



21 Ways



m-Power will improve your enterprise systems

Introduction

According to Forrester, "approximately half of ERP customers are currently on releases that are two versions behind the current release, which may be four years old or more." For these companies, upgrading to a new ERP version or package is often too difficult or expensive. Past customizations or enhancements have virtually locked these companies into their current ERP versions. An upgrade represents countless dollars and months of extra work—a project that most companies can't afford to undertake.

The sad reality: These companies are locked into their enterprise system. Many feel tied to the old features and capabilities of their outdated systems.

If your company faces this problem, m-Power is for you. m-Power is an enterprise web application development platform that automates web application development and extends existing systems. m-Power is the best and simplest way to breathe new life into your old systems. Here's why: Using a unique "extend-and-surround" approach, m-Power lets you build all types of new features and capabilities over your existing enterprise system, while providing two very important benefits:

1. Integrates with your existing system

m-Power extends your existing enterprise system with modern applications that integrate directly with your system. It lets you build applications that not only include all of the new capabilities that you want, but also communicate in real-time with your current enterprise system.

2. Doesn't alter your existing system

m-Power surrounds your existing system with new features and capabilities, without altering the underlying system itself. Because it doesn't modify your system, you're free to take system upgrades without breaking or rebuilding any of your m-Power applications. They work with whichever system (or system version) you're running.

What types of new features will m-Power bring to your existing system? This paper outlines and explains 21 different ways m-Power improves existing enterprise systems:



Many companies feel locked to their old enterprise system

Web Reporting Applications

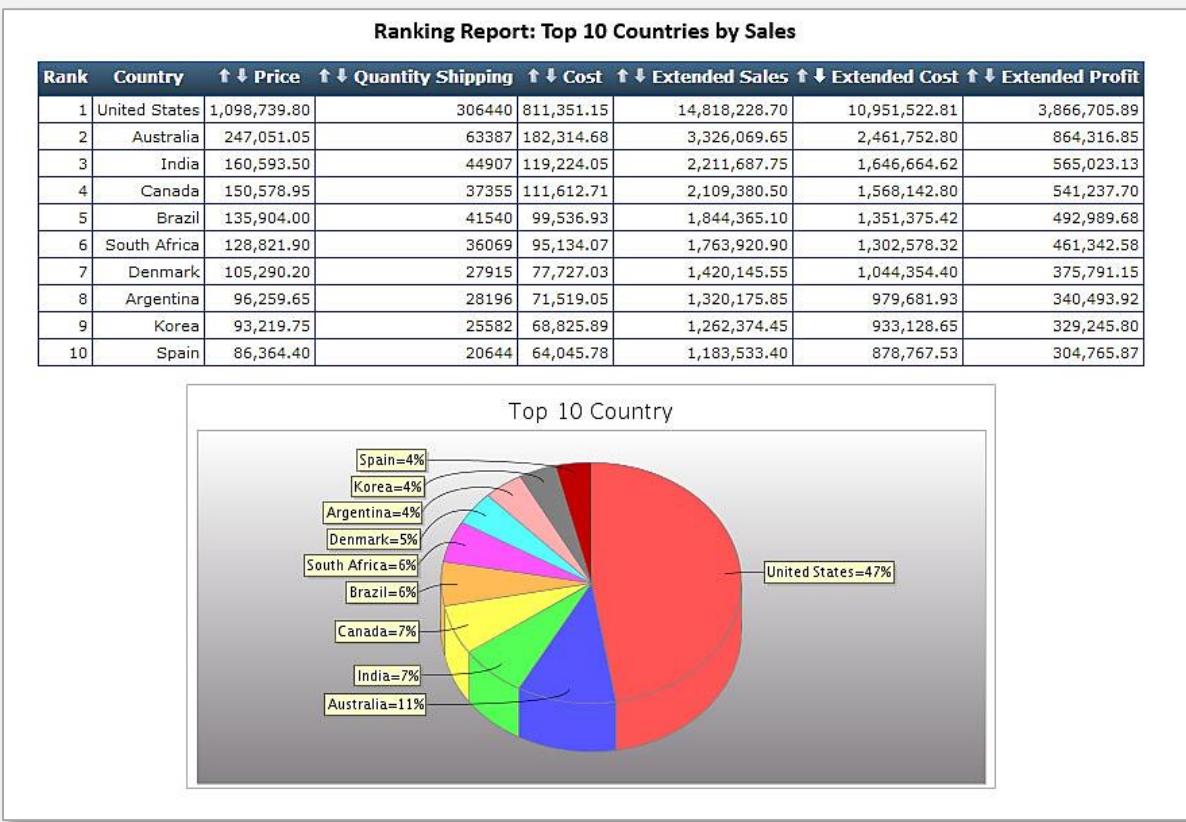
While m-Power will create all types of web reports over your existing enterprise system, it is commonly used to:

1. Create ad-hoc reports

Ad-hoc reports let end users create and distribute reports on the fly. Users select the data elements they wish to see in the report at run-time. Then, they export the report into a format of their choosing or email the report to other users directly from the web browser. Adding ad-hoc reporting to your enterprise system brings simple reporting capabilities to end users, taking the reporting burden off of the IT department.

2. Create ranking reports

This report creates variable rankings, across multiple dimensions, while specifying various selection criteria at run-time. For example, suppose you want a report that lists your top 25 best customers of the last year. Or, suppose you want to see the top (or bottom) 5 salespeople last month. Building ranking reports over your enterprise system lets you quickly see the best/worst of any aspect of your business.



3. Create drill-down reports

A drill-down report let users quickly view data contained in your enterprise system. It gives users a summary of their data (complete with graphs) and lets them drill down into more information using any element in the report.

Business Intelligence Applications

m-Power will give you a clear view of your business with BI applications that integrate directly into your existing enterprise system. While m-Power will build most any type of BI app, it is commonly used to:

4. Create interactive reports

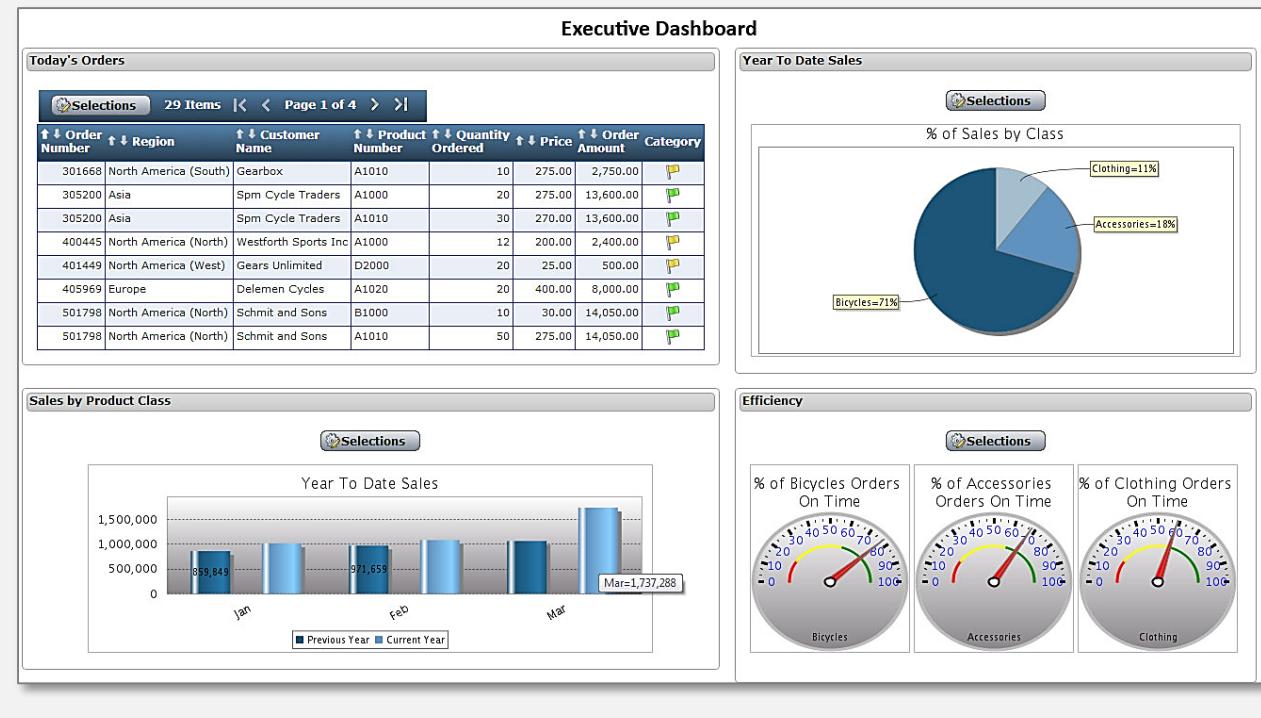
One of the most flexible reports you'll ever use, an interactive report offers instant access to a wide range of business data in one place. It starts with a high level view of the data and lets users drill down to the smallest details. The interactive report brings simple and flexible data analytics to your existing enterprise system.

5. Create web pivot tables

Most commonly associated with spreadsheet applications, pivot tables are interactive tables that automatically extract, organize, and summarize data. Often used to analyze data, make comparisons, and discover trends, the flexibility offered by pivot tables makes them one of the most popular BI applications.

6. Create business dashboards

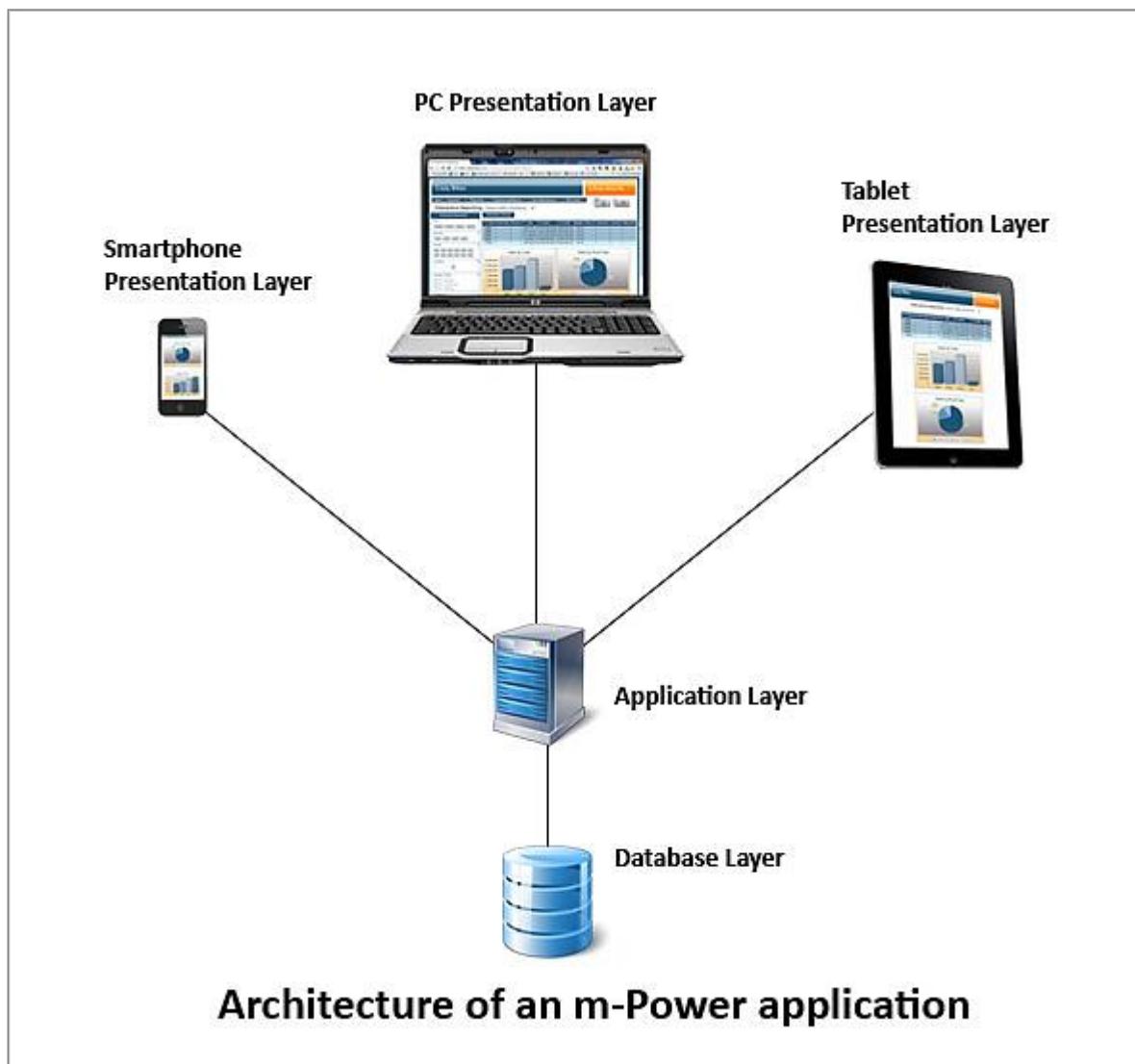
A business dashboard gives your company's executives a real-time view of the business on a single page. Dashboards are easily customizable to each executive's duties and areas of interest. Adding business dashboards to your enterprise systems give your executives a clear view of your business, and can alert your company to problems before they get out of hand.



7. Create Mobile Apps

m-Power lets you quickly create smartphone/tablet applications that integrate directly with your existing system. It lets you build brand new mobile apps, or just build mobile versions of your existing enterprise applications.

m-Power's n-Tier architecture provides a uniquely simple approach to mobile application development. As illustrated below, every time m-Power builds a web application, it automatically generates PC, tablet, and smartphone presentation layers. Logic placed within the application automatically identifies the user's browser and displays the appropriate presentation layer. In this way, one web application looks and feels native on all devices.



8. Create web applications that update your database(s)

m-Power isn't restricted to building applications that simply pull data from your database. It also lets you create applications that can update and delete data from your database. This lets you create applications that can update product data, alter customer information, create new shipments, edit existing shipments, and much, much more.

Database Update: Maintain Products								
Delete		Product #	Active?	Description	Class	UOM	List Price	Last Revision Date
		? EQ	EQ	EQ	EQ	EQ	EQ	EQ
<input type="checkbox"/>	A1000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	26-inch Mens Mountain	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 100 <input type="radio"/> 200 <input type="radio"/> 300	EA	350.000	August 29, 2011	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A1010	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	24-inch Mens Mountain	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 100 <input type="radio"/> 200 <input type="radio"/> 300	EA	320.000	August 1, 2011	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A1020	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	23-inch Boys Racer	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 100 <input type="radio"/> 200 <input type="radio"/> 300	EA	550.000	July 4, 2011	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A1030	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	25-inch Mens Racer	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 100 <input type="radio"/> 200 <input type="radio"/> 300	EA	500.000	August 30, 2011	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A1040	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	27-inch Womens 15-Speed	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 100 <input type="radio"/> 200 <input type="radio"/> 300	EA	150.000	August 19, 2011	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A1050	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	24-inch Black XTrainer	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 100 <input type="radio"/> 200 <input type="radio"/> 300	EA	250.000	August 12, 2011	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A1060	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	22-inch Red XTrainer	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 100 <input type="radio"/> 200 <input type="radio"/> 300	EA	275.000	August 20, 2011	
<input type="checkbox"/>	B1000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Cable Lock	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 100 <input checked="" type="radio"/> 200 <input type="radio"/> 300	EA	45.000	August 4, 2011	
<input type="checkbox"/>	B1020	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	U Lock	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 100 <input checked="" type="radio"/> 200 <input type="radio"/> 300	EA	80.000	August 20, 2011	
<input type="checkbox"/>	B1030	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Tail Light	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 100 <input checked="" type="radio"/> 200 <input type="radio"/> 300	EA	24.500	August 12, 2011	

9. Automate your enterprise system with event-triggered messaging

m-Power applications will automatically send email or sms messages based on a pre-determined schedule or event. m-Power lets you trigger messages by any event, from customer interactions to changes in data and everything in between. This messaging feature lets you:

- a. **Automatically correspond with customers:** When customers complete forms on a company's site, the application can automatically send a confirmation email to the customer.
- b. **Alert businesses to problems:** Applications can automatically send email/sms messages to the appropriate executive whenever a time-sensitive business issue occurs, such as a customer account cancellation.
- c. **Automatically run and deliver reports on a pre-set schedule:** m-Power lets you set web reports to run on a pre-determined schedule, and then automatically distribute the reports via email.

10. Create customer portals / extranets

m-Power will create customer portals (or customer extranets) that integrate with your existing system. An extranet is a secure area of your website designed for your customers. It lets customers log in and perform all types of tasks, such as pay their bill, view their information, purchase new products, ask a question, request support, and much more. As an example, [this success story](#) explains how a bicycle manufacturer improved revenue, customer support, and overall productivity with a customer extranet built over their ERP system.

B2B Portal

User	<input type="text"/>
Password	<input type="password"/>

Sign On

Use one of the Customer Accounts below to sign on:

Customer	User	Password	Auto Sign On
Pedal Around	dealer1	dealer1	
House of Bikes	dealer2	dealer2	
Star Amusements	dealer3	dealer3	
Sprockets Cycling	dealer4	dealer4	
Village Cycle & Sports	dealer5	dealer5	

11. Create employee portals / intranets

Similar to an extranet, an employee portal/intranet is a secure area of your site designed for internal use only. It lets employees log in and perform all types of tasks, such as request meeting rooms, request vacation time, view benefits, and much more.

12. Create applications that integrate with email

m-Power brings email integration to your existing enterprise systems. It not only creates applications that let users send email, it also lets you attach email messages to individual records in your database. For example, m-Power lets you assign all emails from a single customer to their customer record in your database. Then, you can create applications that not only list customer details, but also display emails to and from that customer.

13. Create integrated eCommerce applications

m-Power builds eCommerce applications that communicate in real-time with your existing enterprise system and product database. This integration ensures that your eCommerce applications will update your enterprise system in real-time, and always display the correct product availability.

Shop Product Catalog

Product	Description	Long Description	Price	Photo	Quantity	Add
A1000	26-inch Mens Mountain	This is an excellent bike for the generalist rider. Whether roughing it on rugged terrain or enjoying smooth country roads, this everyman's bike does the job.	\$350.000		5	<input type="button" value="Add"/>
A1010	24-inch Mens Mountain	This bike will take you over the river and through the woods without any trouble at all. Grandma's house is optional.	\$320.000		<input type="button" value="Add"/>	
A1020	23-inch Boys Racer	This yellow bike is perfect for your growing one. At 23 inches it will be a perfect fit for them.	\$550.000		<input type="button" value="Add"/>	
A1030	25-inch Mens Racer	This 25" monster is a great fit for all riders. The comfort enjoyed by the suspension system is second to none!	\$500.000		<input type="button" value="Add"/>	
A1040	27-inch Womens 15-Speed	Built for the Adult. At 27" this Blue 15 Speeder will leave the competition in your dust!	\$150.000		<input type="button" value="Add"/>	
A1050	24-inch Black XTrainer	This Black Cross Trainer is a great choice for young adults.	\$250.000		<input type="button" value="Add"/>	
A1060	22-inch Red XTrainer	This Red Cross Trainer is the ideal bike for up and coming riders.	\$275.000		<input type="button" value="Add"/>	

Current Shopping Cart		
Total Items: 2		
Total Price: \$ 160.00		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B1020	U Lock	<input type="button" value="Update"/>
	2	<input type="button" value="Update"/>

[Click Here to Checkout...](#)

14. Create applications that integrate with modern web services

While outdated enterprise systems often struggle to integrate with modern-day web services, m-Power offers a simple solution. It lets you create web apps over your existing system that integrate with all types of modern web services, like Google Maps, Twitter, Google's Visualization API, and more!

15. Create workflow applications

m-Power will create powerful workflow applications over your enterprise system that automate even the most complex processes. For instance, purchase order forms often require separate approvals from managers across multiple departments. With a workflow application, that purchase order form will move from manager to manager for approval automatically.

16. Reduce user licenses (without layoffs)

Enterprise systems (like ERP systems) are typically licensed on a per-user basis. However, while some users access the system extensively, many users only access one or two screens. Unfortunately, you're stuck paying the same license fee for all users, regardless of usage.

m-Power lets you eliminate these barely-used licenses with web applications that mimic the capabilities found in your enterprise system. For example, suppose some users only use your enterprise system to

update customer data. m-Power will create web applications that let these users update customer data in your database without going through your enterprise system. In doing so, you give your users identical capabilities, while greatly reducing your user license costs. Here's a [success story](#) that explains how one manufacturer saw six-figure cost savings using this approach!

17. Improve agility of existing system

Keeping an enterprise system current with the ever-changing tech trends is no easy task. Adding new features is difficult and time-consuming, and every change only contributes to the system's overall complexity.

m-Power adds some much-needed agility to your existing enterprise systems. Thanks to its template-based build process and point-and-click interface, m-Power lets you add new features to your existing system quickly, all without modifying or further complicating the underlying system itself.

18. Improve end user adoption

When an enterprise system doesn't give end users the right tools, or if end users aren't happy with the tools it provides, they work outside of the system. For instance, when ERP systems offer subpar reporting options, users turn to alternative reporting options (outside of the system). The most common option: Spreadsheet programs like Excel. Users pull data out of the ERP system, and then use Excel for data sorting, filtering, and reporting. This common practice opens the door for data entry errors, and ultimately financial loss for the company.

m-Power lets you easily enhance your system with features and capabilities that end users want (like reporting). This keeps the users happy and improves overall end user adoption.

19. Let end users create their own self-service applications

End users must rely on the IT department for new features or capabilities within an enterprise system, which often takes days or weeks, depending on the IT department's workload. This harms end user productivity and puts unnecessary stress on IT.

m-Power addresses this issue with a combination of architecture and ease-of-use. m-Power's simple, point-and-click interface lets end users create all of the applications they need, without relying on the IT department. Meanwhile, m-Power gives the IT department full control over end user development, letting them lock down data, rights, and user access.

20. Improve application security and end user control

m-Power brings enterprise-level security features to your existing enterprise system, like multi-tenant security, application-level security, single sign-on, user privilege parameters, and much more. These security features give you complete control over your applications. You control data access right down to the row level within an application, and even control application appearance on a user level.

21. Connect disparate systems

Over time, companies bring in a number of disparate systems, many of which cannot communicate with one another. m-Power serves as the glue between disparate systems and applications. It will connect your existing enterprise systems with your disparate systems, bringing real-time communication to all of your business software.

Conclusion

If your company is tied to an outdated enterprise system, you probably feel stuck. You're tied to the old features and capabilities of your enterprise system, but it's too expensive and time consuming to replace. If this problem sounds familiar, m-Power gives you a simple solution. It lets you improve your existing enterprise system in nearly any way imaginable, all without altering the underlying code.

To learn more about m-Power, visit our website at www.mrc-productivity.com.

About mrc

michaels, ross & cole, ltd (mrc) is a global software company which specializes in web application development software. Headquartered in Lombard, IL, and established in 1981, mrc has offices in the U.S. and the UK. mrc offers award-winning development software, as well as consulting, mentoring, and training services.

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