Tech debt: The off-balance-sheet accumulation of all the technology work a company needs to do in the future.

Extent of the damage
Largely uncontained, technical debt burns throughout many IT environments, diverting attention away from strategic initiatives and hampering innovation and progress.

According to CIOs:
- 60% believe tech debt has increased considerably over the past 3 years.
- 10–20% of new tech budget is spent on issue resolution related to tech debt.
- 20–40% of developers work on projects with “high” or “very high” tech debt.

Impact on developers:
- 60% of developers work on projects with “high” or “very high” tech debt.
- 50% are “likely” or “very likely” to leave their jobs because of tech debt.
- The vast majority of developers (80%) report that management is aware of tech debt but either doesn’t care about it or has no plan to fix it.

Tracking the burn
Technical debt is complex. The way it starts and spreads is complex.

How to put it out
Stamping out tech debt isn’t easy, but it is possible with steady efforts.

Best practices
- Identify tech debt in your environment. Change starts with awareness. Lift your root cause-identification skills and its impacts on the business. Ensure all stakeholders share in this understanding.
- Define a plan and allocate resources. Come to a consensus about processes, decision-making, incentives, etc., with a SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound) and paced plan. Dedicate proper funding and skilled talent.
- Bring in outside support. Expert groups like Insight can help your organization clarify issues, create a workable plan, perform the work that needs doing, and stay accountable to a timeline.

Proof point
A major enterprise tech company was failing audits due to more than 6,000 servers that were unpatched for five years. Read this case study to see how we helped the company.

No matter where you’re at in your transformation, we can help you move forward in a way that avoids technical debt and enables optimal business outcomes.

Get started by working with our architects to perform prevention measures and determine the most critical areas to cover first.

Learn more at solutions.insight.com