

MODERNIZING THE MONOLITH: UNLOCKING THE LEGACY DATA DILEMMA

In the "Modernizing the Monolith" study, MeriTalk surveyed 275 Federal IT decision makers - and examined progress within three specific mission areas: healthcare, public safety, and financial services - to understand why legacy systems are so entrenched in Federal agencies, and how solutions like application programming interfaces (APIs), microservice architectures, and open source can improve data sharing, alleviate legacy lockup, and accelerate overall modernization progress.

Feds Feel Legacy Tech Pain

Nearly all Federal IT leaders¹

89% say reliance on legacy technology is **hurting their agency**.



The majority **73%** say delaying modernization is riskier than moving forward

Legacy Lockup Looms Large

After budget, Feds say the **biggest barrier to modernization** is the need to maintain legacy technologies

72%

say that **failure to integrate** legacy systems will strangle IT modernization efforts

73%

say **unlocking data from legacy apps** is critical to shared services success and broader government reform

Plans in Place, But First Steps Not Easy

While **73%** say their agency has a defined IT modernization roadmap

Just **24%** rate their **IT modernization** efforts as



Fewer than half:

48%

Completed an audit of IT systems/applications

37%

Understand what can be moved to the cloud and what cannot

35%

Implemented at least one shared service

24%

Transitioned at least one legacy application to a microservice architecture

Culture Adds to the Complexity

76% of Feds say their agency will modernize incrementally

But just **20%** feel strongly encouraged to experiment and take risks

How to Break Free

Feds say **improved data sharing** between new and legacy systems is the **#1 opportunity** to move modernization forward

86%

say **APIs are important** to their modernization plans

75%

say they're a **logical starting point** for agencies with large portfolios of legacy systems

API importance by agency mission area:

91%

Financial agencies

88%

Public safety agencies

84%

Healthcare agencies

The majority believe:

DevOps/agile adoption **66%**

Open source software **62%**

Microservices **60%**

will also have a **positive impact** on modernization efforts

Progress and Plans

While just **23%** of Feds say they are using APIs today,

52% are working to incorporate them³

50% have a formal integration strategy for "connecting different software applications, services, APIs, data, and devices,"

and another **36%** are working on one

Over the next two years, Feds say they'll focus IT investments on:

40%
Cloud services/solutions

33%
APIs

32%
Open source software

To learn how you can unlock legacy data and move modernization forward, visit:

www.meritalk.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Modernizing_the_Monolith_Report.pdf