Modernizing Output
Don’t forget the documents when you migrate your applications

Too easy to overlook output
There are so many areas to cover when you investigate modernizing your enterprise applications. Hardware platforms, operating systems, security, and job scheduling are just a few of the many aspects to plan. Printing the documents created by applications you’re modernizing or migrating to new hardware platforms is one area that’s easy to overlook. After all, how complex can printing be?

The problem: Fact is, printing can be incredibly complex. Legacy datastreams, channel versus IP network, drivers, and different operating systems combined with applications developed years ago and tweaked over time to get the required results are all factors in the intricate document printing equation. If you’re storing documents as electronic images for viewing instead of printing, migrating your electronic archive adds even more complexity.

That complexity boils down to this: when you migrate applications to other operating systems, you have to account for differences in the printing infrastructure. Basic printing functions in the Microsoft® Windows® or UNIX® operating systems probably won’t support your enterprise document production, distribution and storage requirements. Luckily, the output experts at Levi, Ray & Shoup, Inc. (LRS) offer a solution, the Enterprise Output Server (EOS).

Simplify the complexity
Getting a handle on print complexity is obviously a vital step in the migration process. You can accomplish that by replacing proprietary, platform-dependent print utilities with a solution that simplifies things by embracing open standards. LRS solutions incorporate open standards and provide four key attributes: integration, adaptation, scalability and flexibility.

Integration. The EOS is designed to integrate effectively with today’s application modernization tools from leading vendors.

Adaptation. The design of the EOS requires minimal changes to deliver the same end results—the same documents—after the modernization project is complete.

Scalability. Implement the EOS for one application, a set of applications, or everything you use. It’s a foundation you can rely upon for the application modernization project and build upon for the entire enterprise.

Flexibility. With its ability to accept a variety of input formats and deliver a variety of output formats, the EOS provides a high level of flexibility. Use it to manage output from mainframe, open systems, or Windows applications.
How complex can printing be?
Incredibly complex!

Consider these questions as part of your migration project:

- Are you printing from the mainframe applications that you are migrating?
- Do your applications produce formatted output?
- Do you print forms on a dedicated printer?
- Do you have a document archive?
- Should you rely on an operating system to handle printing?

LRS has output experts who understand the complexity of printing on multiple platforms. They know how to get any document from anywhere in any form to any destination. Whether it's mainframe generated output that needs to print on a standard laser printer or an archive of electronic documents that has to migrate to an open system, LRS has the solution.

Whether you implement it before or after you migrate applications, the LRS Enterprise Output Server simplifies print complexity by providing a central point of control that collects documents from any source for delivery to any destination. We built it with 30 years of experience dealing with the full range of printing issues—PageDefs, FormDefs, embedded font commands, carriage versus machine control characters—and our expertise in resolving those issues regardless of the platform where your applications will reside.

Plus, LRS has a team of experts who can migrate your existing report archive to the EOS. Documents, user profiles, distribution rules, and document attributes such as original date and time can be migrated to the EOS maintaining business continuity.

If you're migrating away from a mainframe, odds are that your mainframe applications have been using LRS solutions already.

The Big Picture

As trusted partners with many Application Modernization specialists, we know what it takes to solve the complexities of output management for you. We've assisted many organizations that overlooked their need to print and store documents when they planned their legacy application modernization projects.

Here's one example of the benefits our solution provides. During the testing phase of your transition, the EOS can plainly mark test documents to prevent them from being used as production documents. Once testing is over and you go live, that feature is easy to turn off. The EOS is built to solve problems you probably don't anticipate.

The LRS Enterprise Output Server also positions your organization for future benefits including:

- Migrating your current document archive to your new platform
- Implementing “view before print” to reduce printing costs
- Transforming print stream documents to PDF for emailing and electronic delivery
- Identifying cost savings opportunities by tracking use of print resources
- Enforcing print policies like duplex and black & white printing

To learn more about document security, accounting, and managed print services solutions from LRS, contact your marketing representative or visit us at www.VPSX.com.