Extinguishing Tech Debt
From Your Environment

The drive to modernization is critical and can seem urgent. But when adoption of new technology is rushed and legacy systems remain in place and unintegrated, technical debt builds like a wildfire. Read on to see why it’s important to understand how tech debt works — and how to stop it.

Tech debt: The off-balance-sheet measure of the cost of reworking an approach caused by choosing an easy, yet limited, solution

Technical debt is the consequence of development teams prioritizing speed or release over perfect code. It’s often the result of applying quick fixes instead of full-scale solutions. Put simply, tech debt is the enemy of efficiency. It takes the focus away from strategic initiatives. Organizations end up spending more resources, time and energy on maintaining legacy systems rather than on innovation. And unless you tackle it, the debt continues to accumulate and becomes a bigger challenge over time.

According to the annual Insight-commissioned Foundry survey:

- 86% report their organization has been impacted by technical debt over the past 12 months.
- 39% now cite technical debt as a top obstacle to innovation, following IT skills and knowledge gaps and budget constraints.
- 47% of respondents continue to rank technology as the most challenging aspect of digital transformation.
- 43% say the ability to innovate,
- 41% meet service-level agreements
- 37% avoid downtime.

Top areas affected are: maintenance and patching are very difficult. Skills gaps go unaddressed. Infrastructure ages in place. Resource allocation is out of sync with the business. No clear strategy is defined for IT and the business. Teams are focused only on short-term problems and features. Datasets are fragmented. Business impacts: Reduced ROI for modernization. Weak security and increased risk. Excessive and unanticipated costs. Transformation in inhibited. Talent retention challenges. No disaster recovery. Poor disaster recovery.