

A Visionary Approach to Transforming IBM Z Development



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visionary

adjective vi·sion·ary \ 'vi-zhə-,ner-ē \

1: having or marked by foresight and imagination

- a *visionary* leader
 - a *visionary* invention
- “Visionary.” *Merriam-Webster.com*, Merriam-Webster, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/visionary.

A visionary approach always entails that the result is all encompassing, and transformative, rather than piecemeal and partial. This is the fundamental underpinning of the reinvention of the mainframe, with IBM z14™, spanning not only its well-known reliability, scalability, and security, but also the focus on the IBM Z® as an enabler of digital transformation. With all the disruption going on in technology, the one certainty is that the mainframe will be in the middle of the action. Even with the arrival of mobile and Internet of Things technology, what some call “systems of interaction”, most of the world’s critical businesses rely on the mainframe. But there have been inherent issues with developing and delivering code which needed to be addressed to keep it relevant for generations to come. While the hardware is cutting edge, with pervasive encryption, best in class reliability, scalability and security, there is a general perception that software development for the box is outdated, and it is getting more difficult to find the right skills to continue developing and deploying code to the platform. To this end, IBM has invested substantially to address this issue comprehensively. Why? Because being visionary requires that the focus not just be on the hardware but also on the people, process, and tools that ensure continued use and innovation.

The tools and processes that IBM provides play an important role in supporting a changing culture. Without culture change it is fundamentally infeasible to expect a successful result from agile transformation initiatives. One of the primary issues with culture change is the inability to convince experienced staff that they will benefit from such a change. They are vested in outdated processes, and tools with little incentive to change. It is important to reconcile these cultural issues so that the domain expertise of the experienced application developers can be fully tapped to drive transformation while infusing new blood into the mainframe IT shop.

The Application Developer plays a key role in accelerating Digital Transformation, therefore it is important to understand and address the challenges of this role, some of which include:

- Dealing with delays and bottlenecks across the software delivery lifecycle
- Finding and addressing potential defects before they hit production
- Working with a traditional waterfall development process which is slow to respond to market needs
- Quality suffering because there is insufficient time and resource to full test changes
- Lack of skills on the team to maintain, update or create new COBOL applications

Delaying to address these challenges can prevent:

- The best talent from being recruited to work on what is undoubtedly the most mission critical parts of any application
- Innovation from taking place, with transformation focused on areas that will provide lower return on investment
- The ability to provide a superior quality of service that could otherwise tap into the inherent strengths of the Z platform

IBM Z Digital Transformation provides a holistic and incremental approach to address the challenges of the Application Developer, with agility and enterprise flexibility as the thread that binds.

The IBM Z Digital Transformation Model (Figure 1) presents three primary transformation levels supported by agile practices, comprehensive tools, and culture change that will enable enterprises to realize the true value of digital transformation. These levels are:

1. Expose
2. Evolve
3. Optimize

This is underpinned by the 'Run & Maintain' level which comprises the latest levels of IBM Z subsystems, compilers, and monitoring tools to provide a healthy baseline and foundation for accelerating Digital Transformation. Gaining efficiencies in this foundational level is key in ensuring enterprises can free up resources for embracing the capabilities at the Expose, Evolve, and Optimize levels of the IBM Z Digital Transformation Model. Each of these levels has a set of associated, loosely coupled capabilities that can be incrementally adopted and mapped to key personas in an organization including the Application Developer. These capabilities allow enterprises to unlock the value of their enterprise application assets while adopting agile best practices along the way, with strong and open solutions supporting the journey

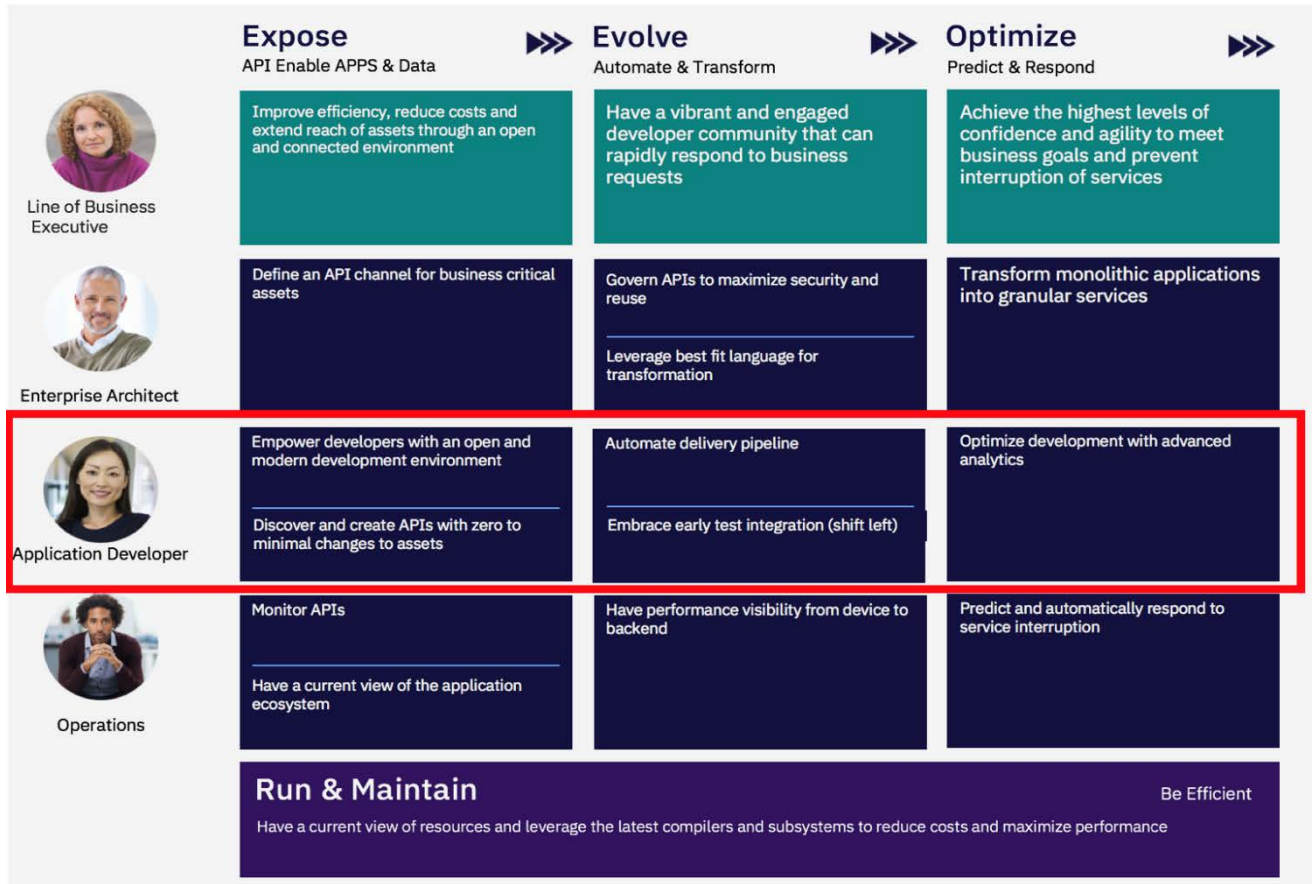


Figure 1: IBM Z Digital Transformation Model

Download the [IBM Z Digital Transformation whitepaper](#) to learn about how the capabilities in the IBM Z Digital Transformation Model can be incrementally adopted to address challenges and transform your organization.

Digital Transformation is a journey and only IBM provides a solution with a vision, providing industry-proven guidance for incremental adoption across development, operations and architecture.



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