is a business imperative. By adopting a pragmatic, phased approach, organisations can strengthen resilience, reduce costs, and position themselves to compete effectively in the digital economy.

With TXP's advanced migration toolset (TXP MigrationWorks), you'll reduce risk, cut costs, and overcome talent shortages, while opening the door to scalable, cloud-ready architectures, modern analytics, and interconnected digital services.

The result: resilient systems, empowered teams, and the freedom to put tomorrow's technology to work for your most mission-critical goals.

[GET IN TOUCH TO START YOUR JOURNEY](#)

