

## 5 RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH USING LEGACY SOFTWARE



### WHAT IS LEGACY SOFTWARE?

Legacy software is defined as software that is outdated and is no longer receiving continuous updates from its original vendor.

### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO MODERNISE?

Legacy software modernisation is important to:

- Enhance efficiency
- Provide cost savings
- Improve security
- Gain a competitive edge

### HOW CAN RESPONSIV HELP?

Responsiv has the specialist skills required to upgrade, support, and modernise legacy software.

Services include:

- **Responsiv Assist Extended Support** - for IBM software and middleware when you aren't ready to upgrade or are in the throes of a migration
- **IBM software upgrades** - providing you with licences and skills to upgrade your estate
- **Responsiv Cloud Platforms** - wraparound your legacy systems and access new integration and automation capabilities as well as a modernised look and feel whilst maintaining the core system

### CONTEXT

Modernisation of legacy software is critical for organisations that want to stay compliant with regulation and reduce risks associated with maintaining out of support and end-of-life software.

Take a look at the risks associated with the continued use of legacy software:

### RISKS

#### **Cybersecurity**

Legacy software does not receive technical support or patches from developers (unless under an extended support contract). As a result, organisations compromise their software infrastructure and create vulnerabilities that are open to attack. This is due to the sophistication of cyber criminals and legacy software not being up to date with the correct security features to keep data and systems safe.

#### **Recovery**

If legacy software is used to run or support a core business process, organisations risk losing the capability in the case of downtime or failure. Recovery can become complex and pose numerous risks, including the inability to recover at all.

#### **Compliance**

Many regulations dictate that software must be supported by the original vendor or a third party. Legacy systems risk non-compliance if they fall into the 'its running fine so I don't need to support it' column, as it creates an attack vector that is left unpatched and vulnerable to attack.

#### **Performance**

Efficient software services is critical to business productivity. Unfortunately, most legacy systems become inefficient as they age. This can be due to the lack of scalability and integration, or increased system downtime, which can cause staff and customer frustration.

#### **Skills**

Organisations need access to the skills to maintain their legacy software. Depending on the software, it can be difficult to find or keep these skills as they phase out or become more specialised. The increased cost associated with these skills adds the system's Total Cost of Ownership.