

## Modernize IT or Suffer the Consequences—Application Strategy

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Application strategy is critical to organizational success. In recent times, many organizations have ignored changes in the IT application landscape and that strategic misstep has and will continue to cause problems for IT leaders as we move into the future.

The world of applications is changing, and to be successful IT leaders and teams must develop a coherent application strategy. Identifying and understanding the key signs of application changes allows IT teams to develop effective plans. Of critical importance is the understanding that organizations should not be hiring more programmers to keep old systems running, but should instead, modernize the company's application environment.

In this research article, Gartner Analyst Scott D. Nelson identifies 10 signs that an IT train wreck is coming and makes key recommendation for proactive, corrective action now! For example, three signs that your organization may be heading for an IT train wreck are:

1. Skill shortage – an organization wants to hire a COBOL programmer but is having difficulty finding one. However, it is the COBOL system which is driving the decision to hire COBOL programmers that it may or may be able to utilize in the future, rather than the need for COBOL programmers.
2. Consolidation of Vendors – the IT industry is consolidating and older systems are being retired and removed from support status. This results in higher maintenance changes with little show for functionality.
3. Legacy Capacity at Risk – New interfaces drive up transaction volumes, storage, etc. This increasing legacy capacity is at a premium cost.

Four recommended strategies for school IT leaders:

1. Put IT strategic planning at the heart of the CTO/CIO/Superintendent management agenda
2. Develop an application strategy
3. Fund an IT modernization/application overhaul program
4. Focus on retiring older systems.

*\*Individual copies of this original, complete Gartner Research Report may be requested through [TechConnect](#), the Education IT Peer Networking Community ( a service of the San Diego County Office of Education). Log on to your [TechConnect](#) account and join the [Information Technology Research Community](#) to request your individual copy. For more information or to join TechConnect, visit <http://www.techconnectk12.org>*

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Nelson, Scott. (2010, July 9). Signs indicate a train wreck is coming, unless you modernize IT. *Gartner Research, G002016984, 1-5.*