

When Does Decommissioning the Mainframe Make Sense?

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Is your z/OS mainframe a dinosaur, a relic of the past? Is it ready to be consigned to the dustbin of IT history? Should you consider migrating all your current mission-critical applications that rely on IBM's robust, but proprietary, hardware and software technology to an apparently lower cost platform like Linux or Microsoft Windows?

This article considers both the feasibility and advisability of an IT strategy that seeks to de-emphasize z/OS in favor of some "new technology" alternative to mainframe reliability and service. It tries to provide a knowledgeable perspective and an objective cost-benefits framework for the decision to decommission your mainframe, if that is something your IT organization is seriously considering today. It attempts to help you assess the risks -- and these are usually considerable -- associated with what one major vendor of mainframe application migration tools calls "lift and shift" of your current mainframe-centric application suite so that it can be hosted on an alternative platform.