EVALUATION TOOLKIT

14GL MODERNIZATION

This document gives decision makers two quick instruments to assess whether incremental modernization with Genero—or an alternative path—makes sense for their Informix 4GL estate.



1. Modernization Readiness Checklist

Rate each statement from 1 to 5 (1 = Strongly Disagree, 5 = Strongly Agree), sum the scores then check your score.

#	Statement	Score (1-5)
Skills & Team		
1	We struggle to recruit or retain Informix 4GL developers.	
2	Our current team could learn a Genero style workflow within a few weeks.	
Application Health		
3	The codebase is largely stable; business logic rarely changes.	
4	Critical bugs are hard to fix because of legacy screen/SQL coupling.	
User Experience		
5	End users complain about "green screen" usability or look and feel.	
6	Mobile/Web access would unlock clear productivity gains.	
Cos	t & Risk	
7	IBM Extended Support fees or work arounds are rising each year.	
8	A 12-month freeze for a full rewrite is unacceptable to the business.	
	Sum	

Scoring guide

- 0 to 16 → Low pain. Monitor but modernization not urgent.
- 17 to 28 → Moderate pain. Target "Quick Wins" first (see Matrix below).
- 29 to 40 → High pain. Prioritize an incremental modernization roadmap within 6-12 months.

2. Effort × Impact Matrix

Map potential actions onto the grid below. Start with quick wins, schedule strategic bets, and defer high effort / low impact ideas.

HIGH IMPACT

LOW IMPACT

LOW EFFORT

Quick Wins

- Replace top pain screens & reports UX redesign.
- Expose read-only REST APIs.
- Containerize current runtime.
- Run on mobiles and tablets.

Nice to Have

• Cosmetic theme refresh.

HIGH EFFORT

Strategic Bets

- Break monolith into service modules.
- Database migration.

Avoid / Reconsider

• One-off rewrites of seldom used modules.

How to use

- 1. Brainstorm candidate initiatives.
- 2. Place each in the quadrant that best reflects relative effort vs business impact.
- 3. Tackle Quick Wins first to gain momentum and stakeholder buy in.
- 4. Reevaluate the matrix quarterly as modernization progresses.



About Four Js Development Tools

Since 1992, we help companies transform legacy mission-critical applications to meet today's demands. Our platform Genero Enterprise allows to creates or to turn legacy systems into robust, scalable solutions, easily deployable across desktop, web, and mobile.

Trusted by clients worldwide, we combine decades of expertise with a global services and customer care network to deliver applications built to perform—reliably, securely, without interruption.