



Welcome to the Virtual IMS **CONNECTION** newsletter. Virtual IMS **CONNECTION** at www.virtualims.com is an independently-operated vendor-neutral site run by and for the IMS user community.

Virtual IMS **CONNECTION** IMS presentation

The latest webinar from Virtual IMS **CONNECTION** was entitled, “IMS Modernization: Making the Business Case”, and was presented by Henry Sobieski, Director of Product Marketing, from Software AG. Henry has over 23 years experience modernizing mainframe applications.

Henry suggested that modernization strategies were all very well in theory, but as far as an organization was concerned, the important point was what that strategy could do for the business.

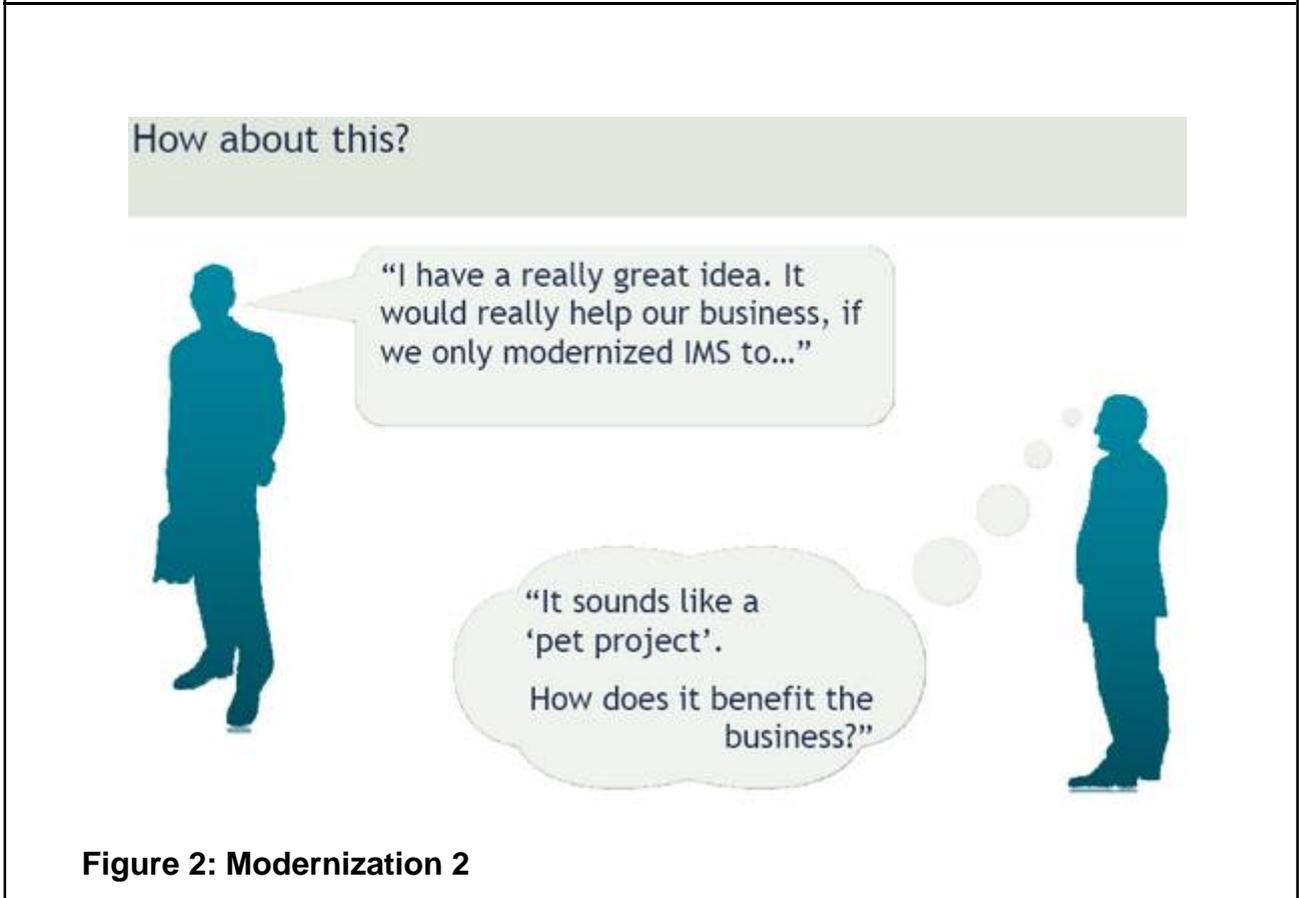
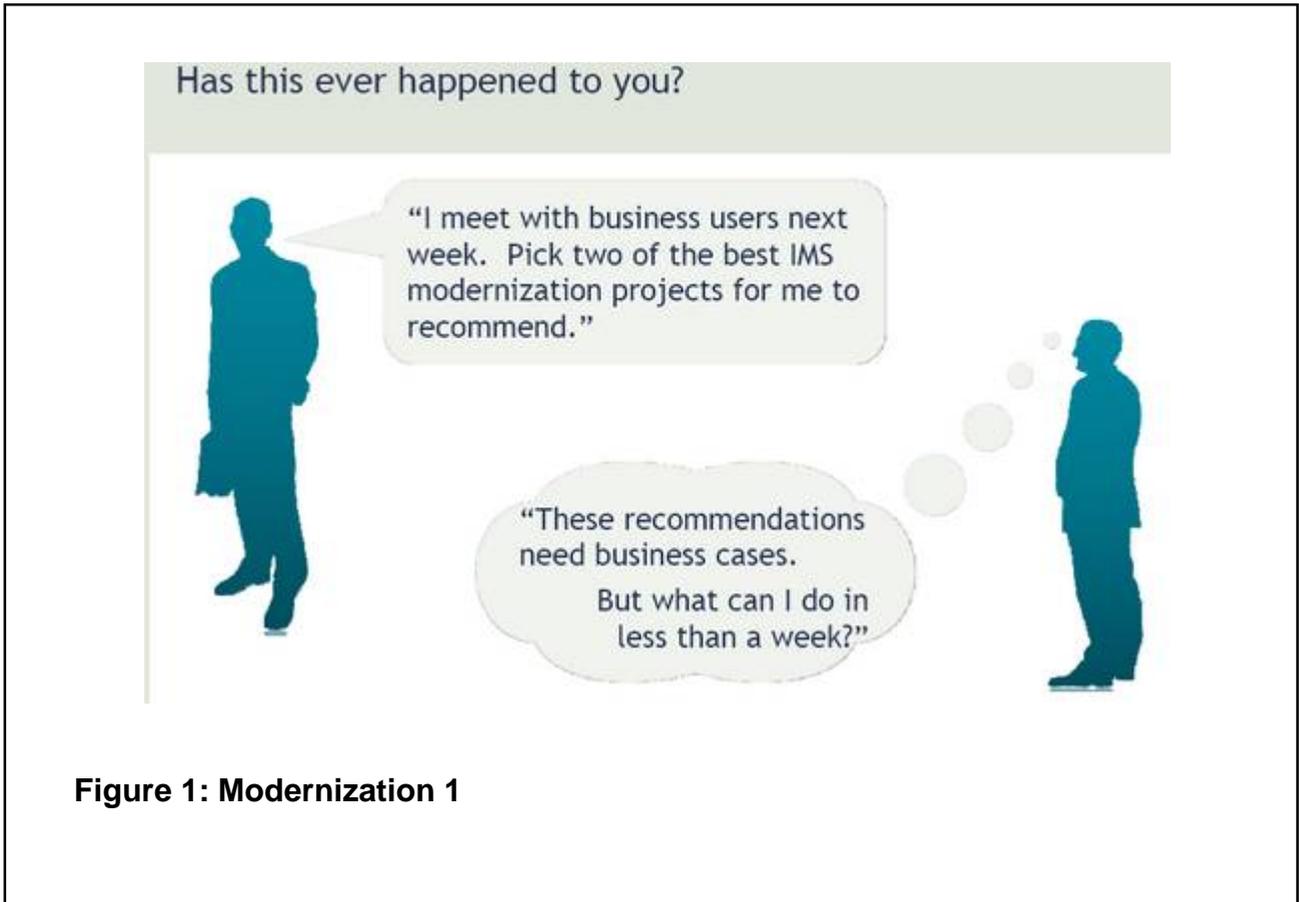
He ran over the results of the recent IMS survey published in *Mainframe Executive* (see “IMS Modernization: Survey Reveals Concerns for the Future”, January 2009). The survey found that 30% of sites had no plans to migrate, whereas 40% planned to rewrite, with <15% expecting to replace IMS with a package” and <15% looking at alternative solutions. The survey also found almost 73% of respondents felt challenged by the absence of relational query capabilities. Henry told the user group that Software AG, like CONNX at the previous meeting, had a strategy for providing users with SQL query capability on their IMS data. The survey revealed that less than 50% of respondents had reviewed and dismissed the idea of rewriting these applications, owing to the huge cost and considerable risk inherent in such a move. What they really needed was some way of refacing their IMS transactions rather than changing them. Again, Software AG (and others) can offer a way of achieving this.

Also discovered in the survey was the fact that nearly 60% of the organizations surveyed planned to revitalize legacy applications using SOA techniques. The survey disclosed that many other applications will probably migrate as part of SOA strategies now being evolved. Henry informed the user group that there was more to SOA than just creating a service. Again, Software AG could help organizations with this.

Not surprisingly, the survey found almost 73% of respondents felt challenged by...the difficulty of maintaining and enhancing applications. This lack of knowledge can be an enormous obstacle for so many sites.

Contents:

Virtual IMS CONNECTION presentation	1
IMS job bank	4
Virtual IMS CONNECTION meeting dates	5
News Update	5
Note to vendors	5
IBM's IMS newsletter	6
IMS Redbooks	6
About Virtual IMS CONNECTION	6





Henry Sobieski summarized the main strategies for IMS modernization as knowledge transfer, Web enablement, Simplified data access, and SOA adoption.

Henry then looked at possible discussions around modernization that might possibly happen in an organization. These are illustrated in Figures 1, 2, and 3.

The real question associated with any modernization plan is will it work? Will there be a cost reduction? Will there be an improvement in the process? And how long will it take before there is an improvement - what's the speed to value? Answering these questions determine the business value of a modernization process.

So how can an organization calculate the value to the company of a modernization plan? Henry went on to describe a new tool that Software AG is making freely available for people to use for this purpose.

Using a made-up business example, Henry walked the group through how the series of questions could be subjectively rated. Using these values, the Business Value Gauge can be used to see how much of a business improvement will result from the modernization plan. Figure 4 shows the scores for two different modernization projects. Clearly, anything in the green zone is very good, and anything in the red zone needs to be re-evaluated. The large central gauge can compare two different projects, visually illustrating in which area they are

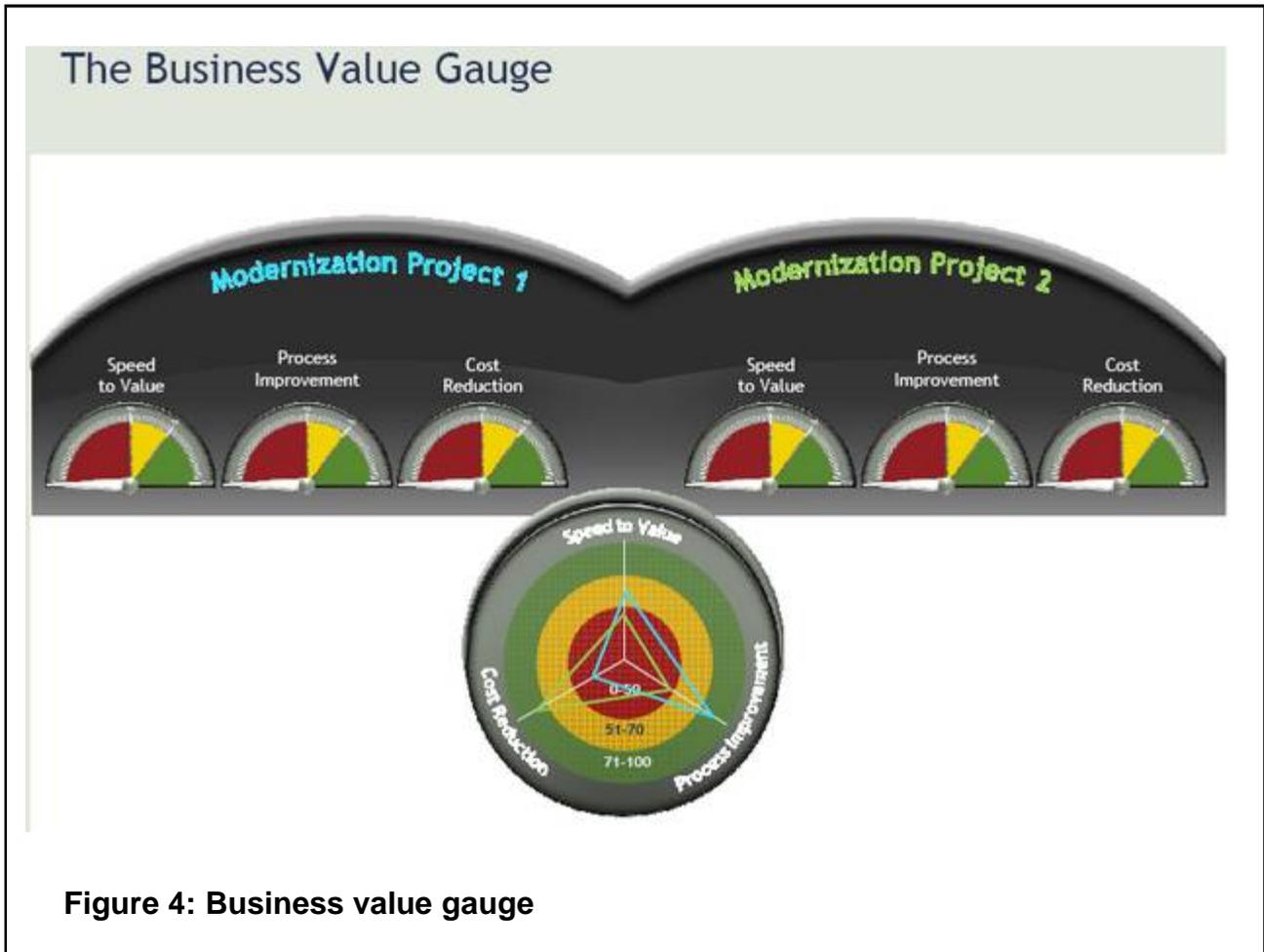


Figure 4: Business value gauge

stronger or weaker. This can be easily understood by business people who may need to sign off on the project.

Henry indicated that the use of such a tool could speed up the process because organizations would get stuck in analysis paralysis. More details about the tool can be found at <http://www.softwareag.com/modernize>.

A copy of Henry's presentation is available for download from the Virtual IMS CONNECTION Web site at [http://www.virtualims.com/presentations/IMS modernization - making the business case.pdf](http://www.virtualims.com/presentations/IMS%20modernization%20-%20making%20the%20business%20case.pdf).

IMS job bank

The Virtual IMS CONNECTION Web site contains a Job Bank section, where IMS professionals can put their resumes, and organizations can advertise any open positions they have. The service is completely free.

Virtual IMS CONNECTION meeting dates

The following meeting dates have been arranged for the Virtual IMS CONNECTION user group:

- June 9, 2009 – Tom Harper, Product Author, NEON.
“zIIP processing”
- August 4, 2009 – Kevin Hite, IMS lead tester, IBM.
“IMS Open DB functionality in IMS V11”
- October 6, 2009 – Rob Morris, Chief Strategy Officer, GT Software.

All meetings start at 10:30 Central Time (4:30 GMT in the winter and 3:30 GMT during daylight saving time). All members will be e-mailed the WebEx URL, access code, and password for each meeting. Members need to log in about five minutes before the meetings starts in order for the WebEx connection to complete, and to phone into the freephone number provided so they can join in with the audio component of the meeting.

News Update

SOA Software has launched its mainframe SOA solution SOLA for IMS transactions. SOLA is a mainframe Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) solution that makes mainframe applications part of an SOA. SOLA provides customers with a process to expose mainframe applications as secure Web services, and allows mainframe applications to consume Web services. Using SOLA, customers can leverage existing mainframe investments when building an enterprise SOA. The SOLA runtime environment runs entirely on the mainframe, eliminating the need for expensive, unreliable and unnecessary middleware. This coupled with SOLA's Development Studio increases developer productivity, providing faster time to market and lower application development cost—the company claims. More information is available from www.soa.com/index.php/news/press_detail/soa_software_launches_mainframe_soa_solution_for_ims/.

Note to vendors

Please ensure the data about your products on the Tools page of the Webs ite is up-to-date. This valuable resource is used by IMS professionals to find software that meets their particular needs. A sale could be lost if the information were incomplete or out-of-date.

IBM's IMS newsletter

IBM's IMS newsletter is now online rather than printed – if you were wondering why you hadn't seen your hardcopy yet! The inaugural edition is dated 31 March 2009, and can be accessed at http://www-931.ibm.com/tela/webmail/NIDynamicPage/4857/13291/cosmetic?web_page_id=384258&pre=0.

The featured article in this edition is an interview with Kristine Harper Neely of NEON Enterprise Software, profiling her involvement in SHARE's zNextGen project. zNextGen provides educational and career guidance to technical professionals new to IBM System z.

Supporting articles include *To compress or encrypt data? That is the question* by Geoff Jackson. The article describes how you can satisfy data security regulations for data encryption using IMS Hardware Compression Extended segment compression tool and IBM Data Encryption for IMS and DB2 Databases. There's also *IMS Connect: Bringing IMS and SOA Together* by Dave Cameron, Ben Johnson, and Jack Yuan. The article provides best practices information for configuring IMS Connect and IMS Connect clients to help IMS Connect run more efficiently in SOA and non-SOA environments. In the article *IMS Connect Benchmark on IBM System z10 Enterprise Class*, Bovorit Pibulsonggram of IMS Performance test shares the results of an IMS Connect performance benchmark on IBM System z10 Enterprise Class. There's also *Using IBM System Storage DS8000 for High OLDS Logging Data Rate* by Cedric Chen, who shares the results of IMS OLDS logging data performance using IBM System Storage DS8000. Lastly, there's *IMS Health Checks and Service Offerings* by Gary Wicks, which gives a high-level overview of the various IMS Health Checks and IMS Service Offerings that the IMSATS team can provide to IMS customers. The issue also includes IMS Profiles and a personal note from the editor of the IMS Newsletter.

IMS Redbooks

The latest IMS Redbook to be published is entitled: *Powering SOA Solutions with IMS*. For more information <http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247662.html>.

About Virtual IMS CONNECTION

Virtual IMS CONNECTION is a user group established as a way for individuals using IBM's IMS hierarchical database and transaction processing systems to exchange information, learn new techniques, and advance their skills with the product.

The Web site at www.virtualims.com provides a central point for coordinating periodic meetings (which are technically-oriented topics presented in a webinar format), and will provide articles, discussions, links, and other resources of interest to IBM IMS practitioners. Anyone with an interest in IMS is welcome to join Virtual IMS CONNECTION and share in the knowledge exchange.

To share ideas, and for further information, contact trevor@itech-ed.com.

The Virtual IMS CONNECTION user group is free to its members. Various sponsorship opportunities are available to vendors of IMS-related products. Full details of these opportunities and can be found [here](#).