

HCL'S SOLUTION TO REVOLUTIONIZE IBM i (AS/400) ENVIRONMENTS





In today's evolving computing environment, Power System for IBM i or IBM i Application System/400 (AS/400) still continues to be a strategic asset for organizations and one of the most popular server platforms ever seen. Dating back to 1988, its modern version follows a secure data-centric open source model catering to newer workloads like Social and Mobile apps, Big Data and Analytics. It has tremendous capability for modernization, automation, availability and cost saving and in the last two decades, has evolved from being a "System of Record" to a "System of Interaction", and finally to a "System of Engagement".

In this environment, the inability to resolve challenges like lack of agility, cost inefficiencies

and skills shortage leads to IBM i servers becoming the most underutilized servers in the organization's infrastructure and often end up being used as legacy servers.

According to a recent independent survey by Help Systems LLC, an alarming **58%** of the applications running on the AS/400 world don't leverage its true potential with no change in functioning since the 1980s-90s, when they were first introduced. About **23%** of these applications simply have a modernized interface, while less than **20%** have either been completely written for mobile and web platforms or can be termed as modern applications. With around **80%** still in need of optimization, HCL offers Optimize-i.

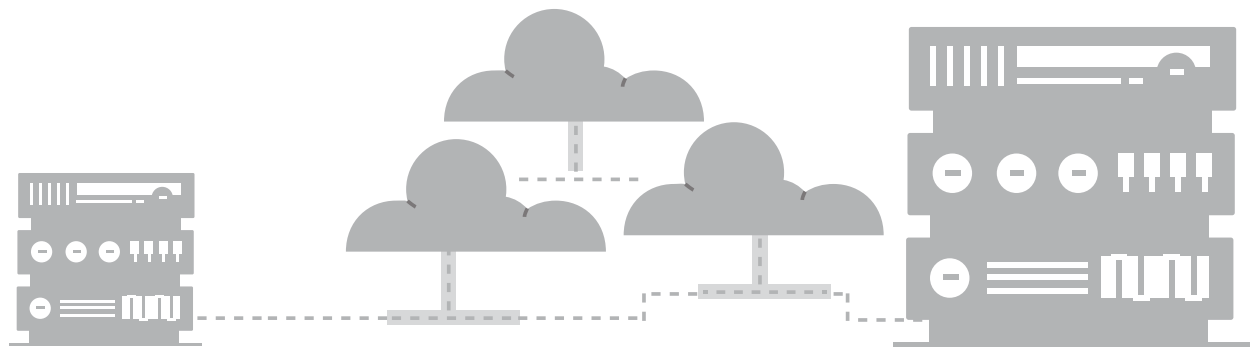
Optimize-i is HCL's unique framework to assess and articulate the desired state for IBM i rollout. It evaluates business cases for ecosystem transformation with a clear migration path. It has a multistep approach based on supportability, TCO, ROI, and productivity. Its output is a clearly charted out 'to-be' state of the IBM i environment. The assessment includes the business case to transform the environment with a clear migration path, based on right sizing the HW/SW, consolidation, business continuity objectives, rationalize the SW license usage, bringing job automation. Typical savings achieved after implementation range from **30-40%** in overall TCO of the environment.

It is 'the' solution for the business need to automate processes, enhance application

support and availability, modernize applications to cope up with rapidly evolving markets by consolidating services and, rationalize the SW license usage.

Optimize-i is a key solution for enterprises with:

- Server hardware older than P8
- Server Operating System older than V7R2
- >50 manual batch jobs or scattered IBM i hosting
- Recovery point/time objective (RPO/RTO) fissures
- Capex with no scalability, elasticity and agility leading to inefficiencies
- Need to modernize application UI from existing outdated green screen versions



FRAMEWORK

Optimize-i utilizes a 3 stepped approach to evaluate and articulate the 'to-be' state with decision points at the end of each step.



EXPLORATION

- Opportunity Analysis
- Business Case Generation
- Go/No-Go Decision for Assessment



ASSESSMENT PLANNING

- Formulation of Solution
- Project Planning
- BOM Preparation
- Go/No-Go Decision for Migration



EXECUTION

- Cloud Provisioning
- App/Data Migration/Decommissioning
- Handover to Support

BUSINESS BENEFITS

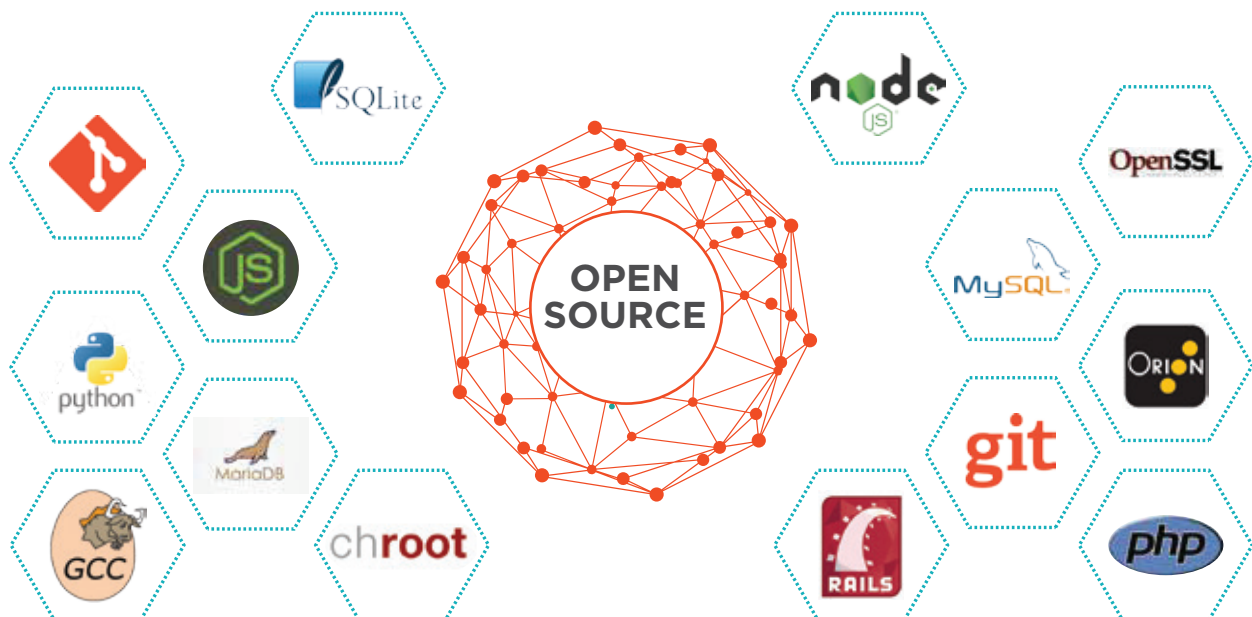
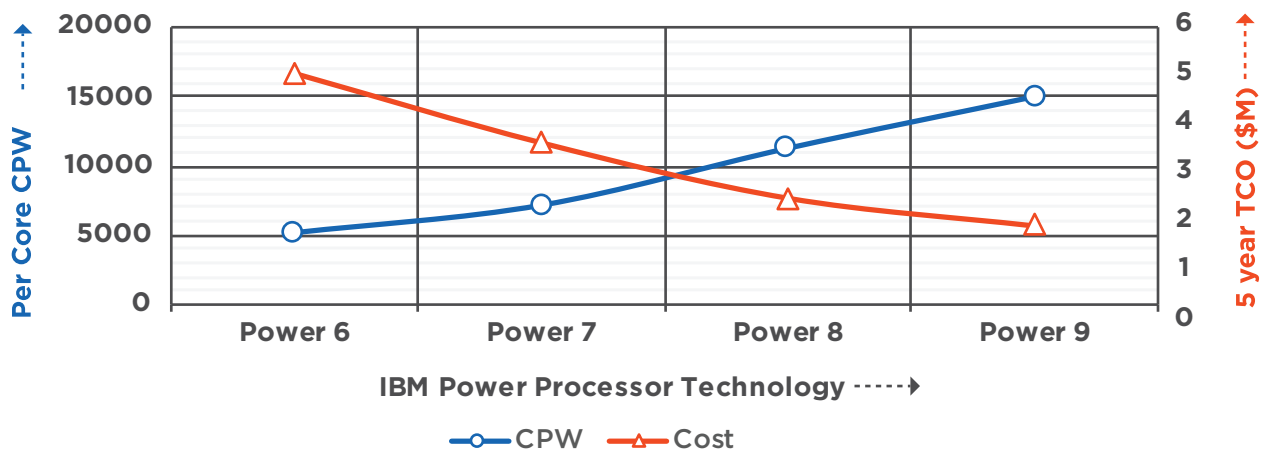
HCL's Optimize-i upgrades old and outdated OS and refreshes servers for older hardware. With its 'utility-based, consumption-based' costing model on IBM i Cloud, Optimize-i helps resolve CAPEX problems. It also reduces manual efforts by VTL implementation and Workload Scheduler. In addition, it resolves tedious green screen issues by modernizing Application UI while helping achieve RTO/RPO by DR/HA implementation.

Optimize-i helps achieve higher performance

with reduced costs by leveraging the latest iSeries technology and features. One core of P8 provides about **83%** more CPW, when compared with one core of P7. P8 with smaller processor group will require lesser number of CPUs when compared with P7 and will still deliver the same CPW.

With each update in the processor technology and HW model release, IBM i platform's performance, per core CPW, Reliability, Supportability, Availability (RAS), and ROI is improving significantly. This is constantly driving down the TCO of the application hosted on this server platform.

**Power Processor advancements vs
IBM i environment TCO Trend**



iSeries supports multiple programming languages and open source technologies. Optimize-i enables full utilization of these features.



AT THE CUTTING EDGE OF iSERIES SERVICES

TRANSFORMING SERVER SYSTEMS WITH HCL

Customer Information

The US-based F&B firm has 100 business units across 35 states, alongside five manufacturing plants in Europe. With a diverse portfolio comprising a range of products including dairy, condiments, and canned and frozen foods, the F&B major was looking to upgrade existing server infrastructure while effectively containing operational spend at the same time.

Challenges Faced

Challenged by its dated server environment, the customer faced a rise in TCO due to a fragmented iSeries framework.

Their IBM supported system was running on outmoded OS classified as End-of-Service-Life (EOSL).

Moreover, the P50 processor group was too vast for ongoing workloads, causing resource underutilization and high upkeep costs.

Finally, the in-house system monitoring tool needed to be replaced at the earliest, given the absence of developer support and inadequate disaster recovery (DR).

With internal storage occupying 8 SAS drive stacks, hosting cost was pushed beyond the optimum.

Solution

HCL's state-of-the-art iSeries consulting service "Optimize-i" upgraded the server infrastructure, simplified the migration process with minimum downtime and effectively contained the operational spend.

For the existing fragmented Power5 servers with underutilized resources, HCL transitioned the entire iSeries ecosystem to two Power7 MMD servers – production (PROD) and DR resulting in optimum utilization of the resources.

The entire server matrix underwent full-fledged integration, alongside the shift to two P7 MMDs.

Also, iSeries storage was refreshed to SAN (V7K-based) systems.

A V7Rx platform was put in place, decommissioning the previous OS.

Further, data replication between PROD and DR logical partitions was elevated to industry-best standards – with a host-based replication tool.

HCL also centralized the monitoring platform with a dashboard for complete event and alerts visibility.

Impact

HCL reduced spend of the F&B major in several spheres such as power requirements, hosting space, and SW/HW maintenance.

Achievements include:



100%
OEM support



Platform
virtualization



Automated alerts
& event monitoring



30%
TCO reduction



Enhanced
equipment services



Huge reduction
in backup time

To find out more about how HCL's Infrastructure Management services can help you simplify IT complexity and support your business' digital initiatives – **please contact us at ITO@hcl.com**

For a solution to your server problems, **please contact at NGDC-AS400@hcl.com**



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