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## Reinventing IBM i

# The journey from RPG to Python

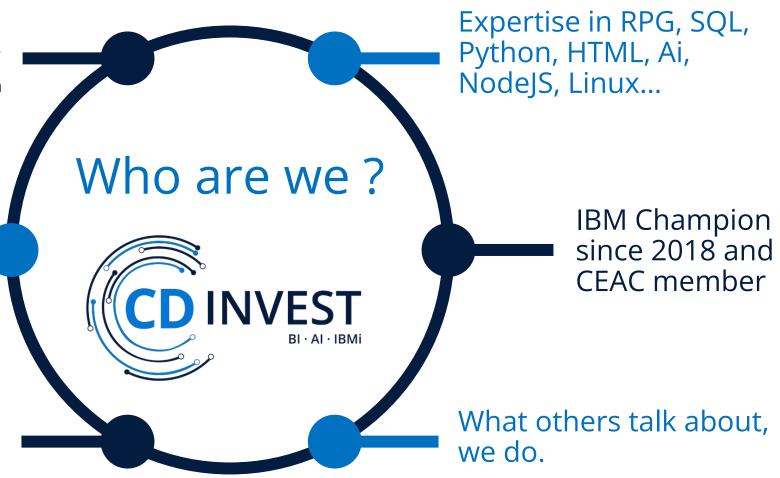
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International IBM i ISV and IBM business partner.

located in Antwerp, Belgium

Working with IBM i and its predecessors for more than 40 year

> Applications : CDErp, CDReport CD-Account accountancy, CDVts and MES.



#### The IBM i legacy

- Decades of reliability, performance, and business continuity
- RPG's central role in mission-critical workloads
- The modernization challenge: staying relevant in a cloud-native, API-driven world



## Why modernize?

- Need for agility, integration, and new talent
- Limitations of monolithic RPG applications
- Growing ecosystem of open-source tools and frameworks
- Future-proofing business logic and data



## Why Python on IBM i?

- Modern, readable, and widely used language
- Massive ecosystem: data analytics, APIs, automation, AI
- Supported natively on IBM i (via IBM Open Source RPMs)
- Bridges legacy and modern apps seamlessly



#### The Modern IBM i Environment

- Linux-like PASE environment
- Access to open-source tooling (pip, virtualenv, etc.)
- Running Python alongside RPG and CL programs
- Integration options: DB2, IFS, REST APIs



#### Integration Patterns

- DB2 access: using ibm\_db or pyodbc
- APIs: exposing RPG business logic as REST endpoints
- Hybrid applications: RPG for core logic, Python for UI, data, or analytics



#### Migration Strategies

- Incremental modernization: coexistence of RPG and Python
- Refactor & wrap: exposing RPG logic as services
- Rewrite selectively: modernizing high-impact modules
- Governance and version control best practices



## Real-World Example (CRM)

- Organization modernizing an RPG app using Python
- Steps taken, challenges faced, and outcomes
- Key lesson: modernization doesn't mean replacement — it's enhancement



#### Building Your Team's Skillset

- Upskilling RPG developers in Python fundamentals
- Using Python to make IBM i more accessible to new talent
- Internal training, pair programming, and community resources



#### Closing toughts

Key takeaway: IBM i isn't legacy — it's evolving

Python enables innovation without disruption





#### **Thank You**

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