INCYTE
ENERGY SOLUTIONS

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Subject: Why Legacy Systems Linger

Every company has it – that piece of tech that you smack on the side like an old TV to get it to work. It's slow, outdated, but hey it gets the job done. Why do we keep these relics of the past? Because the powers that be think it's more costly to upgrade than to work with a system that has a few quirks.

Not all legacy systems can be thrown out with the bathwater, though. They're cost-prohibitive to replace completely, especially if they're integral to operations. From a budget perspective, you just can't justify the expense of the purchase, the training, and the integration involved in a total upgrade.

Here are a few examples of legacy systems and their impact:

- This Government Accountability report demonstrates that even the US government isn't immune to legacy systems. Of the annual budget, 80% of the cyber-security and IT funds are devoted to maintaining existing legacy system operations. Systems like this are susceptible to security breaches and lockouts, plus they have become increasingly difficult to maintain.
- If a legacy system is unique and niche, as it gets older, the likelihood that employees can operate that system diminishes. There will be fewer (and more costly) third party vendors to support these systems, along with fewer systems that are compatible with it. The support systems atrophy as less IT professionals can work on them, making the systems less sustainable.
- Day-to-day tasks, especially manual ones, become tedious. With professional satisfaction at a premium, people are willing to make some costly financial decisions to ensure their happiness at work. This survey regarding HR technologies identified 67% were willing to take a pay cut if it meant having access to better software at work.
- The vulnerabilities of legacy systems pose security and financial risks. Without routine patches to update security, the data legacy systems house is a potential target for cyberattacks and breaches. Banking, healthcare, and insurance all rely on complex systems to secure valuable identifying and financial information, many of which are legacy systems or require legacy system integration. To protect this data, financial penalties are incurred when a system does not maintain certain security compliance standards.

You may be locked into your legacy systems. Incyte transitioned a client to modernized software and our team had to maintain the legacy system to preserve operations. Our developers kept the pathways to the legacy system intact because it had decades' worth of data that employees needed access to.

Whether resistant to upgrading because of convenience or cost, businesses walk the line between expensive modernization and outdated legacy systems. You can circumvent most of these deleterious effects with preemptive action. Try updates instead of massive overhauls, training programs for new employees with career professionals, and integration methods with existing technologies.

If you'd like more insight as to how to take these steps, reach out to Incyte today.

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