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Majority of Federal IT Managers Say There's an Urgent Need to Modernize Legacy Applications

New Report Cites Ways to Overcome Risks of the Status Quo Including Security Breaches, Performance, and Downtime

Alexandria, Va., November 18, 2015 – [MeriTalk](#), a public-private partnership focused on improving the outcomes of government IT, today announced the results of its new report, “[Future Ready Applications: The Modern Legacy](#).” The study, sponsored by [Accenture Federal Services](#), reveals that 92 percent of Federal IT managers say it's urgent for their agency to modernize legacy applications, citing the largest driving factors as security issues (42 percent), time required to manage and/or maintain systems (36 percent), and inflexibility and integration issues (31 percent).

The “Future Ready Applications” report surveyed 150 Federal IT managers familiar with their agency's applications portfolio to find out how application modernization can breathe new life into legacy applications, deliver much-needed efficiency and security, and – with the right strategy – uncover unrealized potential for an agency's application portfolio.

Legacy applications are having trouble keeping up with agency needs, and it's only going to get more difficult with time. Nearly half (48 percent) of Federal IT managers surveyed believe their legacy applications are completely capable of meeting their mission needs today, and significantly fewer – 32 percent – think they will be able to deliver five years from now. What are agencies' greatest fears if they do not modernize? Survey results show that 52 percent of respondents cite security breaches, 47 percent cite performance issues, and 40 percent cite increased downtime and service disruptions. Additionally, 62 percent say if they do not modernize their legacy applications, mission-critical capabilities will be threatened.

Despite the urgent need for modernization, a little more than half (53 percent) of agencies have a formal application modernization strategy, and just one in four (28 percent) have developed a business case around renewing or replacing existing applications.

In addition, the survey discovered that agencies are delaying the process to modernize for a variety of reasons, citing delays are primarily due to risks (42 percent), failure to execute (34 percent), and the overwhelming amount of options (20 percent).

“Application modernization provides a powerful opportunity for agencies to upgrade to more flexible and secure systems for innovation and cost-cutting in the long term,” said Tom Greiner, who leads Accenture Federal Service’s technology business. “It’s time for agencies to accelerate their legacy application modernization efforts to drive enhanced mission capability and reduce their reliance on outdated technology.”

On average, Federal IT managers estimate that 55 percent of their current legacy applications could be successfully modernized using solutions like re-platforming the existing application (72 percent), leveraging architecture-driven modernization (69 percent), and remediating the existing application to extend its useful life (65 percent).

“The Federal government is running legacy systems from the 60’s, 70’s, 80’s, and 90’s, which many Feds find outdated, inefficient, and difficult to fix. However, if they take a deeper look into their legacy applications, they will realize that implementing the right modernization strategy can truly uncover unrealized potential,” said David Hantman, general manager, MeriTalk. “The clock is ticking, the time to modernize is now.”

The good news? Three out of four (77 percent) Federal IT managers say application modernization will improve end-user experience at their agency and two out three (66 percent) say modernization efforts at their agency will increase in the next 18 months.

“Future Ready Applications: The Modern Legacy” is based on an online survey of 150 Federal IT managers familiar with their agency’s applications portfolio in September 2015. The

report has a margin of error of $\pm 7.97\%$ at a 95% confidence level. To download the full report, please visit <http://meritalk.com/future-ready-apps>.

About MeriTalk

The voice of tomorrow's government today, MeriTalk is a public-private partnership focused on improving the outcomes of government IT. Focusing on government's hot-button issues, MeriTalk hosts [Big Data Exchange](#), [Cloud Computing Exchange](#), [Cyber Security Exchange](#), and [Data Center Exchange](#) – platforms dedicated to supporting public-private dialogue and collaboration. MeriTalk connects with an audience of 115,000 government community contacts. For more information, visit www.meritalk.com or follow us on Twitter, @meritalk. MeriTalk is a [300Brand organization](#).