



When Is It Time to Buy a Terminal Emulator?

 inventu

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Choosing A Modern Terminal Emulation Solution

Is your company working off of an old-fashioned mainframe? Chances are that access to your applications could use some updating to reflect changes in technology and workforce trends. Problem is, there are different ways to do that, and the older ways of accessing and modernizing legacy systems up to date are no longer valid. You might think that over time you've taken the right steps to make your company work more closely with your mainframe, but if you haven't done anything to change it recently, then guess what? You face the same issues of application incompatibility and an incoherent workforce. And with more and more devices being introduced all the time, a mainframe's access needs are getting increasingly demanding. Things are different in the workplace now, and the mainframe access and modernization tools you use will need to reflect this. We're no longer living in the olden days of limited access—now, every office is more “wired,” even as the wires are going away. You need access to mainframe functionality that matches that

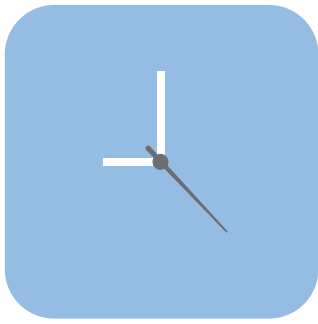
Organizations looking to modernize their approach to mainframe applications have to stay current if they want the best results. A desktop user interface modernization implementation, for example, is no longer the optimal way to improve on plain terminal emulation. Instead, the solution needs to be a web-based user interface that works equally on all devices and is adaptable to changing trends.

That's just one reason that companies should pay more attention to their modernization efforts and not just fall back on older options that aren't as relevant anymore. Selecting the best screen access and/or integration option is important now because the definition of what makes a successful modernization tool has changed and will continue to do so. Emulators based on Java or ActiveX are no longer the strongest choice out there and actually pose security and efficiency problems. If your company hasn't made any effort to implement a screen-access approach to legacy applications that fits the current web environment, your current plan is likely unsustainable and needs to be fixed soon.

Because of this, Inventu has screen-access products to help you find an answer that fits within the company's budget while offering new and prolonged system functionality. Since we're reaching the end of 2014, businesses should consider either using their existing budgets to secure a new terminal emulation option now or structuring the 2015 budget to help them do so. Less efficient options favor a pricing plan that is both out of date and requires costly annual maintenance.



Pay Attention to Modernization Efforts



Getting With the Times

Because of the rise of BYOD policies, the mainframe landscape is fundamentally different in 2014 compared to where it was ten or even five years ago. What used to be “modern” simply isn’t anymore, and new trends in device use have influenced the idea of what is up to date. It can be all too easy for someone to think they have the latest screen-access solution while the rest of the technological world is outpacing them.

Businesses that have invested in these less-effective plans will only see the negative when they think about modernizing, and that’s unfair. Companies need to think beyond the apparent increase in cost and instead focus on the lasting value that a modern web-based terminal emulation and user-interface modernization system will bring. Updating will make future adjustments easier because your company will already have server-based emulation in use rather than a modified desktop-based system.



The Cost-Effective Solution

Pricing is a major issue for CTOs when it comes time to think about improved access and modernization. Some older companies still require annual maintenance on individual desktop licenses for hundreds of dollars on products that aren’t up to date. While some lower-cost terminal emulators are supposed to be a budget-friendly solution to terminal emulation problems and high maintenance, they are actually counter-productive.

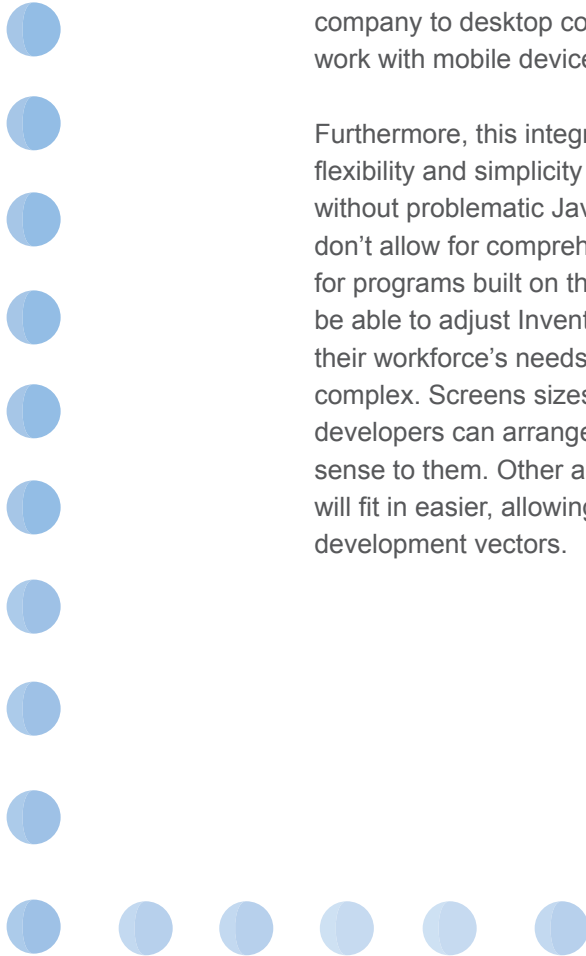
Other “budget” terminal emulation products are simply a newer version of an existing, outdated form of terminal emulator software, as opposed to a modern solution. You wouldn’t use Windows 95 on a 2014 server, so why work with host access and modernization tools that are no longer relevant? Replacing an older system with a network limitation and different graphic interface that still essentially works the same way doesn’t fix the problem: finding and purchasing a new solution that matches up with your new annual budget does. The pricing plan for Inventu’s products is based on their modern high quality and consistent performance.



Using A Web Application Integration Server Instead of Desktop Terminal Emulators

This is the better option for organizations that need to manage legacy access and modernization for several reasons. First and foremost, customers will get a server, not just a desktop-based solution. This means that your solution will be more suited to the web server environment and not simply ported over from a desktop emulator. Relying too much on that method ties your company to desktop computers rather than freeing them up to work with mobile devices and the cloud.

Furthermore, this integration model allows for user access flexibility and simplicity at the same time, and it does so without problematic Java or ActiveX plugins. These plugins don't allow for comprehensive mobile use, and are crutches for programs built on the older software. In contrast, users will be able to adjust Inventu's screen-based application tool to their workforce's needs, but in a way that isn't unnecessarily complex. Screens sizes are adaptable and analysts and developers can arrange the fields in a way that makes the most sense to them. Other applications that are introduced later on will fit in easier, allowing your business to stay closer to your development vectors.



How to Avoid Swivel Chairing

A company that doesn't have an adaptable but direct solution will be forced into inefficient practices like "swivel chairing," where users are constantly cutting-and pasting between web browser applications and desktop terminal emulators. Rather than sticking too closely to the older ways of using legacy applications, your company should...

Find more forward-thinking systems that will be usable in many different contexts.

The right solutions from Inventu will erase the need for an older, desktop-style UI modernization and set the standard for other related projects going forward.

By finding an alternative to this approach, your company won't have to do the amount of work that goes into not modernizing. Ultimately, it's more cost-effective to upgrade in an efficient way and avoid being entrenched in an ineffective screen access and integration plan. Whether you are looking to specifically address a mainframe with a strong SSL connection or an SSH for Unix and Linux-based systems, focusing on the current needs of your network, server and OS is key.

A screen-based user interface is a solution that doesn't neglect old screens or try to address them in incompatible ways. But more than anything else, companies should look at the different products available on Inventu's product page, compare product categories and pick the software that fits best with their current mainframe.

Inventu's Product Line

To find out more, visit our website and look through the products we have available as you plan the rest of your budget.

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