



# RPCConnect

White Paper for Legacy  
Data Management

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# 01

## Abstract

It is a common problem for capital intensive companies (particularly mining, energy/utilities, defence, public infrastructure, and oil & gas) that they must maintain access to data from legacy systems. The information is critical for meeting legal and governmental compliance requirements and of course historical analytics. Keeping the data accessible however is costly in terms of TCO (total cost of ownership), as it requires maintaining the infrastructure, support, application, database licences, training and related spending to maintain systems in the background. Industry best practice is to transition all legacy information into a single easy to access legacy database.

The benefits are:

- secure compliance information,
- streamlined business analytics and
- direct and immediate cost benefits in decommissioning of hardware, application and support structures.



# 02

## Introduction

This paper deals with the common issue of legacy data management. The term “legacy data” is not entirely representative to the importance of the data itself. It can be argued that legacy data is some of the most valuable data the organisation possesses because of embedded lessons learnt and analytics that can be derived from it. Even though it may reside in old or obsolete systems, it is critical to the business for compliance, statutory requirements (in finance, HR, operational, other) or purely business decision making. It is common practice to maintain legacy licenced applications / systems should the information need to be accessed. However, there are multiple issues to this approach including upkeep costs, access constraints, internal knowledge management and additional effort to find, extract and present valuable data. This paper puts forward that the view that persevering with holding data in ageing and expensive legacy systems is not best practice. The best practice recommendation is to migrate all legacy data into a single and easy to access legacy database.

## Direct consequences:



### Information Access

These applications are kept live so that the resident information can be accessed. However keeping this information in disparate legacy systems undermines the information chain used for best practice business intelligence. Furthermore if one of the specialist users becomes unavailable during an inspection or audit, there is the chance that the business will be hit by a statutory penalty.

## 03

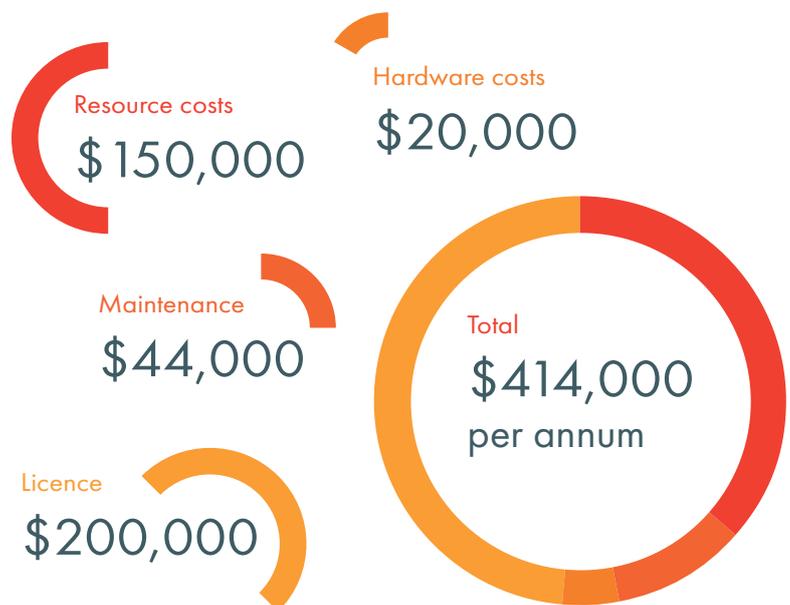
### The Problem

The problem is that many companies, being characterised by high growth periods and/or by merger & acquisition activity, will have the business need of changing their information technology systems. Due to compliance and reporting requirements these old (legacy) systems continue to exist, holding mission critical information. It becomes an onerous task to manage access, supportability and knowledge frameworks in these multiple legacy systems for a limited user base.

### Direct Upkeep

With the combination of infrastructure, training, licencing and labour (super user) costs, it is easy to quickly isolate the monetary waste that often goes unnoticed.

Below is an example scenario.





## 04

### Side Effects: Additional Costs and Risks

#### Application Support

There is the likelihood that if you are no longer actively using an application, other organisations have made the same decision. The result is that support for this software will potentially reduce and ultimately disappear, significantly increasing the risk for the maintenance of your application. In this case you will have to rely on internal resources, which is not a sustainable practice. When the “super user” leaves the organisation, existing staff won’t know how to use the system: everything from simply logging in to knowing how to navigate and extract mission critical information.

#### Response Time

Response time is bottlenecked by the use of legacy systems. With the emergence of technology such as SAP HANA and Hadoop, business analytics can be rapidly sourced. This has increased expectations around systems response. However if an executive required older information there is additional processes. The appropriate IT staff must be made available and the data extracted; all resulting in a relatively timely ordeal in the world of automation.

## Sporadic Use

By preserving legacy systems only used sporadically you are maintaining a state of inefficiency.

## 05

### Proof the Problem Exists

As is reasonable, many companies will not publically advertise that they have legacy data management issues. However, historically speaking, it is commonplace that capital intensive organisations will change their enterprise software when the organisation moves through a step change. This change, unless there have been specific plans put into place, will occur during expansion, acquisition, merger or transition. In a transition, or expansion, the enterprise software must be able to scale to meet business and technology needs. In an acquisition or merger it may be necessary to consolidate the systems of the two companies into one, leaving behind legacy systems.

Australian legislation requires corporate data to be retained for 7 or more years, meaning that there is a certainty that organisations will have the need for data retention, easy access and archival. In Australia, this includes:

- Payroll data must be kept for seven years. Fairwork fact sheet.
- Financial data must be kept for seven years. Business records and how long to keep them.

- Industry records (e.g. governed by government or regulatory bodies. E.g.. Department of Mines) must be kept for 6 years longer than the life of the operation. E.g. certifications, OHS, inspection results and other records. Mine Safety and Inspection Act, section 89, page 149.

# 06

## The Basic Solution

The problem of legacy data management is solved by a combination of a migration process and, on the other end, the use of a data query and extraction tool.

As seen in this visual representation it is possible to extract data from legacy systems and then transform and migrate the information into a single repository. From that point the appropriate browsing and extraction tool will enable data reporting and analysis.



# 07

## Benefits

There is an extremely favourable swing in the cost/benefit analysis for a Legacy Data Solution. Although every scenario is different, COSOL's experience and budget impact tools show a clear and significant return on investment (ROI) (\*the scenario in table 1 would see an approximate ROI of over \$180,000 in the first year alone). There are further valued benefits to the business:

- Simplified and effective data retention management
- Ability to decommission legacy systems
- Smooth migration outcome
- Integrity of information is maintained through read only access
- Extensive use of metadata, and therefore no need to rely on the IT team for data extraction
- Streamlining of data strengthens the information chain for business intelligence tools
- Assurance that compliance information will be secure, available, and easy to access

\*Contact COSOL to access a budget impact tool, and evaluate your ROI.

# 08

## The COSOL Solution: RPCConnect

COSOL is a global professional service provider of effective systems and business solutions. Our specialists have a valuable combination of capital intensive industry experience and technology systems expertise.

COSOL's RPCConnect is a product which transitions the data from multiple disparate systems into a single secure and easy to access server database. An ad-hoc tool performs data browsing and enables end users to extract data without needing assistance from the IT team. RPCConnect provides an efficient solution to a common industry problem, and by decommissioning old systems it allows a positive ROI.

COSOL's RPCConnect delivery methodology is a planned 3 stage approach, optimised to provide streamlining and automation of legacy data management:

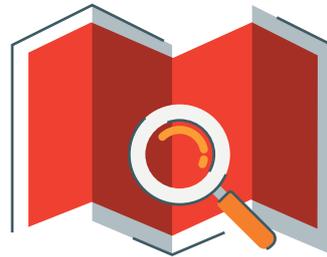
### 08.1

## Scoping and Business Requirements

Our specialists liaise with key stakeholders in information technology and management to understand the unique organizational framework currently in place. The scoping and business requirements report can act as a low cost business case for the

implementation of RPCConnect.

The scoping and business requirements report includes: Identification of business, functional and non-functional requirements, technical considerations, change management requirements, and high level mapping of legacy systems. The project plan is also delivered.



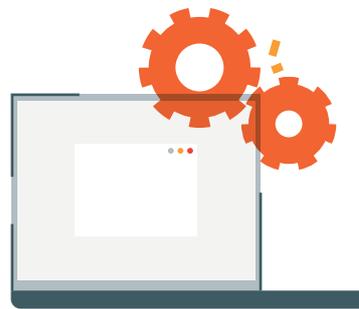
## Scoping and Business Requirements

- Requirements Mapping
- High Level Systems Mapping
- Project Plan

## 08.2

### Implementation

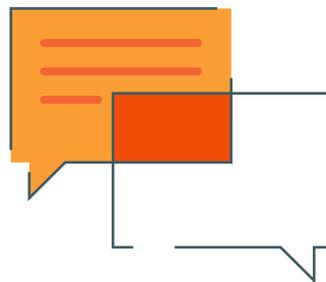
COSOL will provide experienced resources to implement RPCConnect transition the data to SQL server, and configure the data browsing and extraction tool.



## Implementation

- Install RPCConnect
- Migration / Transformation
- Data Browsing / Extraction Tool

COSOL has created accelerators to map Ellipse, SAP and other systems to provide smooth data migration. These accelerators enable extraction of metadata and logical data links, increasing the usability for end users. RPCConnect is designed to be the baseline repository for legacy reporting and compliance needs.



## Ongoing Support

- Change Management
- Ad-Hoc Support
- Maintenance

## 08.2

### Ongoing Support

COSOL is committed to maintaining ongoing support for RPCConnect.

**Contact your regional COSOL representative to further discuss this product.**



COSOL is the world leader in EAM and ERP data migration consultancy, services and resourcing for asset intensive industries. With dedicated practices, resources and tools for SAP, Ellipse, Maximo and Pronto, we have the functional, technical and domain expertise to help you wherever you are in your ERP or EAM project.

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