

ensono®



# 5 Signs Your Mainframe Modernization Progress has Stalled

Are you falling behind?

Your mainframes may be critical, but without a clear modernization strategy, they can quickly become your biggest barrier. Benchmark your progress against this checklist to see where you stand and what to do next. For deeper insights, including what modernization leaders are doing right, [download our State of Modernization 2025 Report](#).

## SIGN 1

### Your IT team is stuck in maintenance mode

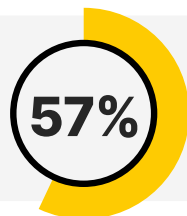
When maintenance dominates, innovation stalls—and competitors who free up resources for customer-facing improvements will outpace you.

#### Indicators:

- More than half of our IT team's time is spent on maintenance rather than innovation.
- Budget constraints frequently delay innovation projects.

**Next step:** *Consider automation and managed services to free up resources for strategic initiatives.*

#### Benchmark:



**57%** of IT leaders surveyed report this challenge.

## SIGN 2

### Legacy costs keep creeping higher

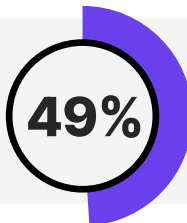
Rising legacy spend locks you into firefighting instead of future-building.

#### Indicators:

- Actual costs to maintain legacy systems exceed planned budgets year after year.
- We struggle to free up funds for forward-looking projects because of legacy spend.

**Next step:** *Build a modernization roadmap that shifts spend from maintenance to innovation.*

#### Benchmark:



**49%** overspend on maintenance vs. planned budgets.

## SIGN 3

### Your hybrid IT tools don't cover the mainframe

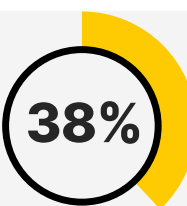
Blind spots in hybrid environments increase risk and slow progress.

#### Indicators:

- Managing both cloud and legacy systems is complex, and our current tools don't integrate them well.
- Stronger hybrid management tools would accelerate progress in our environment.

**Next step:** *Evaluate tools that extend automation and monitoring to mainframe systems.*

#### Benchmark:



**38%** say stronger hybrid management tools would accelerate modernization.

## SIGN 4

### Application modernization is stalled

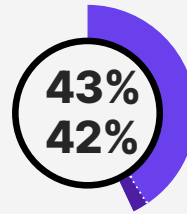
Applications are where business meets the customer. If modernization stalls, customer experience lags and revenue growth is capped.

#### Indicators:

- Our applications are difficult to integrate with modern tools and platforms.
- We've struggled to adopt automation or AI because of application constraints.

**Next step:** *Prioritize app modernization to unlock AI and automation without disrupting core systems.*

#### Benchmark:



**43%** struggle to integrate with modern tools;  
**42%** struggle to adopt AI.

## SIGN 5

### IT and business goals are misaligned

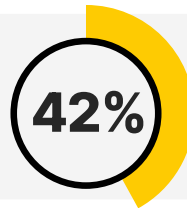
When IT strategy doesn't align with business goals, modernization feels like cost, not value.

#### Indicators:

- Our IT modernization roadmap isn't clearly linked to business objectives.
- Success metrics for modernization are ad hoc or loosely defined.




**Next step:** *Define success metrics and align IT modernization with business outcomes.*

#### Benchmark:



Only **42%** say IT goals are fully aligned with business objectives.

### Score yourself

-  **0–1 signs checked**  
Congratulations, your team is ahead of the curve.
-  **2–3 signs checked**  
You're keeping pace, but cracks are showing.
-  **4–5 signs checked**  
Time to revisit your roadmap—you're at risk of falling behind.

#### Ready to act?

Ensono helps organizations modernize their mainframe environments with confidence. Our experts will help you align your modernization strategy with business outcomes, find the best modernization paths, and deliver measurable progress without disruption.

[Book a consultation](#) or [Download the full report](#)