

eBook

# THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO APPLICATION RETIREMENT:

## Sunsetting Simplified



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## Key Findings:

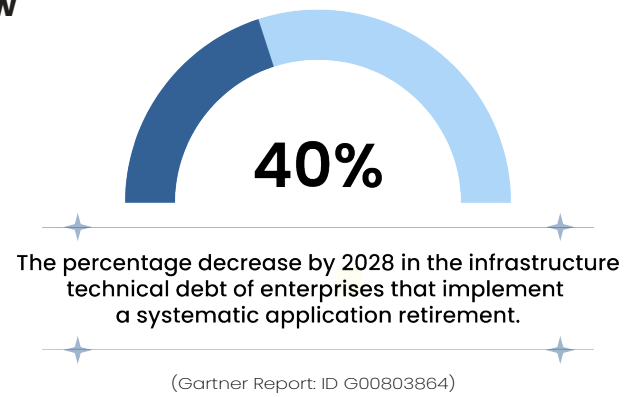
- Whether you're an IT Manager, CIO, CTO, application owner, or an I&O leader, crafting an effective application retirement strategy isn't a one-solution-fits-all situation; it requires careful consideration of various factors unique to each organization.
- Tailoring the strategy involves assessing factors to align the retirement process with goals, minimize disruptions, optimize resource allocation, and maximize long-term benefits.
- Addressing the technical debt associated with legacy application portfolios and a shortage of skills and resources is a significant challenge for IT and Operations leaders.
- Application retirement and decommissioning projects frequently prompt enterprises to revise, reset, and strengthen their data retention policies.

## Recommendations:

- Ensures that the application retirement strategy meets specific organizational needs and adapts to evolving technological and regulatory landscapes.
- Focus on prioritizing essential applications, data assets, and infrastructure before starting the application retirement process, ensuring your needs align with the chosen vendors' offerings.
- Minimize technical debt by establishing clear, shared responsibility among stakeholders for managing the application lifecycle, overseeing retirement, and decommissioning.

## Chapter 1: Beyond Decommissioning: An Overview

As technology advances and organizations evolve through growth, mergers, and operational consolidations, numerous enterprise applications outlive their usefulness and transform into legacy applications. These outdated systems consume valuable infrastructure resources and software licenses, hinder operational efficiency, and pose significant security risks and financial burdens. This ebook highlights the critical importance of application retirement, explores best practices, and offers insights into how Solix Technology can streamline your data management processes.



## Chapter 2: Understanding Application Retirement

The Applications Director of a large manufacturing company shared insights on how he identified cost savings during their application decommissioning project: “It was as easy as walking through the data center and bending over to pick up hundred-dollar bills.” Whether you’re an IT Manager, CIO, CTO, or application owner, it’s crucial to identify which applications are suitable for retirement and assess their potential impact on your enterprise.

Application retirement or decommissioning refers to the process of permanently sunsetting outdated or obsolete software applications that are no longer needed for daily operations but may still contain valuable data. This approach involves systematically retiring redundant or outdated business applications while ensuring continuous access to their historical data. Organizations can streamline their systems by phasing out legacy applications that are kept only for occasional data access for legal or business reasons.

Outdated applications can be a significant liability for enterprises. They often lack the robust security features of modern software, making them vulnerable to cyber-attacks. Additionally, maintaining legacy systems incurs unnecessary costs, including licensing fees, hardware maintenance, and support expenses. These old systems can also complicate IT infrastructure, leading to inefficiencies and hindering the adoption of newer, more effective technologies. The goal of application retirement is to archive this legacy data to remain accessible for compliance, reporting, or historical analysis while eliminating the ongoing costs and risks associated with maintaining the application.

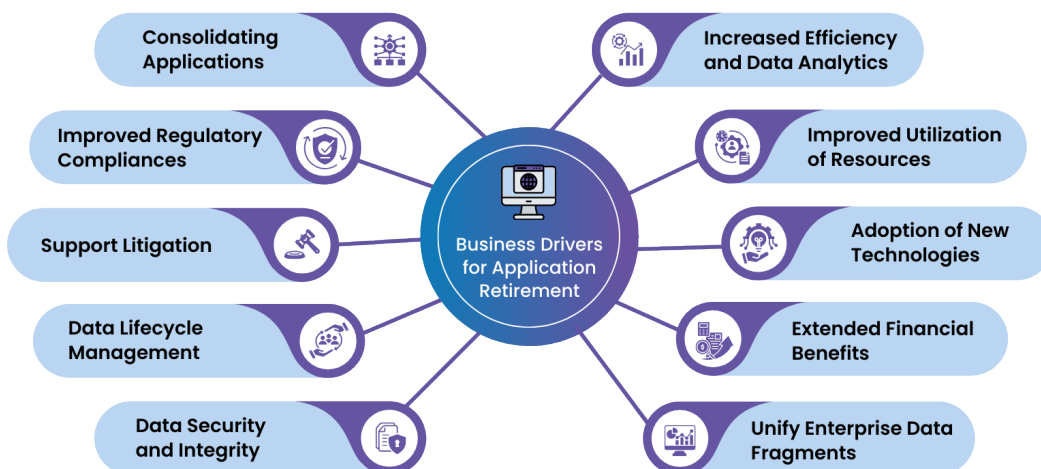
## Chapter 3: Business Drivers for Application Retirement

- **Consolidating Applications:** Application retirement could be the best solution for consolidating applications, such as during a merger or acquisition, within regional offices managing diverse financial, procurement, and project applications, or as part of a data center consolidation initiative. As organizations adopt new technologies, multiple applications with disparate data structures emerge. These siloed data models hinder efficient data use and meaningful insights. An application retirement tool can effectively address these issues.
- **Knowledge Base Gap:** Staff turnover can create knowledge gaps about legacy systems, often relying on outdated hardware, operating systems, application software, and database components. SDA solutions can facilitate the targeted migration of data from these legacy environments to modern application or database platforms, ensuring effective management. This process can encompass both structured database information and related unstructured content, such as documents.

Over half of the respondents identified managing technical debt and lacking skills/resources as major organizational challenges.

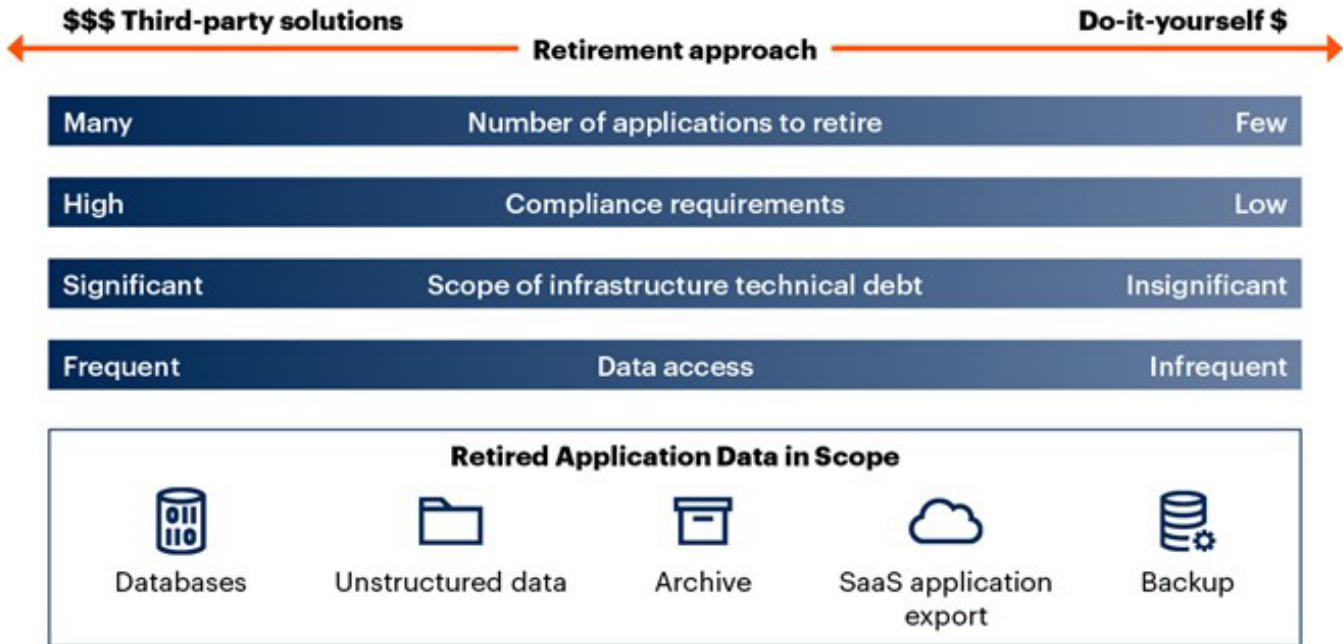
- **Improved Compliances and Governance:** Compliance with privacy and industry data regulations such as GDPR, HIPAA, CCPA, and SOX requires secure data handling and retention. An application retirement tool ensures that data from retired applications complies with these stringent requirements and helps generate audit trails to access historical data. These solutions enable designated IT and infrastructure leaders to effectively handle data retention, disposal, privacy requests, and legal holds while meeting audit and reporting requirements.
- **Support Litigation and e-Discovery:** Application retirement ensures that relevant data is available for legal disputes and can be retrieved through full-text searches, saved queries, or custom reports. Securely archived data protected from unauthorized access and tampering is crucial for maintaining the credibility and admissibility of evidence in court for legal cases.
- **Data Lifecycle Management:** Integrating application retirement with broader data lifecycle management strategies ensures that data is appropriately managed from creation to eventual disposal. This process involves enforcing retention policies, reviewing, cleaning, and organizing data, which improves data quality and ensures that only relevant, accurate data is retained, supporting better decision-making and analytics.
- **Data Security and Integrity:** Application retirement enhances data security and integrity by centralizing data in secure repositories, implementing role-based access controls, and maintaining data integrity through archiving. It ensures compliance, eliminates vulnerable legacy systems, and includes encryption, regular audits, and monitoring to protect data from unauthorized access and breaches.
- **Increased Efficiency:** Application retirement solutions help enterprises streamline their IT operations and data management by retiring unnecessary applications without managing and maintaining them. This leads to more efficient resource use, improved performance of active applications, and reduced IT clutter and obsolete data.
- **Improved Utilization of Resources:** Legacy applications often consume significant storage space and other critical resources. Retiring these applications and archiving their data can free up valuable critical resources, reducing data storage and related management costs.
- **Adoption of New Technologies:** Modernizing IT infrastructure is crucial for staying competitive. Application retirement tools facilitate this modernization by removing outdated systems and freeing up resources, enabling the adoption of advanced technologies.
- **Extended Financial Benefits:** Maintaining legacy applications is expensive. Retirement tools help cut these costs by eliminating the need for ongoing support, maintenance, and licensing fees associated with obsolete software. They also help reduce tech debt by migrating the legacy data to cost-effective storage.

A Compliance, Governance, and Oversight Council (CGOC) study revealed that decommissioning inactive application could lead to average annual savings could exceed \$120,000 annually.



## Chapter 4: Application Retirement Framework

Where does one start? Different approaches have varying costs, time requirements, and effects on data accessibility and management. Establishing a framework to categorize and select a retirement approach from DIY solutions or third-party archiving options is essential. The figure below is the Gartner application retirement decision framework, which guides the selection of the most suitable solution from your organization's portfolio of application retirement strategies.



Source: Gartner  
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Gartner

### DIY Application Retirement Approach

- Archiving Application Reports:** Archiving application reports through print output options offers a straightforward method for preserving data before decommissioning the application. Once archived, the application and its data can be decommissioned. However, modifications to reporting formats necessitate restoring both the application and its data, which is impossible. Additionally, search functionalities are confined to the chosen storage location, potentially limiting accessibility. Furthermore, the granularity of data retention is constrained to each report, posing challenges for comprehensive data management strategies.
- Store an offline copy:** To ensure data security and availability, storing a secure, offline copy of the database and related application data in a protected environment is advisable. This can be achieved using a backup solution or a secure location with immutability or by writing once or reading many (WORM) characteristics, such as Amazon S3 storage with the object lock. While this approach ensures data availability for restoration purposes, it also means that business users can only directly access the data if they involve the IT team.
- Application-Specific Solutions:** Developing a custom, application-specific solution involves creating a tailored system for storing data in a data warehouse or modern databases, including open-source options, and establishing procedures for data access. However, IT staff must maintain knowledge of the application's data structures and manage reports and query interfaces. Additionally, retention logic must be implemented to ensure data is appropriately expired.

## Third-Party Application Retirement Solution

Data archiving and application retirement solutions often use their specialized systems to store data from old applications. These systems include databases and indexing tools, allowing users to search, query, and create prebuilt and custom reports to access the stored data. Users enjoy a consistent experience when searching and querying, and they can also create custom reports. Techniques like deduplication and compression help reduce the amount of stored data. These solutions can be hosted on-site or as a service.

Consider an enterprise-level financial, manufacturing, distribution, and support application with a vast and complex data structure featuring 50,000 tables and 1 million columns. In this scenario, primary and foreign key relationships are not defined within the data model but rather in the application code, which will be unavailable once the application is decommissioned. Additionally, imagine not having access to the application's source code or technical documentation, making it challenging to understand the data model. Furthermore, suppose the developers used highly complex and obscure naming conventions for tables and columns, complicating the task even more. This situation is common among major package applications like SAP, Oracle E-Business Suite, PeopleSoft, Siebel, etc.

Various techniques can be employed with differing levels of success when facing challenges with such models.

1. Data modeling tools are used to graphically analyze and represent the data model, making it more accessible and understandable.
2. Using code analyzers, provided the source code is accessible, to scan and uncover primary and foreign key relationships that define key objects in the application.
3. A common approach is to reverse engineer key screens and reports in the application to identify which tables are used and how they are related, sometimes utilizing log analyzers to examine SQL statements executed by the database..

All these techniques require skilled data analysts and archivists. No single technology can resolve data model issues without significant technical and application expertise. This is where an application retirement solution becomes a savior for your legacy data management.

## Chapter 5: Strategies to Retire an Application

Retiring an application requires a structured approach. This chapter covers essential strategies, starting with prioritizing which applications to retire. We'll discuss whether to retire all data or just the necessary portions, and address the challenges of retiring applications with little to no knowledge. By following these strategies, you can effectively decommission applications while safeguarding data and maintaining operational integrity.

**Prioritizing Applications Eligible for Retirement:** When prioritizing applications for retirement, focus initially on those that offer the greatest cost savings to highlight the project's value. The business value of a legacy application is derived from its ability to solve specific business problems and the benefits it provides to users and the organization overall. Several key factors must be considered to assess this value comprehensively. Focusing on applications that promise significant cost savings demonstrates the retirement project's tangible benefits. This approach frees up budget and resources for other initiatives.

Apart from the above checklists, there are still many drivers to be considered. These factors include understanding the application's current use, such as its purpose and user base size, frequency of access, and the application's age. Evaluating whether newer alternatives within the organization can fulfill the same role is crucial, considering factors like training costs and system customization. Starting with legacy applications with a good understanding of the application functionality and reporting requirements makes success more likely and helps build the business case to retire other applications.

**Retiring All or Only the Necessary Data:** This decision is driven by knowledge of the application and the data needed for reporting, auditing, and compliance. Knowledge of the application and the reporting requirements of the retired data is imperative concerning the retirement process. One of the challenges with application retirement projects is the lack of functional application knowledge. Because legacy applications were deployed years ago, several employees educated on these applications most likely have since left or retired. Additionally, finding people with the right skill set is difficult when technologies are dated.

Retiring only the necessary data works best for organizations with a strong understanding of their application data and reporting requirements. Retiring all the application data is better when the data model and reporting needs are unclear, as it mitigates risk and saves costs. Since all retired data is accessible, resources can be dedicated to analysis as needed. A top-notch retirement software application allows for the addition of relationships and the modification of reports even after data retirement.

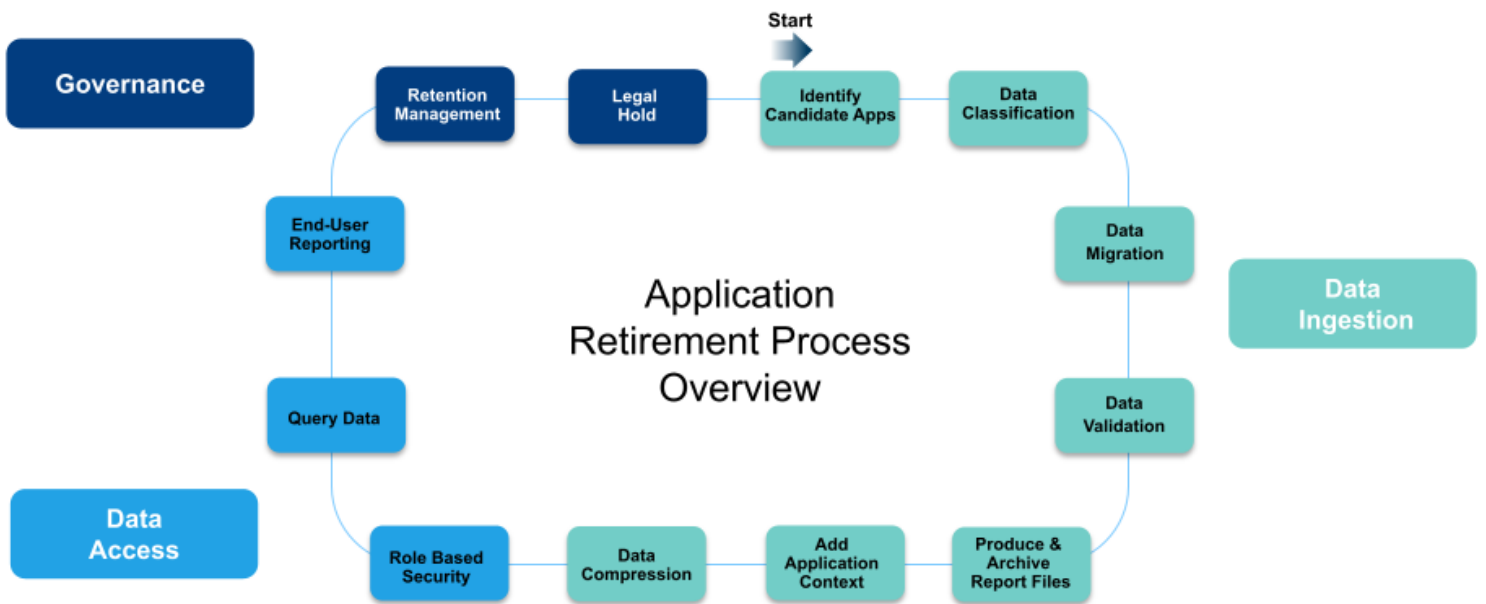
**Retiring Applications with Little to No Knowledge:** When an application's business value is marginal, application retirement is a sound strategy. Retiring the application ensures all data is preserved and helps the organization save costs by shutting down the legacy system. As stated above, the ability to add additional relationships between the data at a later time, even though the application data is retired, protects the firm if this data needs to be accessed later.

## Chapter 6: Application Retirement Process

The application retirement process is a structured approach that ensures the systematic and secure decommissioning of outdated or redundant applications. This process is designed to maximize efficiency, minimize risk, and ensure compliance with relevant regulations. The figure below depicts an ideal application retirement process flow, enabling organizations to effectively decommission outdated applications while ensuring data integrity, compliance, and operational continuity.

- **Identifying Eligible Applications:** The first step in the application retirement process involves identifying eligible applications. This involves a thorough inventory of all applications, evaluating each based on usage frequency, business relevance, and technical obsolescence. Engaging stakeholders across departments helps ensure a comprehensive assessment, capturing dependencies and critical workflows that the retirement of specific applications could impact.
- **Identifying Requirements:** Once eligible applications have been identified, the next step is determining the retirement process requirements. This includes assessing the environmental requirements to ensure the infrastructure can support the transition. Data classification is crucial to understanding the sensitivity and compliance needs of the data involved. Identifying audit, compliance, and reporting requirements early in the process helps design a retirement strategy that adheres to regulatory standards and organizational policies.
- **Migrate and Validate Data:** Once the requirements are clear, the data migration phase begins. This involves extracting data from the retiring application, transforming it as necessary, and loading it into the designated archive. Validation is critical to ensuring that the migrated data maintains integrity and accuracy. Additionally, attachments related to the data must be archived appropriately to preserve context and accessibility.
- **Add Context:** Context must be added during the migration process to enhance the usability of the archived data. This can be achieved by optimizing the migrated data using table and column aliases, making it more meaningful and easier to navigate. Creating searchable business data is essential for future retrieval and reporting. Furthermore, connecting attachments to the relevant business data ensures a comprehensive and accessible archive.
- **Data Access:** Once the data is archived and contextualized, it is paramount to establish efficient data access mechanisms. This includes enabling search functionalities and creating forms, reports, and enterprise business records (EBRs) that allow users to interact with the archived data effectively. Ensuring easy and intuitive access to the archived data helps maintain productivity and operational continuity.
- **Governance:** The archived data must be subjected to robust governance practices. This includes implementing retention management policies to ensure data is retained for the appropriate duration and compliant with legal and regulatory requirements. Legal holds may be necessary for certain data sets to preserve them in case of litigation or audits. Ongoing governance ensures the archived data's integrity, security, and compliance throughout its lifecycle.

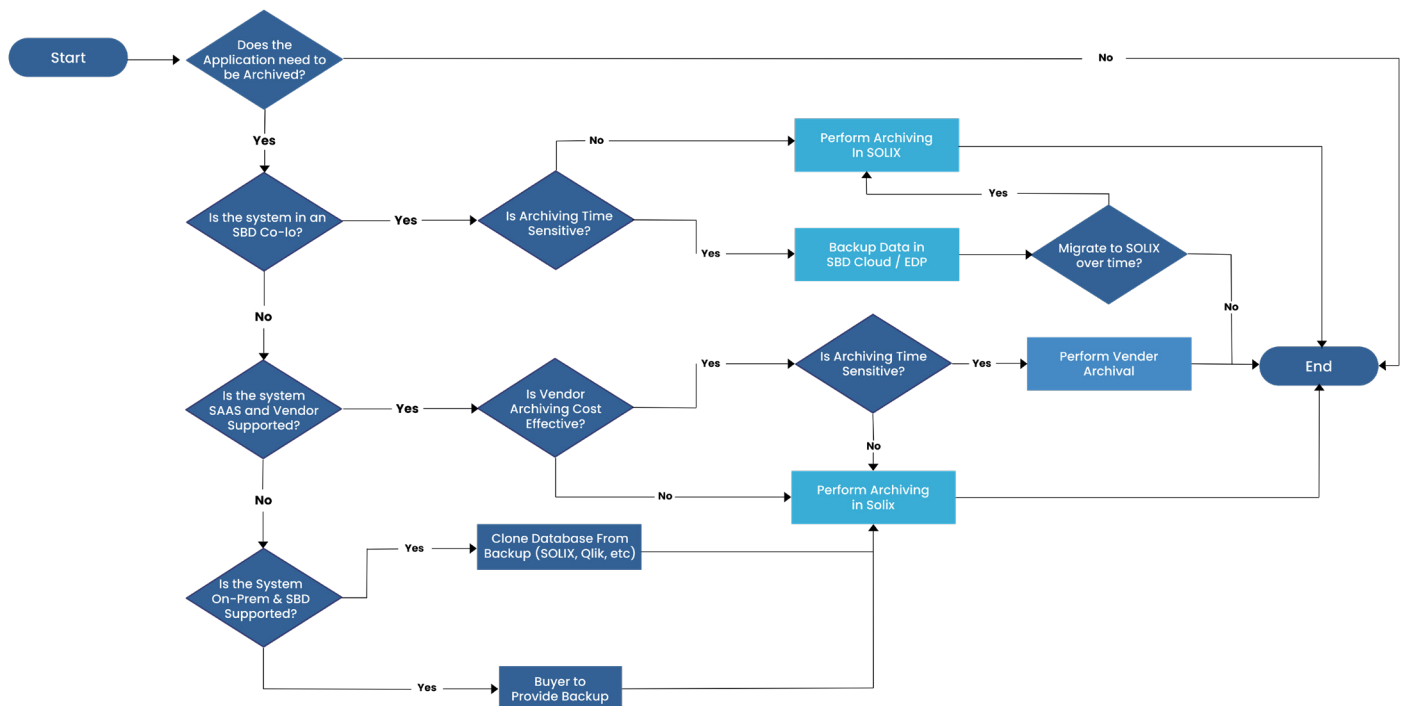
By following these structured steps, organizations can effectively retire applications, ensuring data integrity, compliance, and continued accessibility, ultimately optimizing their IT infrastructure and operational efficiency.



## Chapter 7: Application Retirement Best Practices

Successfully retiring an application requires careful planning, execution, and adherence to best practices to ensure data integrity, compliance, and efficient resource utilization. The figure below is an example of a decision tree of a simple application retirement initiative.

The best practices for application retirement outlined below provide a comprehensive guide to achieving a seamless and effective retirement process. Depending on the retirement strategies chosen and other internal factors, the recommendations can be sequential or overlapped.





- **Develop a Detailed Application Retirement Plan:** A detailed retirement objective plan is crucial. It outlines the objectives of each process step or project scope, including timelines, responsibilities, expected outcomes, and impact on business operations. It should cover data migration, system decommissioning, compliance checks, user transition, and further more if any. It must also assign clear roles and responsibilities to ensure accountability and smooth execution.
- **Conduct a Comprehensive Data Inventory:** The next step is to perform a comprehensive data inventory, as not every data is imperative to your enterprise. This involves mapping out where all the data resides and understanding data dependencies and relationships, identifying data volumes and storage locations, classifying data based on its sensitivity, compliance requirements, and business value, and eliminating redundant data to streamline the migration process. Plan for a subset of the structured, semi-structured, and unstructured production data in the development environment. This test data should be a representative set of records that fully exercises the business requirements.
- **Engage Stakeholders Early:** Engaging all relevant stakeholders early to address their needs and concerns is essential. This includes IT staff, business users, compliance officers, finance departments, and senior management. Key elements include holding regular meetings with stakeholders to gather input and provide updates on the retirement project's progress, establishing mechanisms for stakeholders to provide feedback and raise concerns, and developing a change management plan.
- **Develop a Data Migration Plan:** Implementing a robust data migration strategy that ensures data integrity, accuracy, and security throughout the migration process is a key best practice. Migrate all of the data at the same time (even if some of the data may never be accessed). Most of the time, planning for part of the data to be archived defeats the objective of reducing cost. Other key elements include validating data at each stage of the migration process to ensure accuracy and consistency, implementing comprehensive backup and recovery procedures to prevent data loss during migration, and conducting extensive testing in a controlled environment to identify and address potential issues before the actual migration.
- **Define Data Retrieval Process:** A plan for data retrieval is also important, as the entire retirement process ensures that data remains accessible for future use, compliance, and reporting purposes. Key elements include choosing the best application retirement solution to quickly and accurately retrieve archived data via features like full-text search, saved queries, custom reports, and e-discovery.
- **Develop a Compliance and Security Plan:** It is critical to ensure that the application retirement process complies with all relevant regulatory requirements and includes robust security measures to protect sensitive data. Key elements include conducting regular compliance checks throughout the retirement process to ensure adherence to regulatory requirements, using data masking techniques to protect sensitive information during migration and storage, and implementing strict access controls to limit data access to authorized personnel only.
- **Choose the Right Solution:** The right solution for application retirement is crucial for ensuring data security, compliance, and operational efficiency. The right solution helps to seamlessly transition from obsolete systems while preserving data integrity and accessibility. Key features include robust security, data integrity, scalability, ease of use, integration capabilities, cost-effectiveness, performance, customizability, vendor support, and advanced reporting and analytics.
- **Leverage Automation Tools:** Leveraging automation tools can streamline the application retirement process, reduce manual effort, and minimize the risk of errors. Key elements include implementing automated workflows for repetitive tasks such as data migration, validation, and reporting, using scheduling tools to automate the timing of key tasks, and setting up automated notifications and alerts to keep the project team informed of progress and any issues that arise.
- **Provide Comprehensive Training and Support:** It is crucial to help all users affected by the application retirement transition to new systems and processes by providing comprehensive training and support. Key elements include developing and delivering training programs tailored to the needs of different user groups, providing ongoing support resources such as help desks, user guides, and FAQs to assist users during and after the transition, and collecting and acting on user feedback to improve the training and support provided continuously.
- **Document the Retirement Process:** Thoroughly documenting the application retirement process is valuable for future retirements and maintaining compliance. Key elements include creating detailed documentation of each step, maintaining logs of key decisions and their rationale to provide context and transparency, and documenting

lessons learned and best practices identified during retirement to inform future projects. The following is some of the suggested documentation for the successful completion of retirement application projects.

- A. Project Charter, Requirements, Kick-off, Schedule, RACI Chart, Scope Management
- B. Connectivity Checklist – Source, Metadata KB Repository, Target Archive Repository, Installation pre-requisites, Summary
- C. Design Specifications Documents – Migration, Validation, Access, Test Strategy, Plan, Cases, Results
- D. Communication Plan, Status Report, Issues Log, Milestone Completion Certificate / Sign-off, Project Wrap-up, Lessons Learned

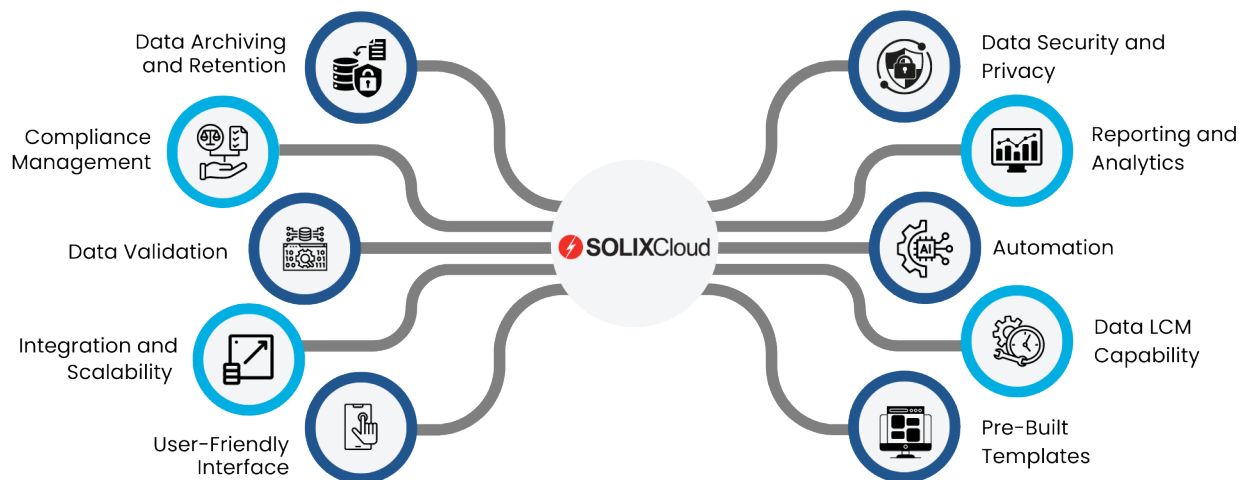


## Chapter 8: Key Requirements of an Effective Application Retirement Solution

The application retirement market is well-established, with many solutions having been available for 10 to 20 years. These providers have developed various portfolio strategies to introduce their offerings to the market. A solution that meets a broad range of requirements is essential to ensure a smooth and efficient application retirement process. Here, we outline the critical features an effective application retirement solution should possess.

- **Data Archiving and Retention:** An effective application retirement tool must provide robust data archiving and retention capabilities. Such tools must support long-term storage to prevent data degradation, ensure the archived data remains searchable for easy retrieval, and adhere strictly to organizational data retention policies and legal requirements. These elements collectively ensure that valuable data remains preserved, accessible, and compliant throughout its archival lifecycle.
- **Compliance Management:** Compliance management is paramount in the retirement of applications, ensuring adherence to regulatory standards like GDPR, HIPAA, and CCPA. A robust tool should facilitate this by incorporating essential features: comprehensive audit trails to meticulously record all retirement process actions, data masking capabilities to safeguard sensitive information, ensuring compliance even in archived data, and regular updates to stay current with evolving regulatory requirements.
- **Data Validation:** The tool must include robust data validation features to ensure the integrity and accuracy of data during retirement. This involves verifying that data remains consistent before, during, and after retirement through comprehensive data consistency checks. Additionally, the tool must detect and correct errors to prevent corruption and generate comprehensive reports for transparency and accountability.

- **Accelerated Deployment:** To speed up solution deployment, the tool must leverage prebuilt application integrations and automated database assessment tools to enhance deployment efficiency, lower professional service costs, boost the integrity of archived data, and improve user access.
- **Integration with Data Analytics:** Archived data can be integrated with third-party analytics tools, enabling its inclusion in the organization's data insight initiatives. This accessibility allows for a more comprehensive analysis by incorporating historical data into current analytics frameworks. As a result, organizations can gain deeper insights and enhance their decision-making processes.



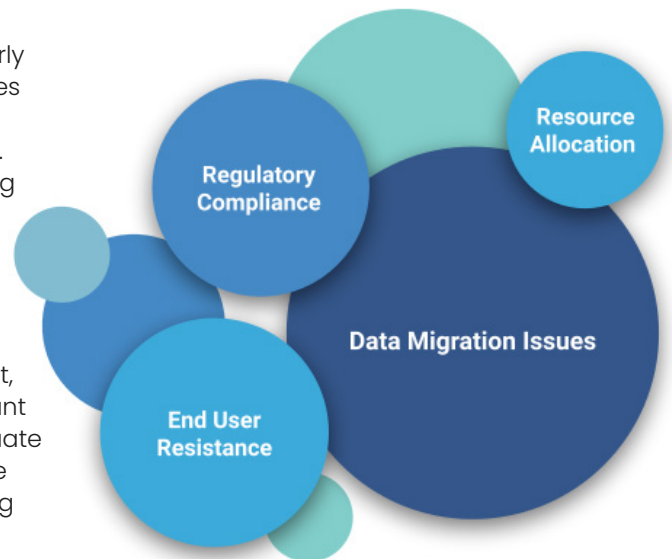
- **Integration and Scalability:** An effective retirement solution must be scalable to handle varying data volumes and the complexity of large-scale operations. The solution must efficiently manage large datasets without performance degradation and be capable of retiring multiple applications simultaneously or quickly. Additionally, the tool should offer APIs and pre-built connectors to facilitate integration with various systems and databases and efficient resource management to avoid overloading the system.
- **Emulating Legacy Application Interface:** A user-friendly interface is essential to minimize the learning curve and ensure users can effectively utilize the tool. By mimicking the user interface of the original application, the solution can further minimize the effort required from business users during data retention or access. Customization is also important, enabling users to tailor dashboards to suit their needs and preferences. Additionally, providing comprehensive training resources and support helps users quickly become proficient with the tool.
- **Data Security and Privacy:** Data security and privacy are paramount during and after the application's retirement. The tool should incorporate robust security features, including masking, where data is encrypted or masked both in transit and at rest to prevent unauthorized access. Additionally, mechanisms for detecting and promptly responding to security incidents and subject requests can further elevate the security landscape.
- **Access Control and Searchability:** Well-defined role-based access controls that integrate seamlessly with LDAP/SSO/AD allow numerous authorized users to retrieve retired data efficiently. Users can navigate retired data efficiently with features like full-text search, saved queries, custom reports, and e-discovery. This capability ensures compliance with regulatory and business requirements.
- **Reporting and Analytics:** Effective reporting and analytics capabilities are essential for monitoring and ensuring the retirement process's success. The tool should offer comprehensive reports that generate detailed information on various aspects of the retirement process, including data validation, compliance, metadata, data flow, primary or foreign key relationships, and application source code or technical documentation. Customizable reports or static report output are also crucial, allowing users to create and tailor reports to meet their needs and requirements.
- **Automation:** Automation can significantly enhance the efficiency and accuracy of the application retirement process. The tool should support automated workflows to handle repetitive tasks, minimizing manual interposition and the risk of human error. It should also allow users to schedule retirement tasks at specific times, ensuring minimal disruption to business operations. Additionally, the tool should provide automated notifications and alerts to keep users informed of the retirement process status.

- **Data Lifecycle Management Capability:** Data lifecycle management capability ensures effective data handling from creation to deletion. Key features include defining and enforcing policies for retention, archiving, and disposal, automated transitions between lifecycle stages like active data storage to archive, and continuous monitoring with reporting for compliance and efficiency. This comprehensive approach helps organizations effectively manage their data throughout its lifecycle, promoting security, compliance, and efficiency.
- **Pre-Built Templates:** Pre-built templates are invaluable tools for streamlining decommissioning by offering standardized procedures and best practices. They ensure consistency and repeatability across the organization, helping to maintain efficiency and reduce errors. These templates guide and optimize the decommissioning workflow by incorporating industry best practices. Moreover, they allow customization to accommodate specific organizational needs and requirements, making them versatile solutions for effective and tailored decommissioning strategies.

## Chapter 9: Common Challenges in the Application Retirement Process

Retiring legacy applications is a complex and multifaceted process that enterprises often find challenging. Understanding and addressing these challenges is critical to a smooth transition. This chapter delves into the common obstacles faced during the application retirement process and provides insights into how they can be managed.

- **Data Migration Issues:** One of the most significant challenges in application retirement is ensuring that data is accurately and securely migrated from the retiring application to a new storage solution or system. Key issues include maintaining data integrity, properly mapping data to the new system, and preventing data loss. To address these issues, enterprises should develop a detailed data migration plan, conduct extensive testing in a controlled environment, and utilize automated migration tools to handle large data volumes and complex data mappings.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Navigating the complex landscape of regulatory requirements during the application retirement process can be daunting. Regulations such as GDPR, HIPAA, and CCPA impose strict data handling and retention rules. Key challenges include ensuring data retention for the required period, protecting sensitive data, losing data during the migration, and maintaining comprehensive audit trails. Establishing a compliance framework, validating data transfer, implementing data masking techniques, and conducting regular audits can help enterprises meet these regulatory requirements.
- **Resource Allocation:** Allocating sufficient resources for the application retirement process can be challenging, particularly for large enterprises with numerous legacy systems. Key issues include ensuring enough skilled personnel, balancing time management with ongoing IT activities, and managing costs. Employing dedicated project management practices, forming cross-functional teams, and developing a comprehensive budget can help effectively allocate resources and meet project timelines.
- **End User Resistance:** Users accustomed to legacy systems may resist the change associated with application retirement, fearing workflow disruption and loss of familiar tools. Significant challenges include managing the transition, providing adequate training, and addressing user concerns. Developing a change management strategy, implementing comprehensive training programs, and establishing feedback mechanisms can help manage user resistance and ensure a smooth transition.



## Chapter 10: Future of Application Retirement

The future of application retirement is poised to be influenced by a convergence of technological advancements, evolving business needs, and increasing regulatory demands. As enterprises modernize their IT infrastructure, the strategies and tools for application retirement must be adapted to ensure continued efficiency, security, and compliance.

- **Integration of AI and ML:** Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) technologies are set to play a crucial role in the future of application retirement. These technologies can automate and enhance various aspects of the retirement process, from data analysis and migration to compliance monitoring and predictive maintenance, reducing human error and mitigating risks.
- **Dynamic Compliance Landscape:** Data governance and compliance will remain focal points as regulatory requirements evolve and become more stringent. Ensuring sensitive data protection through techniques like data masking and encryption, maintaining detailed audit trails, and enforcing data retention policies aligned with regulatory requirements will no longer be an option but a necessity.

## Chapter 11: Solix Application Retirement Solution

The SOLIXCloud Application Retirement solution offers a comprehensive Information Lifecycle Management (ILM) framework to retire legacy packaged and custom applications across relational databases and mainframe platforms. It also supports archiving all related unstructured data, such as report extracts (.PDFs, Excel, .csv), documents, and multimedia files.

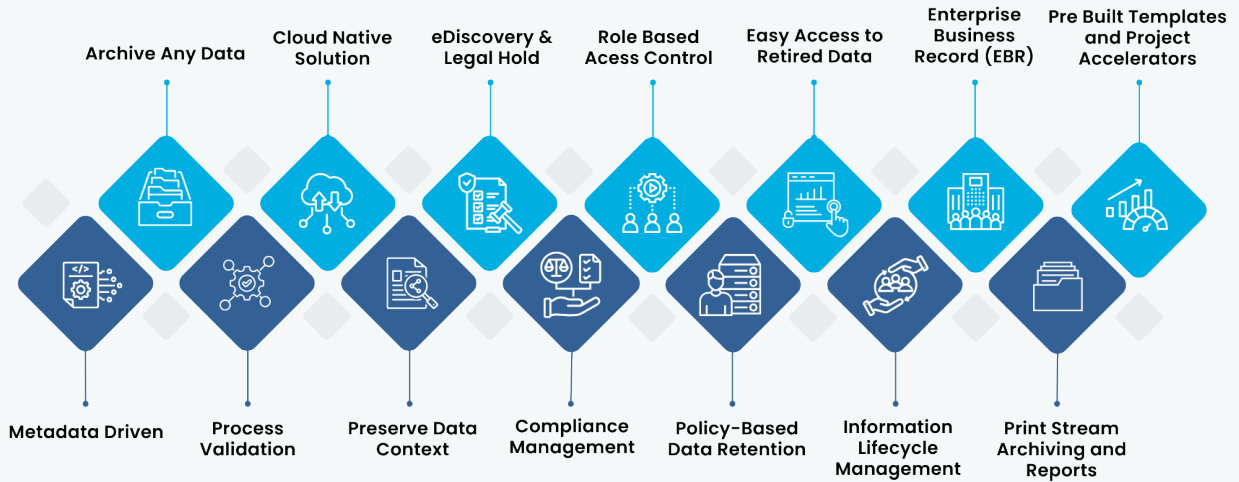


Solix has created software, a repeatable process, a methodology, and a suite of factory services tailored to address the challenges of application decommissioning. The SOLIXCloud Application Retirement as-a-service solution is composed of three main components:

- Solix Common Data Platform (CDP) software-as-a-service in the Microsoft Azure cloud (or private cloud)
- The Solix Application Retirement Process and Methodology
- Solix Application Retirement Factory Services

SOLIXCloud Application Retirement and Decommissioning enables organizations to rationalize their application portfolio and reduce infrastructure costs. We help organizations transition from complex, on-prem legacy application management to SaaS-based, modern alternatives. The following are the key capabilities that have made the SOLIXCloud Application Retirement solution the customer's choice for a very long time.

# Key Capabilities of SOLIXCloud Application Retirement



Selecting the right application retirement tool is critical for ensuring a smooth, compliant, and efficient retirement process. By prioritizing features such as data archiving and retention, compliance management, data validation, scalability, user-friendly interfaces, integration capabilities, security, reporting and analytics, and automation, enterprises can effectively transition from legacy systems to modern IT environments. The insights provided in this chapter should serve as a comprehensive guide for IT professionals and decision-makers in choosing the best tool to meet their organization's specific needs.

Discover how the SolixCLOUD Application Retirement solution can help you decommission outdated systems, reduce costs, and ensure compliance. Start your journey to a more efficient future today.



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## References

**Gartner**

“ Solix Technologies has been a leader in Gartner’s Magic Quadrant for Data Archiving and Application Retirement solutions for many years.

**FORRESTER**

“ Customers like Solix’s data search and data archiving capabilities, total cost of ownership, and technical support.

**Bloor**

“ It’s fit for purpose, particularly in regard to data lakes, and is well suited for handling compliance in a world where regulatory requirements are both frequently changing and differ dramatically from country to country and region to region.

**FROST & SULLIVAN**

“ The CDP provides granular knowledge and control of every data record from the moment it enters the system until purposefully deleted, — whether it originate from the cloud, on-premises, or multi-cloud — and that makes Solix CDP vital to the value generation of any organization.

**ABC Supply Co. Inc.**

“ Enterprise Archiving with Solix enables us to manage all of our data based on an enterprise blueprint with business rules for compliance and retention.

**FINISAR**

“ Solix makes the high-volume extraction and retirement of machine data simple, with these larger data sets, we are able to perform meaningful analysis and leverage existing tools to determine root cause analysis and find defects.

**ATD AMERICAN TIRE DISTRIBUTORS**

“ Database archiving has also helped ATD move toward a lifecycle management approach to data, meaning that the company is able to exercise more control over data’s creation, storage, and deletion.

**Microsoft**

“ Information archiving is now available as a service for public cloud users. SOLIXCloud is a tool for organizations looking to archive their data and applications at scale.”

**ORACLE**

“ Achieving Oracle Validated Integration gives our customers confidence that the integration between the Solix CDP and Oracle E-Business Suite is functionally sound and performs as tested.

**KRONOS**

“ We selected Solix because its archiving solution is best of breed and lends itself well to OEM deployment.

## Trusted by Industry Leading Organizations

