

Top 10 Reasons to Upgrade your LIMS

1. Maintain vendor support as older versions come off support

Maintaining vendor support for your software especially mission critical applications like LIMS is essential for the operation of your organization. Without full vendor support if you run into a problem with your LIMS you will at best get “best effort” support and bug fixes or at worst none at all. This could cripple or completely shut down your lab. Upgrading to maintain or reestablish vendor support is a great reason to upgrade.

2. Retirement of custom code in favor of vendor supported code

Minimizing the amount of custom code used in your LIMS implementation has long been a LIMS industry recognized best practice. This is a matter of supportability and sometimes even system performance.

3. Take advantage of newer or improved features – may increase lab process efficiency, thus increasing ROI

LIMS are continually evolving and improving. Many new features and functions are developed based on user requests for the solving of real-lab issues. In addition to efficiency and ROI gains, new features and capabilities offers an opportunity to increase your lab user satisfaction and system adoption.

4. Bug fixes and system stability

Upgrades are the predominant mechanism for the dissemination of bug fixes and system improvements although patches are often provided for critical issues in between releases. So even if you have had your issue repaired with a patch, it is recommended that you upgrade to the officially released version that has addressed those issues.

5. Decommission old unsupported hardware, operating systems and databases

Again this is an issue of supportability and sometimes system performance. Upgrading to the newest version of the LIMS will offer you the opportunity to improve your IT infrastructure and increase your user satisfaction level.

6. End user usability improvements

The newest version of the LIMS will invariably have new features and capabilities that are designed to make the user experience better and the system more usable. Taking advantage of these improvements will increase laboratory efficiency, productivity and your user satisfaction.

7. Improve ability to import or export laboratory data

No LIMS is an island. The ability to import and export laboratory data from and to your LIMS is an essential capability. If the upgrade offers improvements in this area, this is a great reason to undergo the upgrade process.

8. New version has improved interfaces to other systems we use

The more integrated that you can make your laboratory systems and other manufacturing or business systems the better off you will be. You will improve your organization’s productivity, reduce errors due to transcription and increase your user satisfaction since you will eliminate manual data entry tasks from your users. If the new version has improved interfacing capabilities, this is always a great reason to upgrade.

9. Upper level management technology drive (always the newest and best – within limits)

This is a matter of company culture. If your organization prides itself on having the newest and best technology available then upgrading is a great way of assuring your adherence to this policy. Of course, organizations rarely seek to be on the “bleeding edge” of technology so proper analysis of the risk and reward of upgrading should always be made.

10. System performance improvements

Improvements in system performance, if offered by the upgrade, are a great reason to undertake the effort of upgrading to the newest version. There is nothing more frustrating than having your LIMS operate sub-optimally. If upgrading your LIMS will improve your system performance, this is a great reason to upgrade.