THE 2018 BMC MAINFRAME SURVEY RESULTS

The Mainframe’s Bright Future
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Top Findings

The survey results indicate that the mainframe is evolving to meet and exceed the business needs of executives and IT teams today.

- 93% of executives continue to believe in the long-term viability of the platform.
- 92% predict long-term viability (3rd straight year of increases, highest level since 2013).
- 63% of respondents were under age 50, up 10 percentage points from 2017.

Modernization

Respondents agree application availability and modernization are top priorities for their organizations in the coming year. Many are integrating their mainframe with new techniques and technologies to rapidly adapt to a changing digital environment.

- 82% use Java in their mainframe environment.
- 65% report using Agile/DevOps practices overall and 48% are using Agile/DevOps practices in their mainframe environment.
- 33% use pervasive encryption in their mainframe environment.

Transformation

Organizations are shifting from reactive to proactive in their mainframe approaches, with the increasing demands of digital business as the main drivers.

- Organizations are realizing that they must: Evolve their attitude toward the mainframe – This has already started with the continuing positive trends for the future of the mainframe.
- Embrace new technology – Application modernization is one of the top responses for priorities.
- Develop their workforce – Respondents indicated that this is a top priority.

Today’s mainframe is well-positioned to lead organizations in an ever-evolving digital environment.
Growth – Mainframe’s Future Is Bright

+ Respondents recognize just how strong of an asset the mainframe is to drive today’s digital business.

+ 2018 has shown the increasing importance of the mainframe, as almost every area of strength increased in percentage of respondents, as compared to 2017.

+ Large MIPS shops (10,000+) are very confident in these mainframe strengths: availability (72%), transaction through-put (71%), security (69%) and centralized data serving environment (69%).

Because of these strengths, the mainframe is the most trusted platform to handle growth generated by digital business.
Top Priorities

- Ensuring “application availability” is consistently a top priority and improvement focus areas most cited were faster problem determination, improved automation, visibility into end-to-end performance, and the elimination of planned outages.

- Executives then rank “application modernization” and “data recovery” higher, while technical staff view “application availability” and “application modernization” as higher priorities.

- Executives and technical staff agree that “cost reduction/optimization” and “data privacy/compliance/security” are the top two priorities.

- “Staffing and skills” are now tied for 5th with “implementing cloud technology” and “data recovery.”

Priorities and challenges are aligned and show commitment to keeping the mainframe as the backbone of their digital environments.

Top Challenges

The top three challenges remain cost control, staffing/skills shortage, and management perception of the mainframe. While these are challenges, each presents an opportunity for the mainframe to shine, as shown in the top priorities.

- Cost continues to be a challenge, but not as in years past. According to the responses, the goal is to keep expenses down, but respondents realize optimization is the key to doing this.

- Staffing/skills shortage is still a challenge, as experienced mainframe workers retire and the next generation continues to come up to speed. Trends in workforce numbers show even younger workers and growth in the experiences of these workers. Companies are willing to train existing employees and hire and train new talent, but it’s still taking time to bring everyone up to speed.

- Executive perception of the mainframe as a long-term solution is the highest in three years, a six point increase over 2016. While still a concern, the relative merits outweigh the costs and the perception is shifting positively year over year.
General Findings | Activity

Mainframe Growth

Digital business is still driving growth in the mainframe in five key categories.

- **Transaction Volumes**: 59% increased, 29% decreased, 12% stayed the same.
- **Data Volumes**: 55% increased, 30% decreased, 15% stayed the same.
- **Volatility/Unpredictability of Workload**: 51% increased, 37% decreased, 12% stayed the same.
- **Number of Databases**: 46% increased, 39% decreased, 16% stayed the same.
- **Speed of Application Change**: 41% increased, 39% decreased, 14% stayed the same.

Over 51% of respondents state that over half of their data resides on the mainframe.

- Mainframe environments are handling significant increases in the number of databases and transaction volumes as well as an increasing trend in data volume. The platform is increasingly relied upon to handle the demands of the digital business environment.

- Workload volatility and unpredictability have increased significantly over the last 12 months in mainframe environments, but the speed of application change has not slowed down significantly. Mainframe environments are keeping up with the pace of demands and rising to meet the challenge.

This activity level has driven 60% to have a positive outlook for MIPS growth—the highest level in three years.
Breakout — Large Shops

Large shops* outpaced all respondents with their increases.

This activity level has driven 70% of large shops to have a positive outlook for MIPS growth.

* Large shops defined as more than 10,000 MIPS
How Are They Modernizing?

Mainframe organizations are working more diligently than ever to modernize and optimize their operations by running efficient transactional applications and reducing planned outages, using advanced technologies like Java and exploiting automation where it benefits them the most.

- Java usage increased 9 percentage points over the last 3 years to 82%.
- Java use in the production mainframe environment has grown to 61%, up 11 percentage points over the past 2 years.
- Organizations are enabling access to their data using APIs, with 41% of large shops deploying z/OS Connect.
- To ensure data remains secure, respondents are deploying the latest encryption techniques, with 34% of large shops using pervasive encryption.

42% of respondents say “application modernization” is a priority in the next year. The goal of application modernization is to create new business value from existing applications. Keeping legacy solutions running smoothly can be time-consuming and respondents want software that can help them bridge the gap to updated technology.

Of those that are taking advantage of new technology:

- 56% are updating applications to new languages
- 40% are updating applications to use new application server technologies

Critical applications are growing and are the same in 2017 and 2018. These include:

- Transactional systems
- Backend data server
- Analytics
- Big data
PROOF POINTS | MODERNIZING THE WORKFORCE

Organizational View

Organizations are modernizing and executives are making sure the right talent is on board to manage the new technologies.

+ 40% said they will train or cross train existing employees.
+ 32% said they will hire inexperienced staff and train them.
+ 62% believe it takes less than four years to bring inexperienced staff up to speed.

Today’s Workforce

Respondents showed a shift in age, experience, and outlook as retirements are in full force.

+ 95% of Millennials & 90% of Gen Xers believe in the growth and long-term viability of the platform.
+ 90% of Latin American, 82% of EMEA, 75% of APJ, & 63% of North American workforce is Gen Z, Millennials, or Gen Xers.

63% of respondents were under age 50, up 10 percentage points from 2017.

Investment in the platform and people backs up the positive trends we have seen throughout the survey data.
The mainframe is a powerful and versatile platform that has a track record of over 50 years of innovation. BMC continues to support the mainframe and its customers with solutions and services to maximize the effectiveness and evolution of this vibrant powerhouse.

Evangelize the mainframe
Share your vision and positive experiences, so other companies can effectively reinvent their businesses in a continually evolving digital business environment.

Engage your new workforce
New, fresh, and innovative workers with an abundance of energy and enthusiasm for the mainframe are available. They are ready to be given a chance to shine.

Embrace new techniques and technologies
Use new solutions to optimize your mainframe to overcome your organization’s challenges with today’s growing transaction volume, data volume, and workload volatility.

The mainframe continues to drive digital business, now more than ever. Mobile applications and digital business practices have effectively rewritten the ways companies operate, and the results of the 2018 BMC Mainframe Survey show a bright future for the mainframe in how companies run their business and reinvent it, as it is uniquely capable of scaling to handle ever-increasing consumer demands efficiently and securely.

To ensure success with this powerful platform, keep these three things in mind:

The mainframe is a powerful and versatile platform that has a track record of over 50 years of innovation. BMC continues to support the mainframe and its customers with solutions and services to maximize the effectiveness and evolution of this vibrant powerhouse.
The survey was open between May 15, 2018 and June 1, 2018. It was distributed worldwide and offered in 6 languages: English, French, Italian, Spanish, German, and Portuguese. 1,122 surveys were completed.
BMC can help you modernize and transform your mainframe to manage today's evolving digital business with innovative and intelligent solutions for your systems, data, and security. BMC solutions provide advanced analytics and automation to maximize performance and availability, secure your platform, optimize your costs, and increase your staff's efficiency.

**SYSTEMS**
Simplify your systems and performance management and keep them running and performing at their best with intelligent and automated solutions

**DATA**
Ensure your applications and your data are always available and optimized with next generation, automated solutions

**SECURITY**
Enhance services across the mainframe and enterprise to deliver on your growing security and compliance requirements

**COST**
Optimize your mainframe costs with more efficient software, productivity improvements, and proven cost-reduction solutions and strategies
Learn how BMC can transform your mainframe management at

bmc.com/mainframe

About BMC
BMC helps customers run and reinvent their businesses with open, scalable, and modular solutions to complex IT problems. Bringing both unmatched experience in optimization and limitless passion for innovation to technologies from mainframe to mobile to cloud and beyond, BMC helps more than 10,000 customers worldwide reinvent, grow, and build for the future success of their enterprises.

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