Mainframe Decommission Project Charter

Project Overview and Strategic Fit

With the implementation of OneCarolina, University Technology Services will retire legacy hardware and software systems. The legacy mainframe is scheduled to be retired six months after the final PeopleSoft conversion currently scheduled for January 2016. Data stored using IMS, CMS, or TSO on the mainframe will be impacted by this retirement.

The mainframe computer, which the University of South Carolina has used for over 30 years, has historically been used for administrative, academic, research, and personal computing. As part of the OneCarolina initiative, USC has been moving off the mainframe to other applications and platforms that provide consistent and contemporary access to data, capabilities, and processes.

The decommissioning team is working to identify the residual functional processes and data owners still on the mainframe. Residual enterprise data will be migrated off the mainframe, validated and a reporting mechanism will be created so that stakeholders will have access to legacy data. Non-enterprise processes and data will be up to the department or individual user to transition. Any unclaimed or unidentifiable datasets, tapes, etc. will not be accessible once the mainframe is decommissioned.

Objectives/Goals:

The goal of the mainframe decommission is to retire legacy applications in a strategic manner that will ensure that relevant business data and information contained in these legacy applications that hasn’t already been migrated to other applications is retained if needed.

- Reduce vendor support and licensing costs associated with the mainframe
- Migrate enterprise data according to data steward/data owner requirements
- Remove obsolete applications from the mainframe environment
- Physical shutdown of the mainframe

Benefits

- Cost savings
- Controlled and secure destruction of data no longer needed.

Assumptions

- Executive Leadership support for the mainframe decommissioning will be communicated to the University community
- The migration of legacy applications off the mainframe will be supported by the application stewards (owners)
- UTS senior leadership will prioritize the project and allocate the necessary resources
- Existing mainframe support staff will be trained and redeployed to other positions throughout UTS, based on need and interest
Constraints

• Limited qualified and experienced resources are a major constraint for this project
• The mainframe decommission date is dependent on the OneCarolina Phase II implementation for Finance, HR and Identity Management
• The mandate for the mainframe decommission is six months after the final successful OneCarolina implementation

Risks

• Delays to OneCarolina Phase II for Finance, HR and Identity Management will directly impact the decommission date
• Ageing hardware and unsupported levels of critical software like IMS and DB2.
• Hardware failure could cause significant delays and/or loss of critical departmental functions
• Technical expertise to continue maintenance of the hardware and software systems is dwindling and will eventually result in a significant loss of institutional knowledge associated with the mainframe

Communication:

• Communicate the Mainframe Decommission initiatives and how it will impact University of South Carolina faculty and staff access to mainframe processes and data beyond the June 2016 date.
  ➢ CIO DOIT Newsletter
  ➢ Periodic emails to all faculty/staff to provide update status, call to action to claim their UserID and data
  ➢ Present updates at various university system council scheduled meetings
  ➢ Communicate directly with identified data owners
  ➢ Webpage detailing project objectives, frequently asked questions
  ➢ Decommission messages on related login screens: mainframe, VIP