boomi

ERP Modernization in a Changing World

Create Great Business Outcomes
Faster and Save on Costs

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The World Has Changed

The world is constantly changing. Yes, that's nothing new. But this time, it's happening at a speed and magnitude that businesses cannot ignore.

The already pressing need for organizations to transform their operations to stay competitive exploded into an "or else" during the pandemic, when companies suddenly had to provide digital access to anywhere, anytime services.

Now, a new change catalyst has emerged like a lightning bolt. Rapid developments in generative artificial intelligence (AI) are turning how businesses operate upside down yet again.

70%
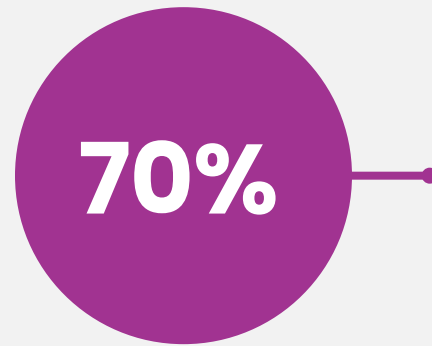
Gartner **expects that by 2025**, "70% of organizations will have operationalized AI architectures due to the rapid maturity of AI orchestration initiatives."

95%
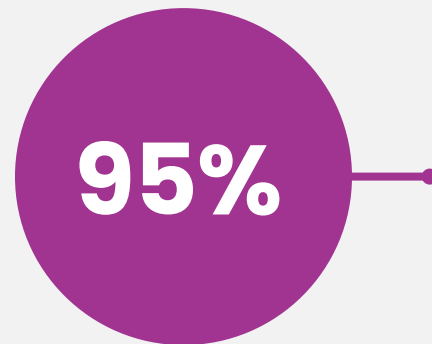
Accenture's **Technology Vision 2023** survey found that "95% of global executives agree new data architectures and strategies are required to manage the dramatic changes to their organizations' data landscapes."

McKinsey **believes that** "by 2025, smart workflows and seamless interactions among humans and machines will likely be as standard as the corporate balance sheet, and most employees will use data to optimize nearly every aspect of their work."

The common thread in all of these forecasts is **data**. And the bedrock foundation of how every business organizes, understands, and uses data is enterprise resource planning (ERP). An ERP system manages a broad range of operational processes – including finance, HR, manufacturing, supply chain, and customer service – that ultimately create great customer experiences and build brand loyalty.

But when an ERP is slow, cumbersome, and inefficient, the business will suffer in the market. That's why modernizing outdated ERPs has become a high priority for technology and line of business leaders.

They're seeking:

✔ A cloud-native system that provides the agility and flexibility an on-premises ERP lacks, so they can innovate, pivot, and adapt faster to changing market conditions. Companies often don't have a choice, either. ERP heavyweights SAP and Oracle have target dates for sunsetting their on-premises suites in the coming years – which will force organizations to switch to their respective cloud offerings of SAP S/4HANA Cloud and Oracle ERP Cloud.

✔ An ERP that supports what Gartner calls "the composable enterprise," where businesses can easily add and remove best-of-breed applications in a plug-and-play style to provide functionality that doesn't exist in the primary system.

✔ A technology ecosystem anchored by the ERP that synchronizes data within applications, simplifies B2B/EDI processes with trading partners, provides real-time event streaming management, supports API-enabled new services, and promotes workflow automation.

The uncomfortable truth is that most ERP modernization efforts – the heart of digital transformation – get stuck in an IT chokepoint. Lack of data and application integration is a leading cause of why they either fail or produce underwhelming results for the business.

Nobody just wakes up one day and decides it would be nice to upgrade their ERP system. It's a monumental, time-consuming, and expensive endeavor. Do it wrong, and the tremors will reverberate throughout the entire organization.

But when done correctly, heroes are forged.

This guide examines the five primary business outcomes of ERP modernization – why every business needs to upgrade. It will explain the inherent challenges and the benefits organizations will see. Finally, it explains how Boomi's intelligent integration and automation platform can play a pivotal role in overcoming the obstacles of modernization and ensuring the success of transformation efforts by creating **"right-sized"** data fabrics.

Five ERP Modernization Outcomes

01 Cloud-First Migration

02 AI/Analytics Focus

03 Data Stewardship

04 Total Cost of Ownership

05 Composable and Decomposable ERP

Cloud-First Strategy

Adopting a Cloud Strategy
and Migrating To the Cloud

Benefits

Greater operational agility and flexibility

Lower capital costs for innovation

Scalability that future-proofs the business

Faster time to market on projects

Measurable ROI

Managed maintenance, automatic upgrades

Challenges

Synchronization of applications

End-to-end visibility into processes

Cloud-to-cloud integration

Access to on-premises data

01

AI/Analytics Focus

Improve Competitiveness Through the Use of AI and Analytics

Benefits

Better ROI

Ability to predict outcomes

Improved data accuracy

Greater operational insights

Ability to easily diagnose inefficiencies

Insights to reduce customer churn

Challenges

Access to best-of-breed application data

Access to on-premises data

Lack of real-time data

Poor data collection and synchronization

02

Data Stewardship

Take Control of Data Through Security, Governance, and Compliance

Benefits

Easy to identify and catalog all data assets

Higher quality of data and metadata

Ability to enforce data governance of policies and procedures

Easier to manage potential security risks

Meet regulatory compliance requirements

Faster analysis through data consistency

Challenges

Data discovery and cataloging

Master data management

Access and usage control

Data availability for integration

03

Total Cost of Ownership

Improve Visibility Into All Costs and Enhance Productivity

Benefits

Lower costs

Increased efficiency and performance

Visibility for accurate cost control measures

More accurate planning and forecasting

Flexibility in billing models

Agility to meet changing market conditions

Challenges

End-to-end visibility

Cost management

Measuring efficiency gains

Difficulty using analytics

04

Composable and Decomposable ERP

Improve Agility by Adopting a Plug-and-Play ERP Architecture

Benefits

Flexibility to use best-of-breed components

Ability to easily replace what's not working

Improved delivery of better outcomes

Prepares your organization to adapt to change faster

Shorter planning and release cycles

Ability to leverage both in-house and external experts

Challenges

Integrating applications

Access to all data

Visibility into the complete ecosystem

Lack of qualified people

05

The Boomi Advantage

Let's return to that "uncomfortable truth." Here's why most digital transformation initiatives become stuck in modernization chokepoints:

→ Lack of application synchronization

→ No connectivity between on-premises and cloud systems

→ No real-time event stream management

→ Little or no workflow automation

→ Difficult to API-enable new services

As a result, projects like upgrading ERPs are anything but transformational. Instead, they become time- and money-wasting boondoggles. But Boomi changes the game.

The Boomi platform ensures digital transformation success by eliminating the complexity and limitations of legacy systems and integrating fragmented architectures. It helps organizations reinvent their businesses by connecting everyone to everything, anywhere.

With Boomi as the essential connectivity piece for foundational projects like upgrading ERPs, companies can modernize and automate critical processes, take advantage of composable architectures, and achieve business outcomes faster.
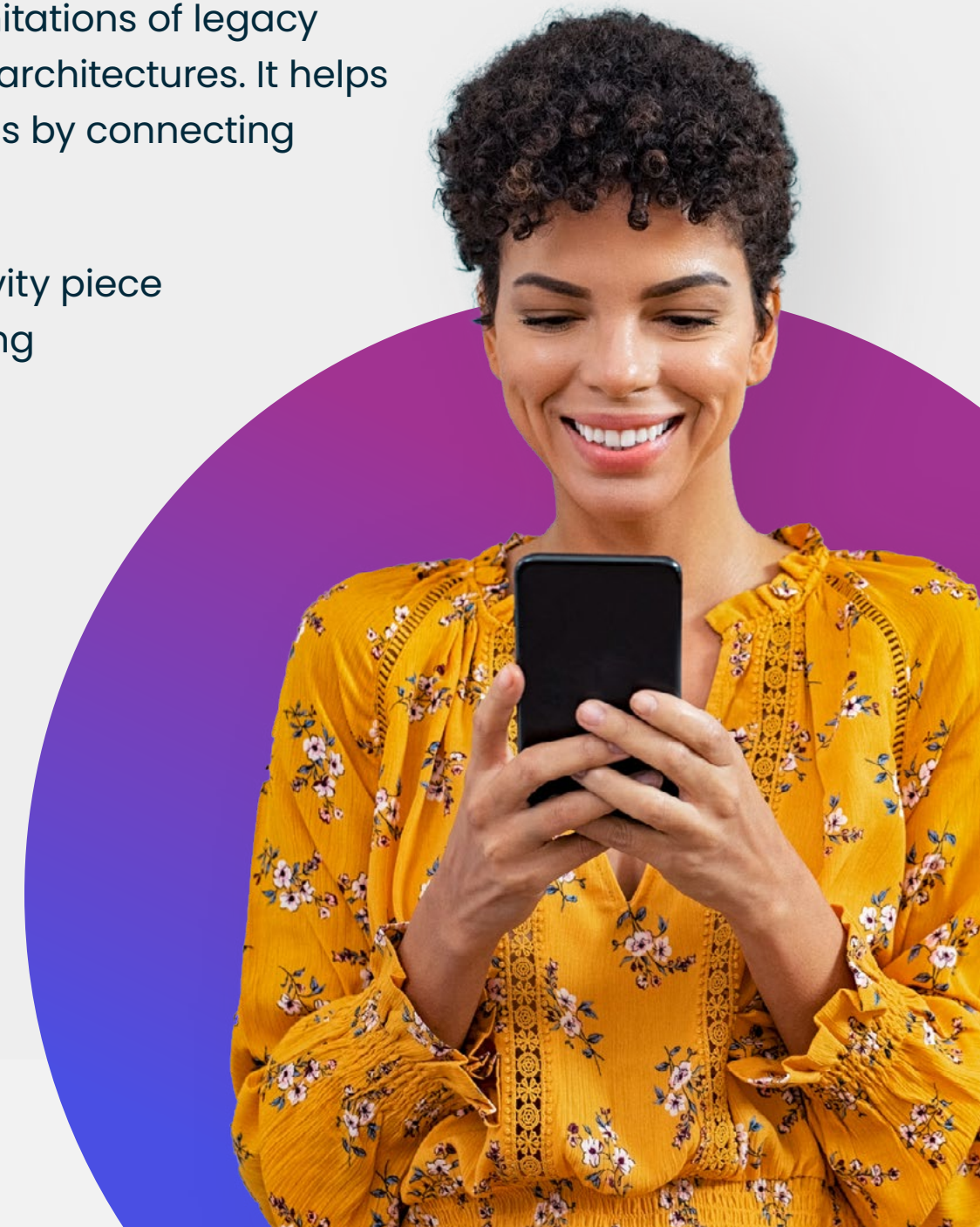
Ensure ERP Modernization Success

Organizations around the globe are using the Boomi platform to:

Lower the total cost of ownership for ERPs and associated applications

Simplify complex architectures and control application sprawl

Connect all the moving parts – systems, applications, and people

Accelerate cloud migration projects without lost or compromised data

Create the "right size" data fabrics and API fabrics to fit business needs

Automatically synchronize data so it's consistent, trusted, and accessible

Democratize application development with low-code/no-code tools

Add and remove any application with no vendor or ecosystem lock-in
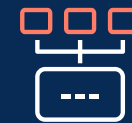
Centralize control of data reduces potential security risks

Become AI-ready by connecting systems and automating workflows

Unify services to eliminate the expense of multiple tools

Increase business agility to move fast on new opportunities

Spend Management

When macroeconomic headwinds have every business focused on trimming costs and spending wisely, getting the most value from an ERP is critical. Chief Financial Officers are asking the same questions: "Do we understand where our costs are?" and "How do we contain (or ideally reduce) those costs?"

Boomi saves money across the business by providing visibility into and synchronization of all processes and data through ERP modernization.

- Drastically reduces the high cost of building, maintaining, and managing integrations by eliminating expensive hand-coding and "spaghetti" point-to-point connections.

- A connected ERP extracts the total value from all technology investments within the ecosystem. Process automation increases speed around hire-to-retire, quote-to-cash, lead tracking and scoring, and more.

- Access to all data enables analytics that drive success, like more accurate and effective forecasting to build confidence in planning responsibly.

- Lets you quickly interchange applications to take advantage of the latest and greatest technology that best fits your business, improving productivity while lowering costs.

- Integrated systems and automated workflows provide the agility needed to get new initiatives to market faster and meet fast-changing economic conditions.

- Smarter procurement through better governance streamlines purchasing processes (and identifies rogue purchases), ensures the best-negotiated deals, and automatically logs/updates transactions in the appropriate systems for transparency.

- Ensures visibility into whether technology investments deliver the expected results to avoid wasting money on underutilized systems and unused licenses.

Intelligent Supply Chain Management

Business is a team sport. Close collaboration with partners, suppliers, and vendors is crucial in our connected, one-click-for-gratification world. When businesses don't deliver, customers look elsewhere.

ERP modernization isn't just about optimizing internal processes. An updated ERP is also the foundation for simplified trading partner interactions that reduce costs, provide greater security and compliance, and ultimately result in more satisfied customers. Boomi optimizes end-to-end B2B interactions from raw material acquisition to manufacturing to purchasing to delivery.

- Boomi's low-code model provides greater flexibility for customized, user-friendly development to create integrations and automations that streamline the supply chain, resulting in faster time to market on products – and products getting to customers faster.

- Eliminates the high costs associated with supply chains, like the expense of legacy electronic data interchange (EDI) systems, through low-code development, self-service onboarding, and automated upgrades that drastically reduce IT resources dedicated to processes around partner management.

- Breaks down the historic silos between dedicated supply chain management systems, EDI processes, and the ERP by integrating them and other critical systems so that data is consistent, accurate, and accessible everywhere.

- Solves the dreaded "black box" problem with visibility throughout the supply chain from a single dashboard for relevant data, such as purchasing, invoicing, and shipping, so that issues are quickly identified, diagnosed, and resolved.

- Automation powered by integration ensures accuracy in the availability of products throughout the supply chain – from warehouses to online shopping – so customer fulfillment is never in doubt.

Connected Onboarding

You never get a second chance to make a great first impression. A poor onboarding experience is the surest way to sour a new employee, partner, or customer on your business. Yet the reality is organizations traditionally haven't made onboarding easy. A primary culprit is disconnected systems and inaccessible data.

Boomi integration and automation ensure relevant information seamlessly passes between systems securely and consistently, so everyone has what they need at their fingertips.

- Self-service, automated onboarding saves time and reduces costs, eliminates errors from manual data entry, and brands you as an organization that values people's time and wants to help them succeed.

- Ensures new hires are ready for Day One by providing access to foundational systems, like those within the ERP landscape, through connectivity with HR processes so employees feel more prepared.

- Slashes onboarding time for new partners from months and weeks to just days and hours with a self-service onboarding application that ensures faster revenue generation.

- The end-to-end management of acquiring new customers is infinitely better with integrated systems like marketing automation, customer resource management (CRM), customer success platforms – and the ERP in the middle of the invoice/payment process.

- Simplifies the often chaotic contingent worker onboarding process by automating tasks such as the required approvals, data entry in multiple systems, and creating purchase orders within the ERP.

Delightful Experiences

It all comes back to one word: *friction* – or in this case, *frictionless*. The "easy button" experience of online shopping has forever altered expectations. Your staff want to be productive and efficient. Partners want to engage with your business without constant delays. Most importantly, customers want seamless interactions when making purchases.

Boomi makes "wish fulfillment" possible by solving the technical challenges that hinder these integrated experiences by ending data fragmentation. The Boomi platform ensures systems talk to one another, connects and synchronizes distributed data, and makes relevant information available in real time.

Connectivity between the ERP and other systems allows businesses to match the competition by creating smooth customer experiences that people demand when interacting with companies today – improving customer loyalty and building brand advocates.

Improves productivity and makes employees more efficient by eliminating tedious manual tasks from their daily jobs, and ensuring they have always-on access to whatever they need. This lets them focus their creative talents on more meaningful projects.

Improves the experiences of partners, suppliers, and vendors so they want to do more business with your company by removing the time-wasting, aggravating hurdles created by disconnected systems and manual processes.

Now Is the Time

Business leaders today are besieged with a growing list of priorities. They must find ways to maximize their existing investments, make wise decisions on cost-cutting, and ensure their organizations are prepared to embrace the coming AI revolution.

ERP modernization does that – but only if executed properly.

Boomi helps businesses adopt a cloud-first approach, get the most from AI and analytics, become better stewards of data, and embrace composable architectures – all while lowering the total cost of ownership of their ERP and supporting systems.

Data is knowledge. Knowledge is power. Boomi ensures businesses get the most from data and create extraordinary outcomes with practical integration, automation, and data management. Building the right-sized data fabric unleashes the full power of ERPs by connecting the technology stack to improve speed and agility.

The world is changing. Are you ready to meet the challenge and change with it?

For more information on how Boomi can help you with ERP modernization, visit:
boomi.com/initiatives/erp-modernization

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ABOUT BOOMI

Boomi aims to make the world a better place by connecting everyone to everything, anywhere. The pioneer of cloud-based integration platform as a service (iPaaS), and now a category-leading, global software as a service (SaaS) company, Boomi touts the largest customer base among integration platform vendors and a worldwide network of approximately 800 partners – including Accenture, Capgemini, Deloitte, SAP, and Snowflake. Global organizations turn to Boomi's award-winning platform to discover, manage, and orchestrate data while connecting applications, processes, and people for better, faster outcomes. For more information, visit www.boomi.com.