

The Business Case for Modernising Without Stopping the Bank

A CTO's guide to closing the delivery gap without betting the institution on a rewrite



The number that should be on every technology committee agenda

UK banks now spend an average of 24% of their entire IT budget, roughly £3.3 billion sector-wide, purely to keep core banking systems running rather than improving them.

A separate survey of UK banking innovation leaders found that over half describe their core platform as a "bottomless pit" for time and money, and a majority report hidden costs they only discover after the fact. Put in front of a technology committee, that figure reframes the conversation from whether to fund modernisation to what continuing to fund the alternative actually costs: billions a year, sector-wide, for standing still.



The trade-off boards are actually weighing

Every technology committee eventually reaches the same two options. Keep patching, and the maintenance bill keeps climbing while the gap widens between what the bank can ship and what challenger banks and fintechs ship in a fraction of the time. Sixty-nine percent of banking professionals now say fintech partnerships are a deliberate part of their growth strategy, which is a fair measure of how normalised the velocity gap has become as a competitive reality rather than a hypothetical risk.

Or replace the core outright, the option boards fear most, and with reason. Full rewrites of core banking platforms typically run past three years, cost well into nine figures, and fail to deliver a working result more often than they succeed.

Neither option holds up well under scrutiny. A third path exists, and most boards have not yet had it presented to them clearly: incremental decomposition that starts delivering measurable results in weeks, not years, with no cutover weekend that puts the whole institution at risk.



What incremental modernisation delivers

Metric	Typical range	Basis
Release velocity	60-70% faster releases	Maveric client engagement data, live programmes
IT run-cost	30-50% reduction for modernised domains	Maveric client engagement data, live programmes
First proof point	Within 90 days	Typical for a well-scoped first bounded-context extraction



Range reflects Maveric's published programme benchmarks (API & Microservices Practice, CIO Briefing 2025). The case study below shows measured outcomes from a specific live UK engagement.



Why this protects the bank while it modernises

The core keeps running throughout. A routing layer sits in front of it, new services are built and proven one at a time, and each one only takes over live traffic after demonstrating it can carry the load without incident. If a component underperforms, the routing layer sends traffic back to the legacy path. None of this requires a freeze on other technology work, and none of it requires the committee to approve a fixed multi-year budget before seeing a single result.



What this looks like in a live UK programme

A UK bank engaged Maveric to digitise its business banking account opening journey, including KYC, KYB, AML screening and credit risk profiling, hosted on Microsoft Azure with the process automated end to end. Retail customers now open an account in six minutes and business banking customers in fifteen, against a partner customer base of roughly 100 million, and the bank measured a 50 percent improvement in operational efficiency once the platform went live.

The bank achieved that without replacing its core, by putting a modern process and integration layer in front of it instead. That is the same pattern this brief is proposing for the delivery velocity problem more broadly.



What the first ninety days would include

- ✓ A prioritised, sequenced view of which bounded context to extract first, based on where integration pain is highest today
- ✓ Reference architectures for payments, lending, KYC, Customer 360 and trade finance, drawn from more than 30 live banking programmes
- ✓ A phased roadmap the committee can approve incrementally, rather than as a single large commitment
- ✓ A named delivery contact throughout, rather than a handover to a separate implementation team



If this business case looks familiar

Every institution's starting point is different. If it would help to talk through what this looks like for yours, we're glad to make the time.

Sources: SaaSquad, "The Great Cloud Con" UK banking survey (2026); American Banker, 2026 State of Open Finance Adoption survey

The Maveric Edge

Maveric Systems is a banking-exclusive technology specialist with 25+ years of domain expertise, engineering trust in AI-first banking. We deploy AI at the core through our proprietary AI@Scale framework and AI-powered platforms, guided by principles that engineer trust by design. Our pragmatic, outcome-driven approach, and AI services spanning advisory, CoE establishment and specialist competencies led engagements make us the trusted engineering partner for the AI era.

25+

years of domain mastery

7+

Operations and Technology AI CoEs

12+

AI powered Platforms and Solutions

AI@Scale

Proprietary Framework for AI adoption at Scale