



Financial Services Firm Accelerates COBOL Modernization with CloudFrame & EPAM

Background

A leading Financial Services (FS) firm sought to reduce mainframe COBOL application costs while ensuring business continuity. Facing rising operational expenses and growing talent shortages, the firm explored modernization strategies. CloudFrame facilitated a partnership between the firm and EPAM, leveraging their combined expertise to compare automated COBOL-to-Java transformation against traditional modernization approaches offered by well-established vendors.

Customer Challenges

The FS firm faced three major hurdles with their COBOL-based systems:

- Escalating Costs – High maintenance and infrastructure expenses.
- Talent Shortages – Limited availability of COBOL-skilled developers.
- Innovation Roadblocks – Inability to integrate modern technologies into their mainframe environment.

Solution

Initially, the firm considered greenfield application development as the only viable modernization approach—until CloudFrame and EPAM introduced a low-risk, automated transformation alternative.

EPAM conducted a comprehensive evaluation of CloudFrame's automated COBOL-to-Java transformation software against competing modernization solutions.

Based on this assessment, EPAM designed a minimal-risk, tool-assisted migration strategy, ensuring:

- Thorough Code Reviews – Validating functional accuracy and maintainability.
- Structured Migration Roadmap – Providing a clear phased approach to modernization.
- Future-State Architecture – Ensuring compatibility with cloud-native environments.
- Transparent Cloud-Based Pricing – Enabling cost predictability and optimized investments.

This approach ensured a seamless transition of the firm's COBOL codebase into maintainable, cloud-native Java, aligning with 12-factor application development principles.

The Results

CloudFrame's CodeNavigator platform exceeded the firm's expectations, generating 100% functionally equivalent Java code that their development team found readable and maintainable. Encouraged by the predictable and consistent results, the firm is now accelerating their COBOL migration efforts.

Key benefits include:

- Lower Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) – Reduced ongoing infrastructure and maintenance costs.
- Minimal Disruption – Achieved functional parity without rewriting applications from scratch.
- Faster Time-to-Value – Accelerated modernization without compromising operational stability.

The transformed code met all critical software quality benchmarks, including:

- Speed of Transformation
- Accuracy of Transformation – Functional Equivalence & Numeric Precision
- Robust Code & Design Principles
- Adherence to Object-Oriented Programming (OOP) Concepts
- REST API Design Best Practices
- Twelve-Factor Cloud-Native Methodology
- Industry-Standard Code Quality Metrics

By adopting CloudFrame's AI-driven modernization approach with EPAM's strategic guidance, the FS firm is now positioned for a scalable, future-ready digital transformation—without the risks of traditional modernization approaches.