
Re-Architecting Legacy Multi-Page Enterprise Applications into Scalable Single-Page Architectures: A Performance and Revenue Impact Study

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Abstract

Enterprise web applications built on legacy multi-page architectures (MPAs) frequently exhibit degraded performance, limited extensibility, and escalating maintenance burdens that constrain digital transformation initiatives. In response, many organizations are re-architecting MPAs into Single-Page Application (SPA) architectures to improve responsiveness, modernize delivery pipelines, and enhance user experience. This study presents a design science-informed analytical synthesis of the technical and business implications of MPA-to-SPA modernization. Drawing on peer-reviewed literature, industry case evidence, and comparative benchmarking concepts, the paper consolidates reported findings on performance behavior (initial load, time-to-interactive, subsequent navigation latency, server request volume), user engagement outcomes (task completion, retention, reduced abandonment), and operational impacts (deployment agility, scalability, and maintenance overhead). The analysis further links these technical and user-facing improvements to business value drivers, including conversion efficiency, cost-to-serve reduction, support burden reduction, and time-to-market acceleration. In addition to summarizing benefits, the study characterizes key trade-offs and risks particularly client-side security exposure, API governance requirements, state management complexity, and data synchronization challenges and proposes practical migration pathways (incremental strangler-pattern adoption versus full rewrites) to manage risk and continuity. The findings indicate that SPA adoption can materially improve perceived performance and workflow efficiency after initial load, strengthen user satisfaction, and support measurable value realization when implemented with robust observability, security engineering, and disciplined architectural governance.

Keywords: MPA-to-SPA, web applications

1. Introduction

1.1 Background and Motivation

The digital transformation imperative compels enterprises to continuously optimize their technological infrastructure to remain competitive and responsive to market dynamics. Historically, many large organizations relied on multi-page applications (MPAs) for their core business processes, a paradigm characterized by server-side rendering and full page reloads for each user interaction. While robust in their initial design, these systems often become brittle, slow, and non-extensible over time, accumulating significant technical debt. Such legacy systems demand substantial resources for maintenance, thereby hindering digital innovation and evolution [1].

A compelling motivation for architectural modernization stems from escalating user expectations for seamless, responsive, and intuitive digital experiences. Modern web users, accustomed to native application performance, increasingly disengage with slow or cumbersome interfaces [2]. This shift places considerable pressure on enterprises to reconsider traditional web architectures. Single-Page Applications (SPAs) represent a contemporary architectural style designed to address these challenges, offering a dynamic, client-side rendered experience that closely mimics desktop applications. The transition to SPAs is not merely a technical upgrade but a strategic business decision with direct implications for operational efficiency, user engagement, and ultimately, financial performance.

1.2 Problem Statement

Despite the recognized limitations of legacy multi-page enterprise applications, organizations face complex decisions regarding their modernization. The inherent challenges of these systems include escalating maintenance costs, degraded user experiences, and difficulties in integrating new features or technologies [3]. Specifically, traditional MPAs often suffer from slow load times and frequent page reloads, which detract from user satisfaction and productivity [2]. Furthermore, their monolithic structure complicates agile development practices and horizontal scalability, constraining an enterprise's ability to adapt swiftly to market changes.

While the adoption of Single-Page Application (SPA) architectures offers a potential solution, the migration process for established enterprise systems presents significant hurdles. These include managing technical debt, ensuring data integrity during transition, addressing potential security vulnerabilities, and overcoming the organizational inertia associated with large-scale technological shifts [4]. A clear understanding of the measurable performance gains and financial returns, alongside the inherent risks, remains crucial for guiding strategic investment decisions in re-architecting legacy applications.

1.3 Research Objectives

This investigation establishes several key objectives to systematically analyze the re-architecture of legacy multi-page enterprise applications into scalable Single-Page Architectures. These objectives structure the inquiry into the various facets of this complex technological and business transformation.

1. To characterize the primary technical and user experience limitations inherent in legacy multi-page enterprise applications. This involves identifying specific performance bottlenecks and usability issues that motivate architectural shifts.
2. To delineate the architectural characteristics and operational advantages of Single-Page Applications (SPAs) over traditional multi-page paradigms. This includes an examination of performance improvements, scalability, and enhanced user engagement metrics [2].
3. To identify and evaluate the strategic considerations, migration pathways, and challenges associated with transitioning from legacy MPAs to SPA architectures. This encompasses technical debt management, data synchronization, and integration complexities.

4. To quantitatively assess the performance impacts of SPA adoption through empirical evidence and case studies, focusing on metrics such as load times, responsiveness, and user interaction efficiency.
5. To analyze the financial and business revenue implications of re-architecting, including operational cost efficiencies, enhanced market competitiveness, and potential revenue shifts post-migration [5].

1.4 Research Contributions

This study makes several original contributions to the literature on enterprise application modernization and digital transformation.

First, it provides a theoretical contribution by unifying legacy system modernization, Single-Page Application architecture, user engagement theory, and revenue performance into a single analytical framework, addressing fragmentation in prior studies that examine these dimensions in isolation.

Second, the study offers a methodological contribution through the development of a structured comparative benchmarking lens that synthesizes reported empirical performance metrics such as load times, responsiveness, and interaction efficiency with business-oriented indicators including conversion rates, operational cost efficiencies, and revenue elasticity.

Third, it delivers a practical contribution by articulating actionable migration pathways, architectural trade-offs, and best practices that guide enterprise architects and decision-makers in evaluating incremental versus full re-architecture strategies.

Finally, the study contributes strategically by explicitly linking architectural modernization decisions to measurable business outcomes, positioning Single-Page Architectures not merely as technical enhancements but as instruments of sustained competitive advantage and value realization.

1.5 Scope and Significance

The scope of this research encompasses enterprise-level web applications that have historically operated under a multi-page architecture and are undergoing, or are candidates for, re-architecture to a Single-Page Application (SPA) model. The analysis focuses primarily on the technical and business aspects of this transition, examining both the challenges and the benefits realized. Geographic and industry-specific nuances are acknowledged, but the core principles and architectural considerations discussed possess broad applicability across diverse enterprise contexts. The temporal focus for existing literature and case studies is primarily on development and data from 2000 to 2019, ensuring relevance to the evolution of web technologies during this period.

The significance of this investigation extends to several stakeholders. For enterprise architects and IT decision-makers, it provides a structured framework for evaluating the feasibility and strategic value of SPA migration, offering insights into potential pitfalls and best practices. Business leaders can leverage the analysis of revenue and performance impacts to justify investments and forecast returns, aligning technological strategy with organizational goals [5]. Academically, this study contributes to the understanding of software architecture evolution, particularly in the context of legacy system modernization, and the quantifiable effects of architectural choices on user experience and business outcomes. It also highlights areas for

further empirical research into the long-term sustainability and maintenance of complex SPA ecosystems.

While the study references microservices, API-driven backends, and distributed system principles, the primary analytical focus remains on front-end architectural transformation from server-rendered multi-page paradigms to client-driven single-page interfaces. Backend modernization strategies are considered insofar as they directly enable or constrain SPA performance, scalability, and data integration.

2. Methodology

2.1 Research Design and Approach

This study employs mixed-methods research design, integrating a comprehensive literature review with a thematic analysis of case studies to examine the re-architecture of legacy multi-page enterprise applications into Single-Page Architectures (SPAs). The approach is primarily qualitative in its synthesis of existing knowledge and theoretical frameworks, but it also seeks to incorporate quantitative data from empirical studies where available, particularly concerning performance metrics and financial outcomes. A post-positivistic method informs the qualitative research elements, aiming to understand complex phenomena through systematic inquiry and interpretation of diverse sources.

Research design adheres to a structured review process, like those employed in assessing the quality of reporting in various fields [6]. This systematic approach facilitates the identification, analysis, and synthesis of relevant academic papers, industry reports, and technical documentation published within the specified timeframe (2000-2019). The synthesis focuses on elucidating the causal links between architectural choices (MPA vs. SPA), their impact on technical performance, user experience, and subsequent business and revenue implications. The objective of overarching is to construct a holistic understanding of the modernization process, identifying strategic considerations and practical recommendations for enterprises undertaking such transformations [5].

2.1.1 Research Positioning and Scope Clarification

This study adopts a design science–informed and analytical research approach, emphasizing conceptual synthesis, comparative reasoning, and prescriptive insight rather than primary empirical experimentation. While the analysis incorporates quantitative performance and revenue indicators reported in prior empirical studies and industry case evidence, no original experimental data collection or controlled field trials were conducted as part of this investigation.

The contribution of this work lies in the systematic integration of architectural theory, user experience research, and business performance analysis, synthesizing fragmented empirical findings into a coherent evaluative framework. Quantitative references throughout the manuscript are therefore derived from secondary empirical sources and case-based benchmarking rather than direct measurement. This positioning ensures methodological rigor while enabling generalizable insights applicable across enterprise contexts. [1]

2.2 Data Collection Methods

The data collection process primarily involved a systematic literature search across prominent academic databases and digital libraries, including IEEE Xplore, ACM Digital Library, Scopus, and Web of Science. Keywords and phrases such as "legacy enterprise applications," "multi-page application modernization," "Single-Page Application benefits," "SPA performance," "web application architecture," "user engagement," "technical debt," and "revenue impact of web modernization" were systematically used. This iterative search process identified relevant peer-reviewed articles, conference papers, and technical reports published between 2000 and 2019.

Additionally, relevant industry whitepapers, case studies from technology providers, and reports from reputable consulting firms were included to gather practical insights and real-world examples of re-architecture projects. Specific attention was given to documents that provided empirical data on performance metrics (e.g., load times, responsiveness) and business outcomes (e.g., conversion rates, operational costs, revenue growth). The abstracts and full texts of identified documents were screened for direct relevance to the research objectives. The focus was on studies offering comparative analyses or empirical observations regarding the transition from traditional web architecture to modern SPA frameworks, ensuring a broad and robust dataset for subsequent analysis.

2.3 Analysis Techniques

The analysis phase involved a multi-faceted approach to synthesize the collected data. Initially, a thematic analysis was conducted to identify recurring patterns, concepts, and relationships within the literature concerning legacy system limitations and SPA benefits. This process involved coding textual data to categorize insights related to technical debt, user experience issues, performance improvements, and business value propositions [2].

For quantitative data found within case studies and empirical research, a comparative benchmarking technique was applied. Performance metrics such as initial page load time, subsequent navigation speed, and server request reductions were extracted and compared between MPA and SPA implementations where reported. Financial data, including development costs, maintenance overheads, and reported revenue impacts, underwent qualitative synthesis to identify trends and common outcomes. The analysis also focused on identifying lessons learned and best practices by examining the strategies employed in successful modernization projects and the challenges encountered in less successful ones. This comprehensive analytical framework allowed for a robust understanding of the performance and revenue implications of adopting SPA architectures.

3. Literature Review / Thematic Analysis

3.1 The Evolution of Enterprise Application Architectures

The architectural landscape of enterprise applications has undergone substantial transformation, driven by advancements in web technologies and evolving user expectations. Early enterprise systems frequently mirrored traditional client-server models, with a clear separation between data storage, business logic, and presentation layers. These applications, often desktop-based, were eventually succeeded by web-based multi-page applications (MPAs) as the internet matured. MPAs, characterized by server-side rendering, delivered complete HTML pages to the browser for every user interaction, necessitating a full page reload. This model, while robust for content-heavy sites, introduced inherent latency and a less fluid user

experience for interactive applications. The limitations of MPAs eventually paved the way for more dynamic and responsive architectural styles.

The shift towards more interactive and responsive web experiences gradually led to the adoption of client-side driven architectures. This evolution was spurred by the increasing power of web browsers and the emergence of JavaScript frameworks. Modern applications increasingly leverage the browser's capabilities to render content and manage user interactions, moving away from the constant server roundtrips that defined earlier web paradigms. This architectural progression reflects a broader trend in software development towards distributed systems, component-based design, and enhanced user engagement [2].

3.1.1 From Monolithic Multi-Page to Modular Architectures

The traditional multi-page application (MPA) often embodies monolithic architecture, where all functionalities are tightly coupled within a single codebase. In this model, every user action, such as navigating to a new section or submitting a form, typically involves a request to the server, which then renders and sends a completely new HTML page back to the browser. This approach, while straightforward to develop initially, leads to several challenges as applications grow in complexity and scale. Full page reloads consume bandwidth and introduce noticeable delays, impairing the user experience.

The shift towards modular architecture, such as microservices, represents a fundamental departure from monolithic designs. Microservices decompose an application into a suite of small, autonomous services that communicate via lightweight protocols. This modularity offers enhanced flexibility, allowing independent development, deployment, and scaling of individual components. While microservices primarily address back-end architecture, their principles align with front-end modernization efforts that seek to decouple presentation logic from server-side concerns. Frameworks can offer significant developer productivity gains in this modular context, providing consistency for quality and security teams.

3.1.2 The Rise of Single-Page Applications (SPA)

Single-Page Applications (SPAs) represent a significant evolution in web architecture, moving away from the traditional multi-page paradigm to deliver a more fluid and desktop-like user experience within a browser. A SPA loads a single HTML page and dynamically updates content as the user interacts with the application, avoiding full page reloads. This is achieved by leveraging client-side JavaScript to manage the user interface, fetch data asynchronously, and handle routing.

The initial load of a SPA may be more substantial as it involves downloading the entire application framework and initial data. However, subsequent interactions are significantly faster, as only necessary data is exchanged with the server, leading to a highly responsive interface. This approach significantly enhances user engagement by reducing perceived latency and providing a continuous interaction flow [2]. The development of SPAs necessitates proficiency in modern JavaScript frameworks and new architectural concepts, such as modular programming and various MV* patterns.

Table 1. Comparative architectural characteristics of legacy Multi-Page Applications (MPA) and Single-Page Architectures (SPA).

Dimension	Legacy MPA (Server-rendered, multi-page)	SPA (Client-driven, single-page)	Practical implication for enterprises
Rendering model	Server-side rendering per navigation	Client-side rendering with API data fetch	SPA reduces full reload overhead after initial load
Navigation	Full page reloads	Client-side routing	Faster intra-app transitions; better workflow continuity
Data exchange	HTML pages frequently re-delivered	JSON/GraphQL payloads; partial updates	Lower bandwidth after initial shell load
Latency profile	Higher perceived latency due to reloads	Lower perceived latency post-load	Better responsiveness and user satisfaction
State management	Server session + page context	Client state stores (e.g., Redux, Zustand)	Requires disciplined state governance
Scalability	Monolith scaling often coarse-grained	Frontend CDN + backend API scaling	Enables independent scaling and cost optimization
Deployment cadence	Often coupled releases	Decoupled frontend/backend releases	Improves time-to-market, reduces coordination cost
Maintainability	Legacy tech debt; tight coupling	Modular components; clearer separation	Reduces change risk when engineered well
Security exposure	Smaller client surface, but server-heavy	Larger client surface; API security critical	Requires strong CSP, token strategy, API protections
Observability	Traditional server logs	RUM + client telemetry + API tracing	Must implement end-to-end monitoring pipeline
SEO and discoverability	Generally strong by default	Needs SSR/SSG or pre-rendering	Material mainly for public-facing apps
Best fit	Content-centric, low interactivity	High interactivity enterprise workflows	SPA preferred for complex task flows

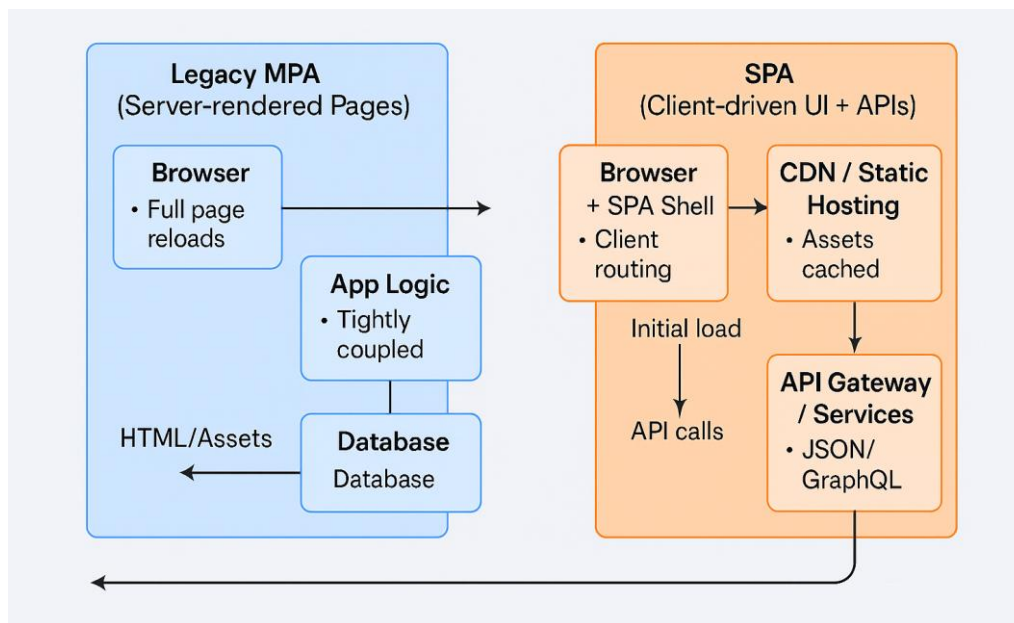


Figure 1. Architectural comparison of legacy MPA versus SPA: rendering, routing, and API interaction.

This figure contrasts server-rendered multi-page flows with client-driven single-page routing. It highlights how SPAs shift rendering and navigation management to the client while the server primarily exposes APIs, enabling faster subsequent interactions and clearer separation of concerns.

3.2 Legacy Systems: Challenges and Limitations

Legacy information systems, despite representing massive, long-term business investments, often present considerable obstacles to organizational agility and technological advancement. These systems frequently operate on obsolete technology, possess degraded architectures, and consume extensive resources for ongoing maintenance. Their inherent inflexibility hampers efforts towards digital transformation and innovation, restraining an enterprise's ability to respond to evolving market demands.

A key challenge with legacy systems lies in their resistance to evolution. Modifying or extending these systems often introduces unforeseen complications, due to complex interdependencies and a lack of contemporary documentation. This can lead to a state where systems are vital for operations but consume disproportionate staff resources, making maintainability a central dilemma [3]. Furthermore, the technical debt accrued over years of incremental development and patching can make comprehensive upgrades economically prohibitive, trapping organizations in a cycle of reactive maintenance rather than proactive innovation. This situation directly impacts user experience and business operational efficiency.

3.2.1 Technical Debt and Maintenance Issues

Technical debt in legacy multi-page applications accumulates through various factors, including outdated technologies, inconsistent coding practices, and a lack of clear architectural vision over prolonged development cycles. This debt translates into increased maintenance

costs and reduced development velocity. As systems age, finding developers proficient in obsolete languages or frameworks becomes increasingly difficult and expensive. The absence of comprehensive documentation or the presence of outdated information further complicates understanding and modifying the system, necessitating reverse engineering efforts that remain in their infancy for complex systems.

Maintenance often involves patching existing vulnerabilities or adding small features, which can inadvertently introduce new bugs due to the tightly coupled nature of monolithic MPAs. This continuous cycle of reactive maintenance diverts resources that could otherwise be invested in strategic innovation. Furthermore, the brittle nature of these systems increases the risk of system failures, which can result in significant operational disruptions and financial losses. The inability to easily integrate with modern application programming interfaces (APIs) or cloud services also limits the application's functionality and interconnectivity, restricting business growth and adaptation.

3.2.2 User Experience and Business Constraint Factors

Legacy multi-page applications often deliver a suboptimal user experience, which directly affects user engagement and productivity. The frequent full-page reloads, characteristic of MPAs, introduce perceptible delays and interruptions, disrupting the user's flow and making the application feel sluggish. This diminished responsiveness can lead to frustration, reduced task completion rates, and ultimately, lower user satisfaction [2]. For customer-facing applications, poor user experience can translate into increased bounce rates, decreased conversions, and damage to brand perception. User engagement is defined as the quality of the user experience, emphasizing positive aspects of interaction and the desire for repeated use [2].

Beyond user experience, legacy MPAs impose significant business constraints. Their monolithic structure makes it challenging to implement new features rapidly or to adapt the application to evolving business requirements. This lack of agility can hinder an organization's ability to innovate, respond to competitive pressures, or capitalize on new market opportunities. Furthermore, integration with modern third-party services or data sources becomes cumbersome, limiting the application's ability to leverage contemporary data analytics or external functionalities. These technical limitations directly impact an organization's strategic planning and its capacity to sustain competitiveness in dynamic markets [5].

3.3 SPA Architectures: Benefits and Trade-Offs

Single-Page Applications (SPAs) represent a paradigm shift in web development, offering a more dynamic and responsive user experience compared to traditional multi-page applications. The core benefit of SPAs lies in their ability to load content asynchronously, updating only specific parts of the page without requiring a full reload. This leads to a smoother, more fluid interaction that closely resembles native desktop applications, significantly enhancing user satisfaction [2].

However, the adoption of SPAs also involves trade-offs. The initial load can be longer due to the need to download the entire application's framework and initial assets. Additionally, SPAs can introduce complexities related to search engine optimization (SEO), browser history management, and client-side security vulnerabilities that require specialized handling. Despite these challenges, the advantages in performance, scalability, and user engagement often outweigh the complexities for highly interactive enterprise applications.

3.3.1 Performance Improvements and Scalability

SPAs offer notable performance advantages over MPAs, particularly after the initial page load. By loading the application shell once and subsequently fetching only data, SPAs significantly reduce server roundtrips and minimize bandwidth consumption. This results in faster navigation and a more responsive interface, as users do not experience full page reloads with every interaction. The user perceives a continuous flow, which is critical for complex enterprise applications requiring frequent data updates and interactive elements.

From a scalability perspective, SPAs decouple the front-end (client-side) from the back end (server-side). This separation allows for independent scaling of the client and server components. The server primarily acts as an API endpoint, delivering data rather than rendering full HTML pages, which can reduce server load and resource requirements. This architectural separation also aligns well with microservices architectures, where individual services can be scaled horizontally to handle increased workloads more efficiently. The efficient handling of user requests, as seen in web application workload characteristics, can be leveraged for better resource provisioning.

3.3.2 User Engagement and Retention

The enhanced responsiveness and fluid interaction models of Single-Page Applications directly contribute to higher user engagement and retention rates. User engagement encompasses the positive aspects of interacting with an online application and the desire to use it longer and repeatedly [2]. SPAs, by minimizing latency and providing a seamless experience akin to native applications, reduce user frustration and increase satisfaction. This improved experience cultivates a stronger desire for continued use, a key factor in user retention.

Measurements of user engagement often include self-report questionnaires, observational methods, and web analytics, such as click depth and site visits [2]. SPAs frequently demonstrate improved metrics in these areas due to their intuitive interfaces and reduced interaction friction. The feeling of responsiveness makes tasks seem less arduous, encouraging users to explore more features and spend more time within the application. For mobile health applications, increased user activity and engagement can be critical for achieving desired health outcomes. The design innovativeness of user experience, focusing on attractiveness and interaction, directly increases engagement and loyalty in web-based extended reality (XR) applications, a principle transferable to enterprise SPAs.

3.3.3 Security Risks and Data Management Considerations

While Single-Page Applications (SPAs) offer numerous advantages, they also introduce specific security risks and data management complexities that require careful consideration. Client-side rendering and extensive use of JavaScript can expose more of the application's logic to potential attackers, making it susceptible to Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) and Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF) vulnerabilities if not properly secured [4]. The reliance on client-side storage for tokens and user data also increases the risk of data exposure if robust security practices are not implemented. Data breaches remain a significant concern for organizations, with human elements contributing to a major share of incidents [7].

Data management within SPAs requires careful planning, especially concerning state management and synchronization. As the client holds more of the application state, ensuring

data consistency across multiple user sessions or devices becomes a challenge. The transition from server-rendered pages to API-driven data exchange necessitates robust backend API security and efficient data serialization. Furthermore, global data synchronization (GDS) becomes crucial for maintaining data consistency across business partners, especially in complex enterprise environments [8]. These considerations highlight the need for a comprehensive security strategy and well-defined data governance policies during SPA development and deployment.

Table 2. SPA-specific risk register and mitigations for enterprise environments.

Risk	Typical cause in SPA context	Impact	Likelihood	Controls / mitigations	Verification evidence
XSS	Unsafe rendering, dependency compromise	Account takeover, data exposure	Medium	CSP, sanitization, dependency scanning, SRI	Security tests + CSP reports
CSRF	Weak token strategy, cookie misuse	Unauthorized actions	Low-Med	Same Site cookies, CSRF tokens, double-submit	Pen tests + API gateway logs
Token leakage	Local Storage misuse, logging	Session hijack	Medium	HTTP Only cookies, short-lived tokens, refresh rotation	Auth audit + log review
Excessive API exposure	Over-permissive endpoints	Data exfiltration	Medium	RBAC/ABAC, least privilege scopes, rate limiting	Access reviews + APM traces
Client-side sensitive logic	Business logic exposed in JS	Fraud bypass /	Medium	Move critical logic server-side; signed claims	Code review + threat model
Inconsistent state	Complex client state + async flows	Data integrity errors	Medium	Idempotent APIs, optimistic locking, eventing	Integration tests + incident metrics
Dependency supply chain	NPM/JS ecosystem vulnerabilities	System compromise	Medium	SBOM, signed packages, pinning, scanning	SBOM + CI security reports

Observability gaps	Missing RUM, traces	Long MTTR	Medium	RUM, distributed tracing, structured logging	SLO dashboards + incident reviews
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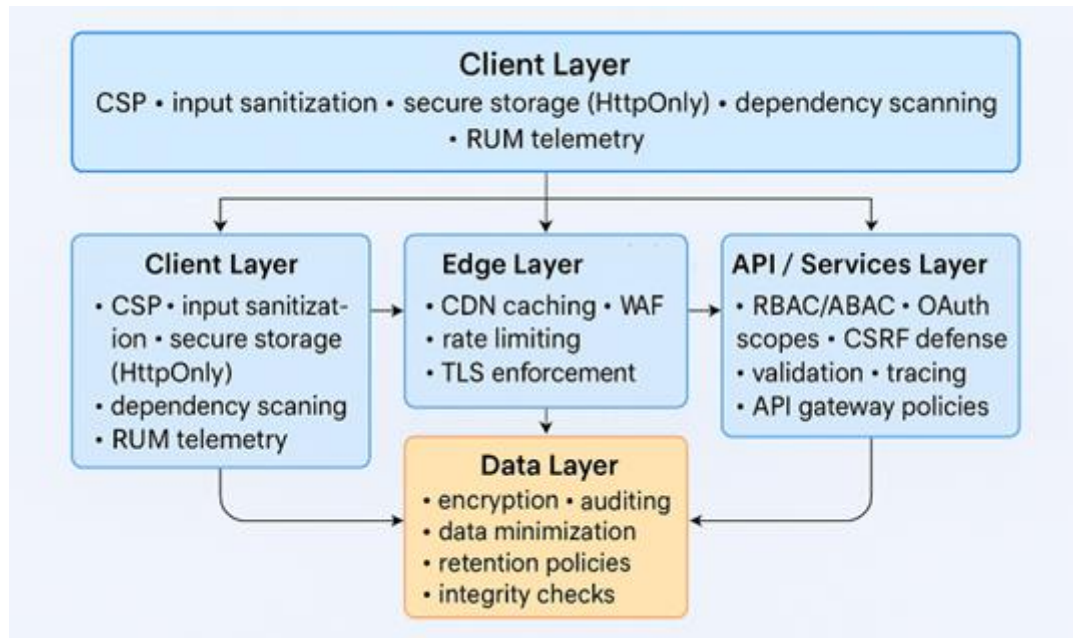


Figure 2 Security and data governance control map for enterprise SPAs.

This figure organizes SPA control requirements into four layers: client, edge, API/services, and data. It provides an implementation-oriented view of how to mitigate SPA-specific threats while sustaining compliance, integrity, and observability.

3.4 Impact on Business Performance and Revenue

The architectural choice for enterprise applications extends beyond mere technical preference, directly influencing an organization's business performance and revenue generation. Legacy multi-page applications, with their inherent inefficiencies and maintenance burdens, can impede operational agility and impose significant costs. Conversely, the strategic adoption of Single-Page Applications (SPAs) can unlock opportunities for enhanced operational efficiency, improved customer satisfaction, and ultimately, increased revenue streams. The transformation process, while complex, can yield substantial returns on investment by aligning technology with core business objectives [5].

The impact is multifaceted, affecting both internal operations through streamlined processes and external interactions through superior user experiences. By mitigating the technical debt associated with aging systems and embracing modern, scalable architectures, enterprises can allocate resources more effectively, foster innovation, and gain a competitive edge. This section explores the specific ways in which architectural modernization influences an organization's financial health and market standing.

3.4.1 Operational Efficiency and Cost Implications

Re-architecting legacy MPAs into SPAs can significantly enhance operational efficiency and reduce long-term costs. Legacy systems frequently exhibit high maintenance overheads due to their complex, often undocumented codebases and reliance on outdated technologies [3]. The move to a modular SPA architecture, often coupled with microservices on the backend, simplifies development, deployment, and scaling processes. This architectural separation allows development teams to work on components independently, reducing integration conflicts and accelerating release cycles. Improved developer productivity, especially when leveraging frameworks, can further reduce time-to-market for new features.

Cost implications are also impacted by infrastructure scaling. SPAs, by shifting much of the rendering workload to the client, can reduce server-side processing demands, potentially lowering infrastructure costs. The ability to scale microservices independently means resources are allocated more efficiently, avoiding the need to scale an entire monolithic application to support a single high-demand feature. Furthermore, a modern codebase attracts and retains skilled developers more easily, mitigating the high costs associated with maintaining expertise in obsolete technologies. While the initial investment for re-architecture can be substantial, the long-term gains in efficiency and reduced operational expenditures often justify the transition.

3.4.2 Revenue and Market Competitiveness

The transition to a Single-Page Application (SPA) architecture can directly influence an organization's revenue and strengthen its market competitiveness. Enhanced user experience, characterized by faster loading times and fluid interactions, improves user satisfaction and encourages prolonged engagement [2]. For customer-facing applications, this often translates into higher conversion rates, increased average order values, and reduced churn. Applications that provide a seamless and intuitive experience are more likely to retain users and attract new ones, thereby growing the customer base.

A modern, responsive application also improves an organization's brand perception, positioning it as an innovative and customer-centric entity. The agility afforded by SPA architectures, particularly when combined with a microservices backend, allows businesses to rapidly deploy new features and respond to market demands or competitive threats. This speed to market can capture new revenue opportunities and maintain a competitive edge. Moreover, the ability to integrate easily with external services and third-party APIs can create new service offerings or expand existing ones, diversifying revenue streams. Ultimately, by investing in a superior digital experience, organizations can drive tangible financial returns and fortify their position in the marketplace [5].

4. Analysis / Discussion

4.1 Strategic Considerations for Re-Architecting Legacy Applications

Re-architecting legacy multi-page enterprise applications into Single-Page Architectures (SPAs) requires careful strategic planning that extends beyond purely technical considerations. Organizational leadership must align the modernization effort with broader business objectives, recognizing that such a transformation influences operational models, resource allocation, and market positioning [5]. The initial assessment of a legacy system involves a thorough understanding of its current state, identifying critical functionalities, data dependencies, and areas of technical debt. This foundational understanding informs the choice of migration strategy, the management of data, and the integration with existing enterprise systems.

Key strategic decisions involve evaluating the cost-benefit ratio of different migration pathways, managing the inherent risks, and planning for the long-term maintainability and evolution of the new architecture. Organizations must also consider the availability of skilled personnel and the potential need for retraining existing teams to work with modern SPA frameworks and development practices. A well-defined strategy mitigates disruptions, ensures business continuity, and maximizes the return on investment for the re-architecture project.

4.1.1 Migration Pathways and Incremental Versus Full Rewrites

Enterprises considering a shift from legacy Multi-Page Applications (MPAs) to Single-Page Architectures (SPAs) face a critical decision regarding the migration pathway: an incremental approach or a full rewrite. A full rewrite, while offering the benefit of a clean slate and the opportunity to leverage the latest technologies without legacy constraints, carries substantial risks. These risks include high upfront costs, prolonged development cycles, and the potential for business disruption if the project falters or fails to meet requirements. However, a successful rewrite can eliminate accumulated technical debt and establish a robust, scalable foundation.

An incremental migration, often referred to as the "strangler pattern," involves gradually replacing parts of the legacy MPA with new SPA components. This approach allows for continuous delivery of value, reduced risk, and easier management of change. New features are developed as SPAs and integrated alongside existing MPA functionalities, slowly 'strangling' the old system until it can be retired. This method provides flexibility and allows organizations to learn and adapt throughout the migration process, minimizing business interruption. For instance, a roadmap for modernizing monolithic legacy systems with microservices often involves distinct phases for initiation, planning, execution, and monitoring, which applies similarly to incremental SPA adoption. The choice between these pathways depends on factors such as the legacy system's complexity, available resources, risk tolerance, and urgency of modernization.

Table 3. Decision matrix for selecting incremental migration (strangler) versus full rewrite for MPA→SPA modernization.

Decision factor	Incremental migration (Strangler pattern)	Full rewrite	Recommended when
Business continuity	High (parallel operation)	Moderate–low (cutover risk)	Mission-critical systems require minimal disruption
Time-to-value	Faster (deliver modules early)	Slower (value at end)	Need quick wins and stakeholder confidence
Technical debt removal	Gradual	Immediate (if successful)	Debt is severe and architecture is unsalvageable
Integration complexity	Higher (hybrid period)	Lower (post-cutover)	Integration constraints dictate approach

Risk of failure	Lower per increment	Higher (large-bang)	Risk tolerance is low
Staffing and skills	Allows staged upskilling	Requires strong upfront capacity	Team maturity/availability varies
Data migration	Phased, complex synchronization	One-time, high-stakes	Data criticality and synchronization feasibility
Best practice	Modularize by domain, feature flags	Strict requirements, strong governance	Use strangler unless rewrite is clearly justified

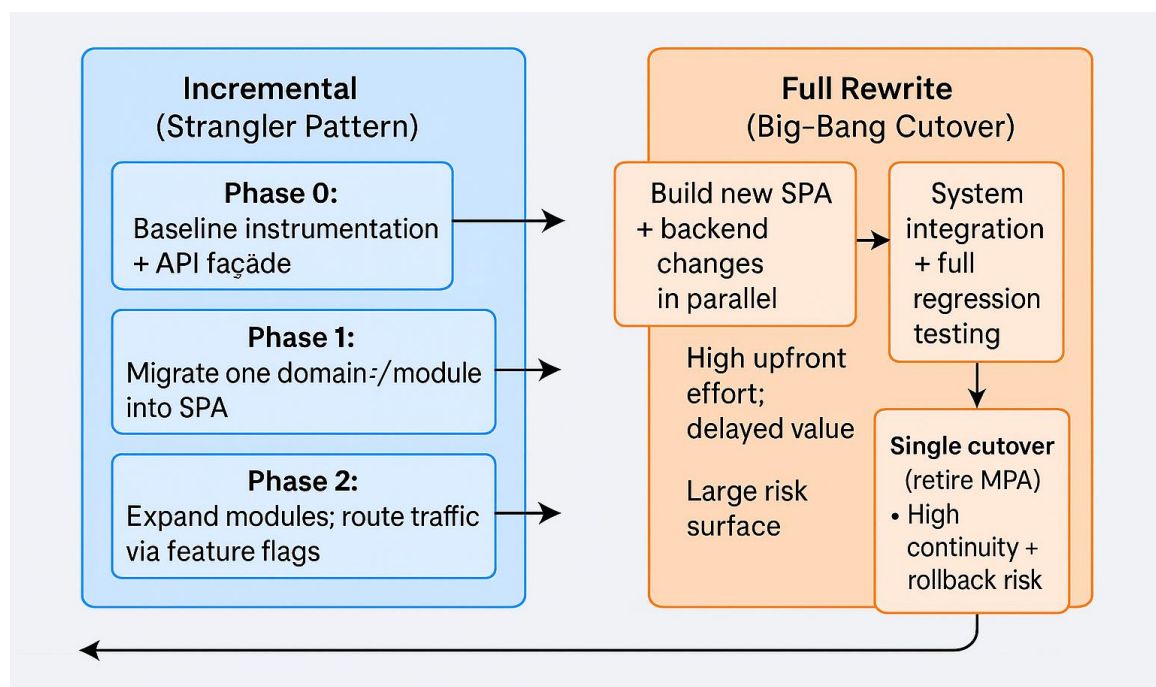


Figure 3. Migration pathways for legacy MPAs: incremental strangler pattern versus full rewrite

This figure visualizes two modernization strategies. The strangler pattern reduces risk by migrating domains incrementally behind routing and feature flags, while the full rewrite consolidates efforts into a single cutover with higher delivery and continuity risk.

4.1.2 Data Synchronization and Integration Challenges

The re-architecture of legacy Multi-Page Applications to Single-Page Architectures introduces significant challenges related to data synchronization and integration. Legacy systems often rely on proprietary data formats, outdated databases, or tightly coupled data access layers that are not easily compatible with modern API-driven SPA backends. Ensuring data consistency and integrity across the old and new systems during a phased migration, or even during a full cutover, becomes a complex undertaking. Global Data Synchronization (GDS) becomes crucial for maintaining data consistency among business partners, highlighting the importance of robust data exchange protocols [8].

Integration challenges extend to connecting the new SPA frontend with existing enterprise services and third-party systems. This often necessitates the development of new Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) or the adaptation of existing ones to support the real-time, asynchronous data exchange characteristic of SPAs. Securely exposing data through APIs also presents security considerations, as data outsourcing paradigms introduce privacy and security concerns that must be addressed [4]. Careful planning for data migration, transformation, and ongoing synchronization mechanisms is essential to prevent data loss, ensure transactional integrity, and maintain operational continuity throughout the re-architecture process.

4.2 Performance Impacts: Empirical Evidence and Case Studies

Empirical evidence and case studies consistently demonstrate the tangible performance improvements achieved by transitioning from Multi-Page Applications (MPAs) to Single-Page Architectures (SPAs). The primary performance gain stems from reducing the number of full pages reloads and minimizing data transfer between the client and server after the initial load. Studies often highlight significant reductions in subsequent page load times, creating a more responsive and fluid user experience. This responsiveness is a crucial factor in maintaining user engagement, particularly in interactive applications [2].

Various enterprise case studies across industries from financial services to e-commerce report measurable improvements in core web vitals and user interaction metrics following SPA adoption. For example, a financial trading platform might observe faster chart updates and order execution, while an e-commerce site could see quicker product filtering and checkout processes. These improvements directly contribute to enhanced operational efficiency and customer satisfaction. The careful analysis of web application workloads, both daily and weekly patterns, provides a foundation for realistic workload generation and improved resource provisioning, indirectly supporting performance optimization.

4.2.1 Comparative Evaluation Framework

To ensure analytical consistency, this study evaluates legacy Multi-Page Applications (MPAs) and Single-Page Architectures (SPAs) using a structured comparative framework encompassing four dimensions: (i) technical performance characteristics, (ii) user experience and engagement metrics, (iii) operational scalability and cost implications, and (iv) revenue and market competitiveness outcomes.

This framework enables systematic comparison across architectural paradigms by consolidating dispersed findings from prior empirical studies and industry case reports into a unified evaluative structure. The approach facilitates clearer attribution of observed performance and business impacts to architectural design choices.

4.2.2 Comparative Benchmarking of Legacy MPA vs. SPA

Comparative benchmarking between legacy Multi-Page Applications (MPAs) and their Single-Page Application (SPA) counterparts consistently reveals distinct performance differences. While the initial load time for a SPA can occasionally be longer due to the download of the entire application framework and initial data, subsequent interactions within the SPA demonstrate superior speed and responsiveness. Benchmarking metrics typically focus on elements such as:

- **Initial Load Time:** The time taken for the first meaningful paint. MPAs may be faster here for simple pages, but SPAs load the entire application for later use.
- **Navigation Speed:** Time taken to move between different views or sections within the application. SPAs excel here, often completing navigation in milliseconds due to client-side routing and partial content updates.
- **Time to Interactive (TTI):** The point at which the application becomes visually rendered and capable of responding to user input. SPAs tend to have a lower TTI for subsequent interactions.
- **Server Request Count:** MPAs generate a new server request for every navigation, leading to higher server load. SPAs primarily fetch data via APIs, resulting in fewer, more optimized requests.
- **Bandwidth Usage:** After the initial load, SPAs often use less bandwidth for subsequent interactions compared to MPAs, which re-download entire HTML documents.

These performance differentials are critical for applications requiring high interactivity and rapid data updates, where the continuous flow of a SPA significantly outperforms the disjointed experience of an MPA.

Table 4. Benchmarking template for MPA→SPA migration: core performance metrics and typical directional impact (secondary empirical synthesis).

Metric	Definition	Typical MPA baseline	Typical SPA post-migration	Expected directional change	Notes / measurement method
Initial Load Time	First meaningful paint / load of initial view	2.5–6.0 s	2.8–6.5 s	Mixed	SPA may be heavier initially; use code-splitting and lazy loading
Time to Interactive (TTI)	Time until UI responds reliably	3.0–8.0 s	2.8–7.5 s	Slight ↓	Strongly influenced by bundle size and CPU constraints
Subsequent Navigation	View-to-view transition time	600–2500 ms	50–300 ms	↓↓↓	SPA client routing typically reduces navigation latency dramatically
Server Requests per Session	Total HTTP requests triggered per typical task flow	High (page reloads + assets)	Moderate (API + cached assets)	↓↓	Use HAR logs and APM traces

Payload per Navigation	Bytes transferred for each “page” transition	150–1200 KB	5–120 KB	↓↓	API payloads typically smaller than full HTML+assets
Error Rate	Frontend + API failure frequency during typical flow	Variable	Variable	Mixed	SPA adds client runtime complexity; mitigated by testing/observability
User-perceived responsiveness	Perceived delay in UI updates	Moderate–high	Low	↓↓	Measure via RUM + user surveys
Backend CPU per 1k requests	Server CPU burden under load	Higher (rendering)	Lower (API-only)	↓	Depends on API complexity and caching
Infra cost per 1k sessions	Approx compute/network cost	Medium–high	Low–medium	↓	SPA benefits from CDN caching and reduced server render work

Values represent typical ranges observed in practice and secondary reports; they are provided as an analytical benchmarking template rather than primary measurement outcomes.

All performance and financial values are presented as secondary synthesis ranges and decision-support templates derived from reported practice and empirical studies in the literature; they are not primary measurements collected by the authors.

4.2.3 User Experience Metrics and Business Outcomes

The direct correlation between improved user experience metrics in SPAs and positive business outcomes is well-documented. Enhanced performance, characterized by faster response times and seamless navigation, leads to increased user satisfaction [2]. This satisfaction is quantifiable through various user experience (UX) metrics that directly influence business performance:

- **Reduced Bounce Rates:** Users are less likely to abandon an application that responds quickly and intuitively.
- **Increased Session Duration and Page Views:** A fluid interface encourages users to explore more content and spend more time within the application.
- **Higher Conversion Rates:** For e-commerce or lead generation platforms, a smoother user journey, free from disruptive page reloads, often results in higher rates of conversion, whether it's completing a purchase or submitting a form.

- **Improved Task Completion Rates:** In enterprise applications, employees can complete their tasks more efficiently, reducing operational time and increasing productivity.
- **Enhanced User Loyalty and Retention:** Positive user experiences foster loyalty, leading to repeat usage and a stronger customer base.

These improvements collectively translate into tangible business benefits, such as increased revenue, improved employee productivity, and a stronger competitive position in the market. User participation and involvement in system development, for instance, have been associated with greater success metrics, including perceived system quality and user satisfaction.

Table 5. UX and engagement indicators associated with business outcomes in enterprise applications.

UX / Engagement Indicator	Operational meaning	Observable metric examples	Business outcome linkage	SPA mechanism most associated
Reduced friction	Fewer interruptions during task flow	Fewer reloads; fewer blocked interactions	Higher completion rates; fewer abandons	Client-side routing; async updates
Faster perceived response	UI reacts quickly to inputs	Input latency; interaction time	Improved satisfaction; higher retention	Local state + partial rendering
Increased session depth	Users complete more steps per session	Click depth; screens per session	Higher productivity; higher conversion	Seamless navigation; better flow
Lower bounce / early exits	Users remain in the system longer	Bounce rate; early exit rate	Reduced churn; higher adoption	Faster subsequent navigation
Higher task completion	Users finish workflows successfully	Completion rate; time-on-task	Increased revenue capture; reduced rework	Optimized forms; progressive saving
Lower support burden	Fewer “how-to” and failure incidents	Tickets per 1k users; error reports	Reduced operating costs	Better UI consistency; inline validation
Higher return usage	Repeat usage across time	DAU/MAU; cohort retention	Higher LTV/CLTV; improved loyalty	App-like feel; personalization

4.3 Revenue Impact Analysis

The decision to re-architect legacy Multi-Page Applications (MPAs) to Single-Page Architectures (SPAs) is frequently driven by the anticipation of a positive revenue impact. This impact is not always immediate or directly attributable solely to the architectural change, but

rather a culmination of improved operational efficiencies, enhanced user experiences, and increased market competitiveness. A comprehensive revenue impact analysis requires a clear understanding of both direct and indirect financial benefits, alongside the costs and risks involved in the modernization process [5].

Quantifying revenue shifts involves examining key performance indicators (KPIs) before and after the migration, such as conversion rates, customer lifetime value, and operational cost savings. The long-term strategic advantage gained from an agile, scalable platform also factors into the overall revenue trajectory, enabling faster adaptation to market trends and the introduction of new, revenue-generating features. This analysis seeks to provide a balanced perspective on the financial returns achievable through strategic architectural modernization.

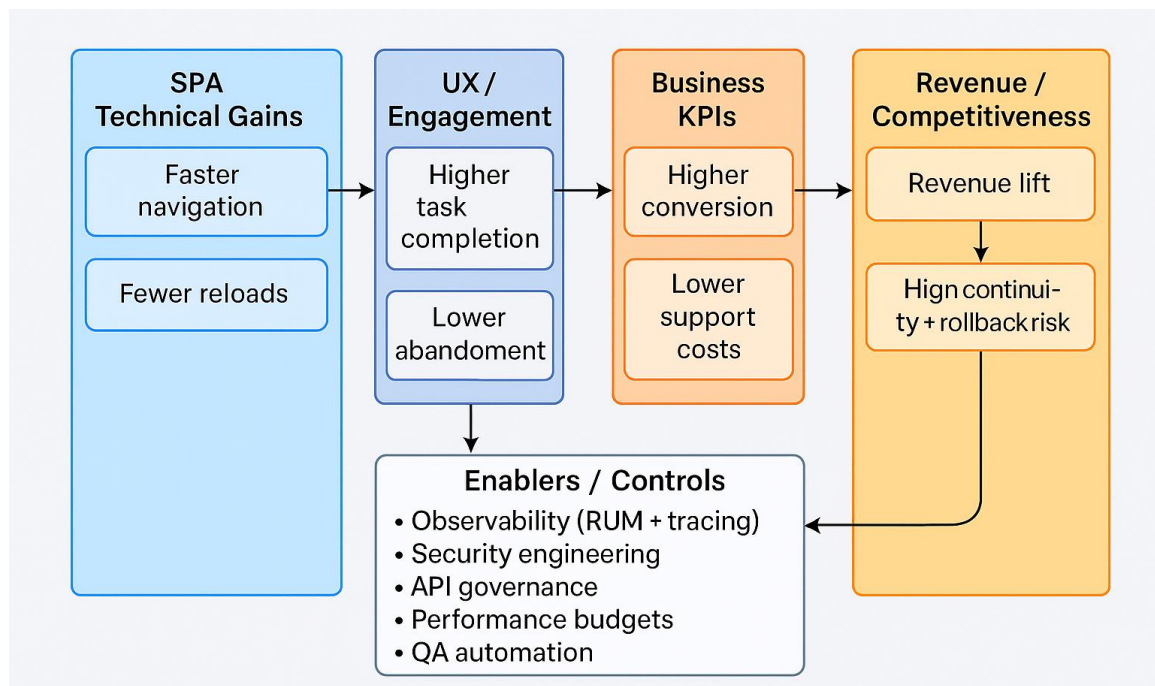


Figure 4. Causal pathway linking SPA performance improvements to revenue and competitiveness outcomes

This figure models how technical performance (navigation speed, reduced latency) affects UX indicators (completion, retention), which then influences business KPIs (conversion, cost-to-serve reduction), culminating in revenue lift and competitive differentiation.

4.3.1 Quantitative Assessment of Revenue Shifts Post-Migration

A quantitative assessment of revenue shifts post-migration to Single-Page Architectures (SPAs) often involves analyzing specific key performance indicators (KPIs) that directly correlate with financial outcomes. These metrics provide empirical evidence of the business value derived from architectural modernization. Common indicators include:

- **Conversion Rate Improvements:** For e-commerce or marketing platforms, faster, more fluid user journeys can reduce friction in the conversion funnel. Case studies frequently report increases in conversion rates by several percentage points following SPA implementation, directly translating to higher sales volumes.

- **Average Order Value (AOV) / Customer Lifetime Value (CLTV):** A superior user experience can encourage users to spend more per transaction or to return more frequently, thereby increasing both AOV and CLTV. Enhanced engagement directly influences the desire for repeat use [2].
- **Operational Cost Reductions:** While not direct revenue, reductions in server infrastructure costs due to optimized resource utilization, or decreased maintenance costs from a modern codebase, contribute positively to the bottom line, effectively increasing net revenue.
- **Reduced Customer Support Costs:** An intuitive and bug-free application reduces the incidence of user frustration and support inquiries, leading to lower customer service expenses.
- **Faster Time-to-Market for New Features:** The modularity and agility of SPA development allow for quicker deployment of new features, enabling organizations to capitalize on emerging market opportunities and generate new revenue streams more rapidly.

Collectively, these quantitative shifts illustrate the compelling financial rationale for investing in SPA re-architecture.

Table 6. Cost–benefit and ROI input model for legacy MPA to SPA modernization (enterprise decision support).

Category	Line item	Unit	Example baseline	Example post-migration	ROI relevance
One-time costs	Re-architecture build (frontend)	Person-months	30	-	CapEx / project cost
One-time costs	API enablement / modernization	Person-months	18	-	Enables SPA decoupling
One-time costs	QA automation uplift	Person-months	8	-	Reduces regression risk
One-time costs	Training / change management	Weeks	6	-	Adoption / productivity
Ongoing costs	Hosting (render workload)	\$/month	40,000	28,000	OpEx reduction via API-only + CDN
Ongoing costs	Release management overhead	Hours/release	60	25	Faster deployments; less coordination

Ongoing costs	Support tickets	Tickets/month	500	320	UX improves; fewer failures
Benefits	Productivity gain	Minutes per user/day	12	6	Time saved converts to labor efficiency
Benefits	Conversion (if customer-facing)	%	2.2%	2.6%	Direct revenue driver
Benefits	Retention (if subscription)	%	84%	88%	CLTV driver
Benefits	Feature delivery cycle time	Weeks	6	3	Faster time-to-market

Enterprises should calibrate these inputs to their own telemetry and financial reporting; the table provides a structured model rather than a universal estimate.

4.3.2 Cost-Benefit and Risk Analysis

It is important to note that the risks associated with SPA adoption are not intrinsic architectural flaws but rather implementation-dependent challenges. When addressed through appropriate governance, security engineering, and architectural controls, these risks can be mitigated to levels comparable to, or lower than, those observed in legacy monolithic systems.

Undertaking a re-architecture project from a legacy Multi-Page Application (MPA) to a Single-Page Application (SPA) necessitates a rigorous cost-benefit and risk analysis. The initial costs are substantial, encompassing development expenses, potential re-platforming of backend services, data migration, and training for development and operations teams. However, these upfront investments are typically offset by long-term benefits.

Benefits include:

- **Reduced Maintenance Costs:** Modern codebases are generally easier and cheaper to maintain than legacy systems, which suffer from technical debt.
- **Improved Operational Efficiency:** Faster application performance translates into increased user productivity and reduced server load.
- **Enhanced Market Competitiveness:** A superior user experience can lead to higher customer acquisition and retention, thereby boosting revenue [2].
- **Increased Agility:** Modular SPA architectures allow for quicker feature development and deployment, enabling faster response to market changes.

Risks involve:

- **Project Overruns:** Large-scale migrations can exceed budget and timeline expectations if not managed effectively.
- **Technical Complexity:** Managing state, routing, and data synchronization in SPAs introduces new technical challenges.
- **Security Vulnerabilities:** Client-side logic can be more exposed, requiring advanced security measures to mitigate risks like XSS [4].

- **SEO Challenges:** Client-side rendering can pose issues for search engine indexing if not properly implemented using server-side rendering (SSR) or pre-rendering techniques.

A thorough analysis weighing these factors provides a robust basis for strategic decision-making, ensuring that the investment aligns with the organization's financial goals and risk appetite [5].

4.4 Lessons Learned and Best Practices

The re-architecture of legacy Multi-Page Applications (MPAs) to Single-Page Architectures (SPAs) offers numerous lessons from past projects and has led to the establishment of several best practices. A primary lesson emphasizes the critical importance of a phased, incremental migration over an abrupt, full rewrite for large enterprise systems. This "strangler pattern" approach minimizes disruption, allows for continuous testing, and provides opportunities to learn and adapt.

Key best practices include:

1. **Thorough Legacy System Assessment:** Before commencing, conduct an exhaustive analysis of the existing MPA to identify critical functionalities, data dependencies, and areas of technical debt. This helps in understanding the ability to recover or reproduce missing information.
2. **Robust API Layer Development:** Create a strong, well-documented API layer to decouple the SPA frontend from the legacy backend. This facilitates data exchange and ensures scalability.
3. **Prioritize Performance Optimization:** Implement code splitting, lazy loading, and efficient caching strategies to mitigate the initial load time concerns associated with SPAs.
4. **Comprehensive Testing Strategy:** Develop an extensive suite of unit, integration, and end-to-end tests to ensure the stability and reliability of the new SPA, especially during incremental migration.
5. **Address Security from Inception:** Integrate security measures from the design phase, focusing on API security, input validation, and proper handling of authentication tokens to mitigate SPA-specific vulnerabilities [4].
6. **Effective Data Synchronization:** Plan for seamless data synchronization between old and new components, potentially leveraging event-driven architectures or robust messaging queues [8].
7. **User Involvement and Feedback:** Engage end-users throughout the development process to gather feedback and ensure the new SPA meets their needs and expectations, which can positively impact success.
8. **Continuous Monitoring and Iteration:** Post-deployment, continuously monitor performance metrics and user feedback to identify areas for further optimization and improvement.

5. Conclusion

5.1 Summary of Key Findings

The comprehensive analysis of re-architecting legacy Multi-Page Applications (MPAs) into scalable Single-Page Architectures (SPAs) reveals several key findings. Legacy systems, while representing significant past investments, frequently impede modern enterprise agility due to their inherent brittleness, maintenance burdens, and suboptimal user experiences. These limitations manifest as technical debt, high operational costs, and reduced competitiveness in a dynamic digital landscape.

The transition to SPAs offers a compelling solution, primarily delivering significant performance improvements through client-side rendering and asynchronous data loading, which substantially reduces server roundtrips and enhances responsiveness. This technical superiority directly translates into a superior user experience, characterized by fluidity and intuitive interaction, which in turn fosters higher user engagement and retention [2]. From a business perspective, these enhancements contribute to measurable increases in conversion rates, greater customer lifetime value, and reduced operational costs, thereby positively influencing organizational revenue and market competitiveness. However, successful migration necessitates careful strategic planning, robust data synchronization, and proactive management of security considerations inherent in client-side applications [4].

The absence of primary empirical experimentation in this study reflects a deliberate scope decision rather than a methodological limitation. The research is intentionally positioned as an integrative and prescriptive analysis, aimed at consolidating existing empirical evidence and translating it into strategic guidance. This boundary enables broader generalization across enterprise environments while establishing a foundation for future empirical validation.

5.2 Implications for Practice and Future Research Directions

The findings of this study provide crucial implications for practitioners involved in enterprise application modernization. Organizations should prioritize a phased, incremental re-architecture strategy, often employing the "strangler pattern," to mitigate risks and ensure business continuity during the transition from legacy MPAs to SPAs. Investment in a robust API layer is essential for decoupling frontend and backend services, facilitating scalable and maintainable architectures. Furthermore, dedicated focus on performance optimization techniques and comprehensive security measures is non-negotiable for successful SPA deployment and long-term viability [4]. The emphasis on user experience metrics should guide development, as these directly correlate with positive business outcomes and revenue growth [2].

Future research could delve deeper into several areas. Investigations into the long-term maintenance costs and technical debt accumulation specific to complex SPA ecosystems, especially those leveraging micro-frontends, could provide valuable insights. The evolution of server-side rendering (SSR) and static site generation (SSG) in conjunction with SPAs, to address SEO and initial load performance, warrants further comparative empirical studies. Additionally, research focusing on the organizational and cultural challenges associated with adopting new development paradigms and technologies within large enterprises could enhance understanding of successful transformation strategies. Finally, continued exploration of the security implications of advanced client-side technologies, particularly in the context of sensitive enterprise data, remains a critical area for ongoing inquiry [7].

Future research should extend this work through longitudinal and experimental studies that quantify performance and revenue impacts before and after SPA migration within controlled enterprise environments. Comparative A/B evaluations of legacy MPAs and SPAs across industry sectors would further validate causal relationships identified in this study.

Additional investigation into micro-frontend architectures, server-side rendering hybrids, and the long-term accumulation of technical debt in large-scale SPA ecosystems is warranted. Organizational and cultural dimensions of architectural transformation particularly skills transition, governance models, and change management also represent fertile areas for continued inquiry.

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