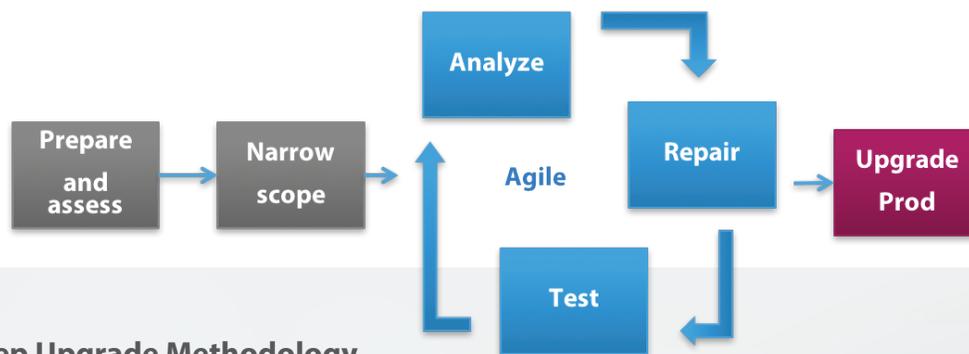


IBM Cognos Upgrades

Keeping your Cognos environment at the latest version is necessary if you want to have the most up-to-date information and functionalities. The traditional concerns with this process (time and money) are present, but there's also an air of uncertainty surrounding the upgrade. How much time will the upgrade cost you? And exactly how expensive will it be? What unforeseen changes will derail the upgrade plan?

With the introduction of IBM's Rapid Release methodology, as upgrades are released more frequently, it's easy to fall behind on versions. And since fix packs will not be delivered, you need to keep up!

Well, fear no more. Motio has developed a methodology, which consists of five steps, for easing the upgrade process. This methodology keeps managing the upgrade under control, and leads to the bigger picture of leveraging capabilities of the new Cognos version to deliver business value.



The 5-Step Upgrade Methodology

1. Prepare the Upgrade: Plan the appropriate scope and infrastructure needed for the IBM Cognos sandbox. Understand what needs to be removed before the upgrade (e.g. How many reports do we have? Which reports are valid? What can be removed?)

2. Assess Production and Narrow the Scope: Connect your production environment to MotioCI to put everything under version control and then make a full content store copy to your sandbox. MotioCI acts as your safety net, allowing you to clean up and fix any mistakes that may occur, instead of having to start over after a simple error is made. Structure the content into manageable groups and create test projects that will define the scope and determine workload. You will test for things like value stability, formatting stability, performance stability, etc.

3. Analyze Impact: Run the baseline of your test cases to determine the workload of the upgrade. You can adjust your project assumptions and improve timelines based on the test results. You will label what is in scope, needs repairing, or is out-of-scope.

4. Repair: Repair all problems and assure they stay repaired. This is where you will utilize MotioCI to continuously test your reports and other objects to analyze your progress. You can set and schedule test cases to run at appropriate times. By setting up test projects per group (100-300 reports/other objects), you will be able to better manage these groups during this phase.

5. Upgrade and Go Live: Copy your test cases from the sandbox to the live environment. Backup the content store. Promote repaired reports from the sandbox to live. Rerun your test cases. Assess and decide on "going live." MotioCI monitors all changes in production, keeps track of the repair process, and captures them so they can be deployed to production.

With this 5-step methodology, MotioCI transforms the traditionally prolonged project of upgrading Cognos to a more manageable one. MotioCI gives you a realistic expectation of the work required in the upgrade, while eliminating the uncertainty, and delivering automation. Adopting MotioCI and this upgrade methodology will save you time and money, give you a smoother upgrade process, and transforms your next upgrade into an efficient and easy task.