

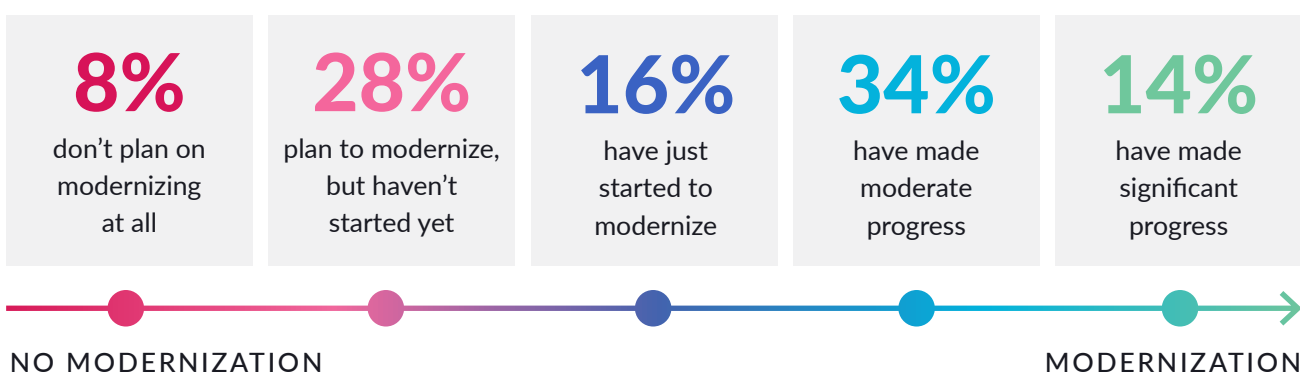
Obstacles to Modernization

Research Report: Tech Leaders on Why So Many App Modernization Projects Fail

About this Research

In partnership with [Wakefield Research](#), we surveyed 250 tech leaders who are responsible for maintaining a monolithic app at a large company (5,000+ employees). As code bases grow, complexity increases and engineering velocity slows down. With many digital transformation initiatives and the continued drive towards the cloud increasing the obvious need for app modernization, 92% of respondents say they are planning to start or have already started such projects. Here's what we learned about what makes them successful or not.

State of Modernization Across the Industry



Modernization Majority—High Cost of Failure



Organizational pushback can often hamstring projects before they start. When asked what has stopped modernization efforts, both executives and architects say a lack of "prioritization from management."

97% predict someone in their organization would push back on a proposed project

Top Obstacles to Modernization Projects



Divergence in Thought for Executives and Architects

	EXECUTIVES	ARCHITECTS
GOALS	Lowering Technical Debt	Reducing Ramp Time For New Developers
CHALLENGES	Time Keeping Up with Business Requirements	Difficulty in Refactoring Finding & Training Developers
REASONS FOR FAILURE	Expectations	Lack of Intelligent Tools

Differences between what executives and architects say they need speak to two sides of the same coin—the business outcomes and the successful execution of projects to achieve those business outcomes.

Elements of a Successful Plan

1. Make the Case

First analyze the portfolio for architectural complexity, technical debt, and prioritizations to identify aging frameworks; from here, prioritizations can be made, and then scoping the time, budget and team members needed can be aligned.

2. Secure Budget & Resources

Armed with the right business case, securing budget and resources may be easier, especially when tied to strategic business outcomes.

3. Give It Consistent Support

Executive management supporting the project through the changing tides of business cycles is key to its success. When commitment from leadership falters, projects can stall, stop or end.

4. Define, Align & Train the Team

Look across your team to determine what skills are in house already, and what the stakeholders need to add to the team. Next, gather the stakeholders and put the right people in the right places. Finally, organize your team around the microservice—a critical element of successful projects.

5. Provide Your Architects with Intelligent Tools

Architects noted that not having the right tools was as top reason for failure. Giving them intelligent tools will help reduce time and risk.