

How to switch session manager painlessly

THE NEED FOR CHANGE

A session manager is vital for allowing users to access mainframe applications quickly and securely. Any session manager with an uncertain future poses a huge business risk, so you may feel forced to switch to a new product if:

- ▶ The session management software you use today is no longer being actively developed
- ▶ Your current supplier is withdrawing its session management software from the market
- ▶ Your session manager no longer offers all the functionality you need

Choosing the right alternative

Fortunately there are strong replacement products available that offer comprehensive session management capabilities.

However, any potential supplier must also be able to demonstrate a commitment to developing and supporting its product over the long term. After all, few CIOs would willingly face the disruption of switching products again in another few years. Indicators of a healthy product include a recent history of regular upgrades and new features, together with an active product roadmap extending well into the future.

Other important factors to consider:

- ▶ Selecting a strong, stable product – does the software have a large, global user base? Is it used in major enterprises, by thousands of users?
- ▶ Finding a reliable vendor – is the vendor a large organization with a strong mainframe pedigree? Is there an acquisition threat which could lead to the product being discontinued?
- ▶ Innovation – are new features available that would help you to modernize, such as web and mobile access?

Reducing the impact

There are several problems commonly experienced when switching from one session manager to another:

- ▶ Lengthy timescales – migration can take as long as two years or more
- ▶ Significant development, testing and training costs
- ▶ Loss of productivity due to end users and IT staff working with a new, unfamiliar system
- ▶ Diversion of people and budget away from strategic IT projects

When choosing a replacement product it is therefore important to consider not just the software's functionality and price, but also the additional costs and effort involved in migration. These problems can be reduced or even eliminated by switching to a product that is compatible with your existing session manager.



The Macro 4 approach

Compatible switching with Macro 4

Macro 4's Tubes session manager is designed to allow fast migration from other products. Users of IBM Session Manager (ISM), for example, have switched over to Tubes in less than one day, with minimal effort. The ISM and Tubes products are 100% compatible, so any ISM customizations work instantly in Tubes. Users suffer no inconvenience because their new Tubes session manager will look and work exactly like their old ISM system, with all of the same features and functions – and more if required.

A proven switching process

Macro 4 has a simple four step process for migrating customers to Tubes, which we are happy to share with anyone considering switching. We produce a detailed conversion document explaining how to install the new system and apply your current system customizations. From start to finish, including testing, the whole process can take as little as a couple of weeks. For example, one Macro 4 customer who switched from IBM Session Manager had a new Tubes system up and running in less than one day and went live thirteen days later.

Session management specialists

Macro 4 has a specialist technical team who can help you make the move and will support you through the transition. Our company has more than 30 years' experience of developing session management software and our support team enjoys customer satisfaction ratings that are amongst the highest in the software industry.

More than a traditional session manager

Tubes is the most technologically advanced session management software available today. Alongside a fully customizable 3270 interface, Tubes offers new interfaces that improve customer experience and increase productivity:

- ▶ Web – instantly web enable all of your mainframe applications by accessing them through the Tubes browser interface, avoiding the need for costly terminal emulation software for 3270 access
- ▶ Mobile – a tile-based interface, optimized for touchscreen mobile devices, keeps your users connected to mainframe applications on the move
- ▶ Eclipse – operate your Tubes system from any Eclipse framework, with terminal emulation included for free
- ▶ Performance monitoring – improve service levels by monitoring application response times and user activity using an integral performance dashboard

A PRODUCT WITH A BRIGHT FUTURE

If you switch to Tubes it will be the last move you ever need to make.

Tubes is an established session manager, used by thousands of satisfied customers in enterprises across the globe. Session management is core to Macro 4's success and we continue to invest heavily in product development and innovation, helping our customers to modernize mainframe access for a new generation of users.

- ▶ We will guarantee never to withdraw support for this product.

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