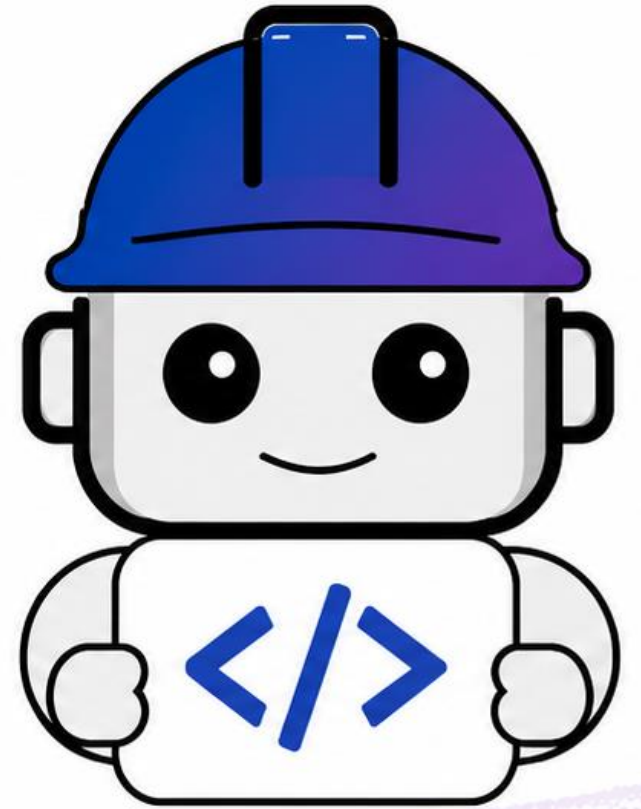


AI on IBMi & Mainframe

Niv Bardas – AI Solutions Architect



Analysis

15 April 2026

3 min read

Resultsense

[via The Register](#)

Gartner predicts 70% of 2026 AI-led mainframe exit projects will fail

Analyst firm warns generative AI cannot deliver promised legacy code conversion, with 75% of mainframe-exit vendors expected to pivot or disappear by 2030.

Systems

AI-powered mainframe exits are a bubble set to pop

Analysts reckon 70 percent of projects will fail, and 75 percent of vendors in the field will go away

[Simon Sharwood](#)

25

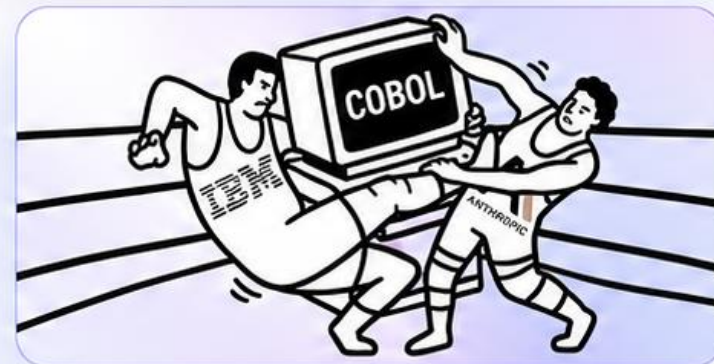
Published Wed 15 Apr 2026 / 03:00 UTC



IBM's \$40B stock wipeout is built on a misconception: Translating COBOL isn't the same as modernizing it

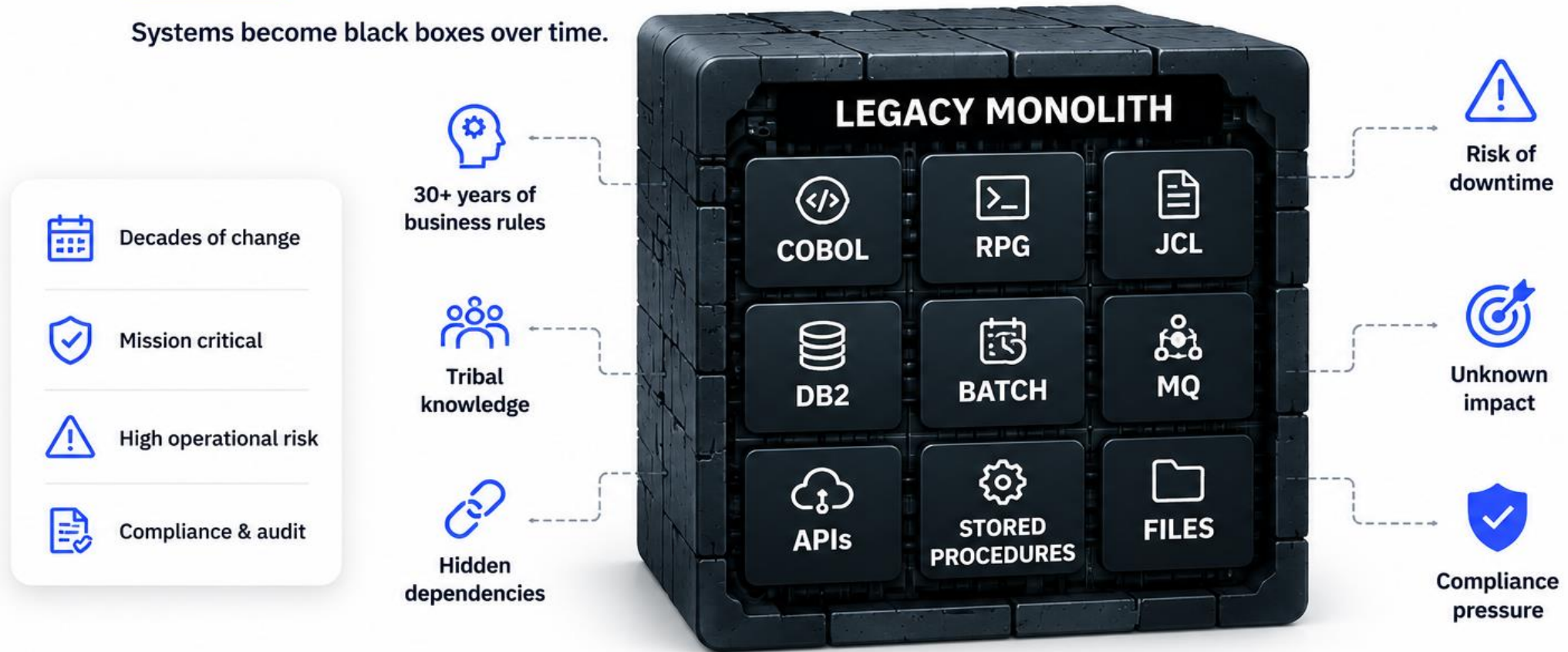
[Sean Michael Kerner](#)

2:00 pm, PT, February 24, 2026



WHY LEGACY MODERNIZATION IS SO HARD

Systems become black boxes over time.



The problem isn't old code.
The problem is hidden business logic and operational risk.

IBM

HEALTHY MODERNIZATION WITH AI

Modernization should be **engineering**, not archaeology.



Big Bang Rewrite

High risk • Disruptive • Hard to control

VS.



Incremental AI-Assisted Modernization

Lower risk • Continuous value • Built for change

WHY IBM BOB IS DIFFERENT

— Not just AI. Built for *safe, incremental modernization* that enterprises can trust.

✗ OTHER AI TOOLS



Code in isolation

Miss the full picture



Limited impact awareness

Higher risk of breakage



Generic output

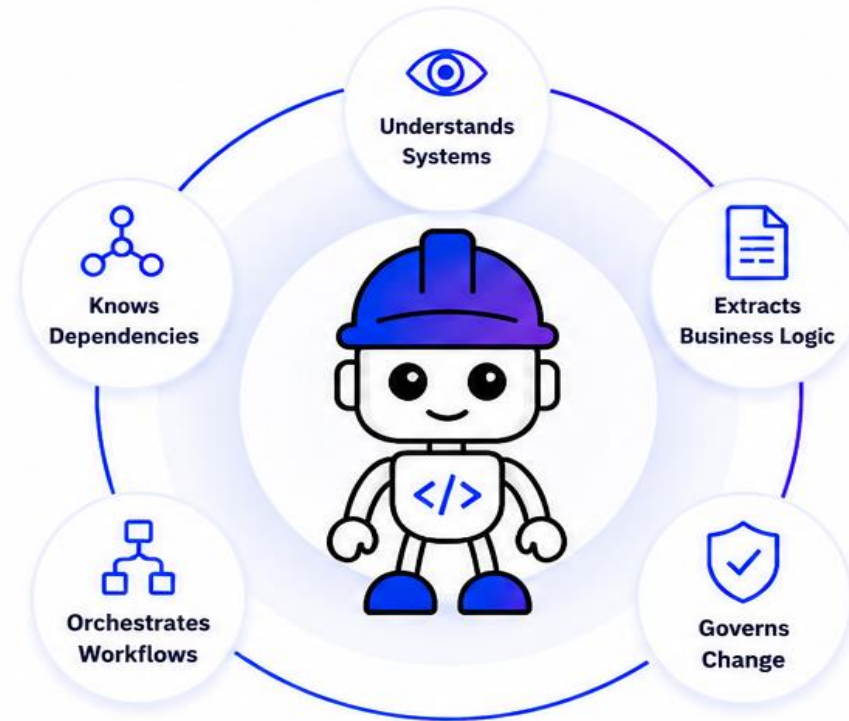
No business context



No built-in governance

Harder to control change

IBM BOB



BOB turns complexity into clarity.
Understand. Modernize. Govern. Evolve.

✓ REAL OUTCOMES



Faster Modernization

Move at enterprise speed



Lower Risk

Validate impact, avoid surprises



Higher Quality

Better outcomes with guided execution



Preserve Value

Protect systems and business logic

COBOL Banking Demo (Mainframe)

IBM 3270 TERMINAL EMULATOR

MAIN MENU

• ONLINE

IBM watsonx Orchestrate

English

?

NB

MAINFRAME BANKING SYSTEM - MAIN MENU

USER: ADMIN 5/12/2026, 16:21:49

Record Selected Window

— ONLINE TRANSACTIONS (CICS) —

1. Account Inquiry (ACCTINQ)

2. Fund Transfer (FUNDXFR)

3. Transaction History (TRANSHST)

— BATCH PROCESSING (JCL) —

4. End-of-Day Report (BATCHRPT)

— SYSTEM —

5. Reset Data (DATARST)

6. Sign Off (SIGNOFF)

SELECTION ==>

4:22 PM

Hello, welcome to watsonx Orchestrate

Accuracy of generated answers may vary. Please double-check responses.

What can you do for me?
Learn about watsonx Orchestrate AI Agent and Gen AI capabilities

Formalize Message
Craft more professional messages

Summarize Meeting Notes
Bullet key points from meeting notes

Type something...