



Revolutionizing 5250 Application Modernization

LANSA's Rapid Application Modernization Process (RAMP) is the solution for legacy system modernization that addresses both your immediate tactical needs and strategic long-term modernization requirements. RAMP is a reengineering tool that lets you rapidly consolidate your 5250 applications into a graphical application framework to create composite applications. You can then incrementally replace your 5250 programs with new components in a timeframe that makes sense to your organization.

Why is RAMP different?

RAMP's ability to combine the old with the new addresses both your immediate tactical issues for green screen to GUI modernization and your long-term redevelopment and replacement strategies for 5250 application modernization.

With RAMP you start with a modern application. The application framework is already a desktop or Web application where you combine your 5250 application with other applications to assemble a composite application. You evolve the resulting composite application by adding new parts and gradually replacing the 5250 application.

RAMP raises the legacy system modernization bar to a new level and delivers much more than conventional refacing technologies that provide little more than presentation enhancements. Applications modernized with RAMP also expand your choice of client devices including, Windows, Linux, Apple Mac, iPad and Android tablets.

What is RAMP?

RAMP is an application framework deployable as a Windows desktop or Web browser application. You use the framework to consolidate functionality by combining 5250 and Windows applications with new components to create composite applications. The framework allows you to assemble composite applications from components built with RPG, Visual LANSA, Visual C#.NET, HTML pages, and many more.

The framework includes a graphical user interface comprising a workspace with navigation tools, search filters, search results lists and one or more panels. The panels display details from business objects and application components. For example, a panel showing details for a customer business object may include customer name, address and credit rating. Panels can contain existing 5250 screens, C# components or HTML pages.

No specific IBM i hardware upgrades and no operating system upgrades are required to deploy an application modernized using RAMP.

Modernize at your own pace

You determine the extent and speed of 5250 modernization. You determine the level of consolidation. You determine the most useful enhancements to your application. You can Web-enable parts of your application to provide a self- service portal, consume and publish Web services or deliver new .NET components – all within the same application framework that will serve as your platform for full enterprise application modernization.

Run your modernized applications on a wide selection of client devices

Provide your users with flexibility in their choice of client device. Your RAMPed applications deployed to the Web support the Chrome, Firefox, Safari and Internet Explorer browsers running on netbooks, laptops and mobile devices such as iPads and Android tablets. This means that existing 5250 RPG or COBOL applications are available to anyone anywhere!

How long does modernization take?

The answer depends on how much of your application you intend to modernize and the extent to which you add new components.

The key points are:

- Navigation modernization is very rapid.
- Application modernization takes longer, but adds significantly more business value.
- You can deliver a modernized 5250 application incrementally. You don't have to do it all in one go.
- RAMP does not force you to modernize the entire 5250 application.

The diagram illustrates the RAMP process flow. On the left, several green-screen terminal windows represent legacy 5250 applications. These are being processed through a central application framework. On the right, a modernized web application interface is shown, with callouts explaining the integration process:

- Generate new navigation paths for 5250 applications**: A callout pointing to the navigation pane of the modernized application.
- Generated components used to modernize searching for IBM i data**: A callout pointing to the search filters and results list in the application.
- New and reengineered components snapped into the Application Framework**: A callout pointing to the integration of new components into the framework.
- Repurposed 5250 screen applications snapped into the Application Framework**: A callout pointing to the integration of existing 5250 screens into the framework.

What are the benefits of RAMP?

- Modernize your 5250 applications at your own pace.
- Boost user productivity and minimize disruption.
- Mix the new with the old and improve ROI.
- Designed for today and suitable for tomorrow's business environment.
- Faster development means IT is more responsive to business needs.
- Easy component deployment.

What are the stages when using RAMP modernization?

Stage 1: Prototype and design the new application – The first stage defines your modernized application design. The outcome from this stage is a working prototype of the application that is not thrown away.

It evolves into a modernized application through Stages 2 and 3 of the RAMP modernization journey.

Stage 2: Navigation, integration and initial enrichment – The second stage uses the RAMP Application Navigation Assistant to reuse existing 5250 programs and snap them into the application prototype produced in Stage 1. This stage retains the look-and-feel of the 5250 application converted to a graphical user interface within the framework. Adding RAMP navigation means that users no longer move through a menu hierarchy. At the end of this stage you have a fully functional and modernized application ready for deployment.

Stage 3: Ongoing reengineering and enrichment – The final stage builds on the modernized application developed in Stages 1 and 2. You decide which programs will be enriched and enhanced and the depth of modernization to apply. At your own pace, you incrementally replace functions from your 5250 applications with new, modern, repository-based LANSAs components that support new technologies such as Web services. The final result is more than modernization; it is a fully reengineered application built with your vision, to your plan and ready for your platform of choice.



Features

User interface

- Snap existing 5250 screens into a rich GUI framework – RAMP gives your green screen applications a GUI familiar to most users.
- Solve the 5250 application navigation problem – Replace complex 5250 hierarchical menu structures that have many hidden paths with a point-and-click GUI.
- Enhance the image of the application – A modernized user interface can vastly improve the image of an application.

Modernize and extend

- Add new features to the application at your own pace – Extend the application's functionality with email, video, voice, Web browser interfaces and desktop integration without disruption to your business and customers.
- Extend the modernized application by adding components built with Microsoft development tools – Write components in C# using Microsoft Visual Studio and snap the components into the framework to extend the functionality of the 5250 application.
- No need for source code – RAMP is a non-intrusive method for 5250 modernization. RAMP requires no change to the 5250 applications and therefore does not need the source code. You can modernize packaged applications even when you don't have the source code.

Performance

- The framework is mindful of performance and operates on a load-on-demand model. The initial load requires only the essential components. The framework loads other components only when the user invokes functions in the application that use the components.

Multilingual

- Supports multilingual and DBCS applications

Developer tools

- Developers can take advantage of components shipped with the framework – The framework includes ready-to-use components that developers can implement when modernizing 5250 applications.
- RAMP supports prototyping when modernizing 5250 applications – Versions of the prototype can be quickly emailed to users for evaluation and feedback.
- Simpler to code – Developers work on components rather than the whole application.
- Faster testing – Testers can check individual components. When the components pass their tests they are added to the framework and then tested in the application.
- Developers do not need the source code – With RAMP developers do not need to change the existing applications and don't require the RPG, COBOL or DDS source code.

Deployment

- Generate Windows applications to run on desktop, laptop, and tablet devices
- Generate Web browser applications that support Chrome, Firefox, Safari or Internet Explorer 11 or later.
- Run the modernized applications on your choice of platform: IBM i, Windows or Linux.

Visit www.lansa.com for more information

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