

Data Migration



We talk the language of migrations and successfully deliver them!

A Data Migration should be treated as a separate project from an application replacement and be planned accordingly. Data transition projects present special challenges as skills, technologies and tactics are quite distinct from application migration projects.

Why Migrate Data?

- Implementing a new application:
 - Where data is needed from existing applications – nobody wants to rekey
 - Where data is needed in a Web-Store or Website
 - Feeding data to support a decision support portal or dashboard
- Business Continuity
 - To support a 100% uptime environment i.e. Mirrored System
 - To support a Disaster Recovery environment – synchronization is needed
- During a Merger or Acquisition:
 - As part of the due diligence process, or system integration
- Migrating from one application database to another:
 - Where critical data is required for successful operation of the company
- Upgrading from one version of an application database to another:
 - Where data formats have changed
- ETL:
 - Extracting data to support periodic and/or ad-hoc reports to facilitate analysis
- Decommission legacy systems and their application data:
 - Where the system is obsolete and data needs to be available for compliance and audit purposes

Data Migrations projects resolve challenges and mitigate risks at a business, operational and technical level. Managing the transformation of data will encompass

Business Challenges and Risks

- Governance
- Audits
- Regulations/compliance
- Chain of custody
- Historical data retention policies
- Back up tapes

Operational Challenges

- Timing
- Testing
- Go-Live

Technical Challenges

- Data quality
- Cleaning – bad data
- Data Types, Repeating Fields, Integers, Dates, Defaults and Values
- Mapping data
- Multiple passes
- Feeds from disparate systems
- Special Code/Scripts

For the reasons outlined above. Data migration projects should commence with an assessment to effectively manage the transformation of data and all the complexity that goes with it surrounds it and those that touch and use it.

Data Assessment

MB Foster begins every data migration project with a data assessment, as you're transitioning a business application and all the complexity that goes with it.





During an assessment the following is examined; existing processes, critical data sources, target environment, databases, scope, timeline, technologies, audit requirements and risk mitigation and more. The purpose and expectation is to determine.

- Rough order of magnitude cost
- Budget requirement
- Project parameters i.e. one time, repetitive
- Effort in terms of duration (start to finish)
- Skills required
- Tools needed

Data Conversion Plan

A data conversion plan is essential for all data migration projects, regardless of whether the organization has decided to; Replace an existing ERP solution with another, port an existing in-house developed application to a new platform or re-hosting a legacy ERP application on a supportable platform.

A conversion plan mitigates risks related to auditor guidelines for data transformation and chain of custody, to satisfy regulatory and governance requirements and eliminate legal repercussions associated with lost or invalidated data.

A data conversion plan is developed separately and aligned to meet both internal business requirements and those associated with the application replacement project objectives and deliverables consisting of the initial implementation, parallel runs and the go-live.

Migrate Data

Upon approval of a data conversion plan and with formats set, resources assigned and tools selected, the process of migrating data begins. MB Foster's framework includes three key risk mitigation steps consisting of a test data migration, initial data migration, and final data migration before going live.

Integrate Data

MB Foster looks at workflow during the assessment and data conversion planning phase to address re-integration of spreadsheets, reports and other applications that need data made available to them.

Decommissioning

MB Foster has solved the problem of recovering data from backup tapes and databases making it available in numerous formats and allowing your company to support one less propriety platform and to save thousands of dollars in hardware and software support costs and power costs by turning off the system.

About MB Foster

MB Foster has the people who understand how to deliver application data to match your business needs. For more than thirty years we have been the trusted advisor to customers ranging from local government to Global 100 enterprises. Our personalized service has proven time and again that we listen to your business needs, and then find the right service strategy to provide solutions that solve your business and information technology challenges today and into the future.

Whether it is a data migration project, software, system decommissioning or project management, we make it easy for you to deliver the right information to the right environment at the right time. We work with our customers to streamline their IT business operations to reduce costs, and improve data delivery. Learn more at www.mbfoster.com

Whether MB Foster is providing customized applications or solving critical data problems, we are 100% customer driven.

