


Modern Shipping for IBM i: How to **Extend** the Life (and Power) of Your AS/400 System

Bring enterprise-grade logistics
to your Power Systems without
deplatforming.





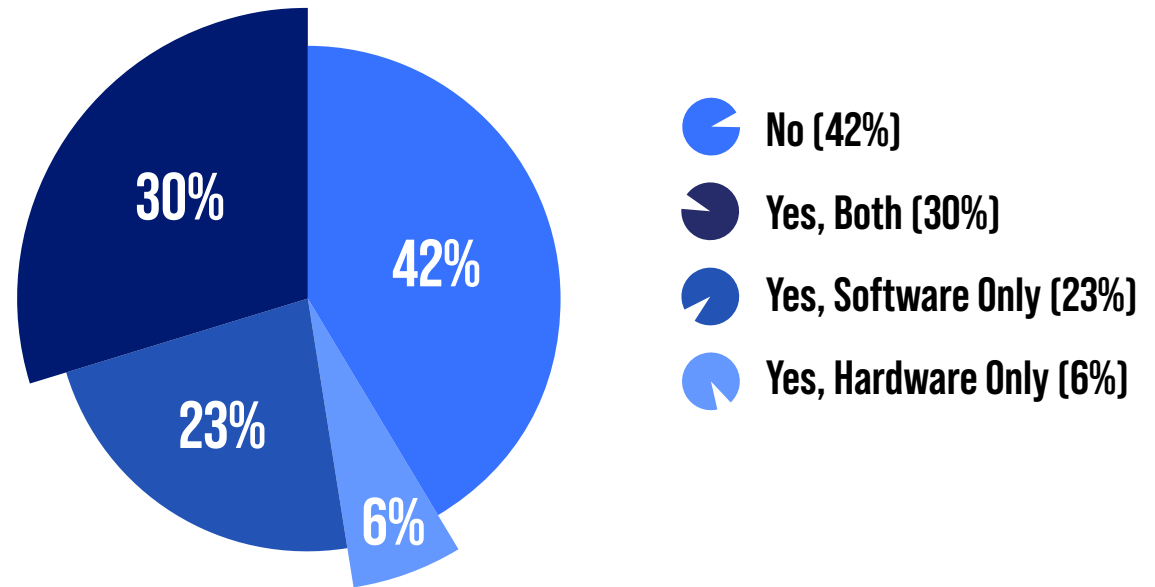
Why **IBM i (AS/400) Power** Still Runs the Supply Chain (and Why Leaders *Aren't* Replacing It)

For decades, AS/400 (now IBM i) systems have quietly powered some of the most demanding supply chains in the world. Known for their stability, security, and ability to process large volumes of data with minimal support, these platforms remain a go-to for Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) technology and other mission-critical tasks.

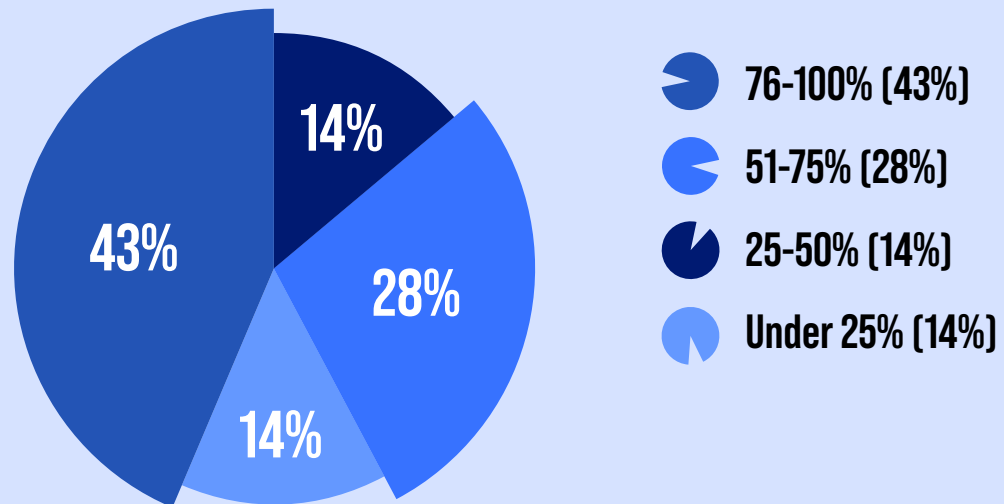
Highly compatible and remarkably low maintenance, IBM i (AS/400) Power is a true workhorse. And while newer technologies continue to emerge, operations leaders are reluctant to replace what isn't broken. The risk, cost, and disruption of migrating from a system that "just works" often outweighs the promise of modern alternatives.

In this eBook, we'll explore why IBM i (AS/400) Power remains indispensable, and how organizations are adapting it to meet today's digital demands.

Do you have plans to do a hardware and/or software **upgrade** in 2025?



What percentage of your **core business** applications run on IBM i (AS/400) Power?



The **Real Cost** of **Outdated** Shipping Processes on IBM i (AS/400) Power

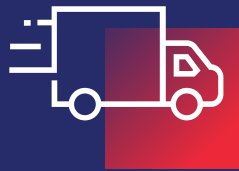
There are multiple ways for IBM i (AS/400) Power users to ship, including homegrown shipping systems, carrier systems, and competitive software solutions. Let's take a look at the pros and cons of each below:



Homegrown

A homegrown solution is a system that was built for and by your business to service your shipping needs. Although it was strategically crafted to fit your specific business model and your employees have become accustomed to it, there is a high likelihood that the inner workings of it is based on the knowledge of one or two individuals at the company.

Come turnover or retirement, your technical expertise is at risk. It is also important to note that manual workarounds are likely to have been built in to try and stay modern, increasing complexity and shipment execution times.



Carrier Systems

This method utilizes separate (and often free) systems for each carrier, which means that popular features like rate shopping are likely impossible or completely manual processes. This is a huge time drain and generally requires additional labor to complete.



Competitive Software Solutions

Although these systems are more modern and offer features that homegrown and carrier systems can't, competitive solutions generally aren't built specifically for the nuances of IBM i (AS/400) Power. Without offering additional specialty modules, it's hard for them to tailor their software to the needs of your business.

**Here are some
additional issues
that exist in
homegrown, carrier,
and competitive
systems.**

Reliance on manual workflows, such as routing, rating, label printing and manifesting

Separate systems for parcel and LTL shipping needs

Needing to utilize separate carrier systems to ship—fully manual process with zero carrier rating capabilities

Lack of real-time visibility into parcel and freight spend

High risk of compliance issues and audit gaps

Hidden IT costs, including maintenance of custom scripts, one-off integrations, and multiple workarounds

What **Modern** Shipping Looks Like (Without Leaving IBM i)

By extending IBM i (AS/400) Power with modern shipping capabilities, operations teams can streamline processes, gain visibility, and eliminate the need for costly workarounds. Here are some key processes to look for in a modern multi-carrier shipping software solution.

Native IBM i integration without middleware

Multi-carrier options and support for parcel and LTL/freight

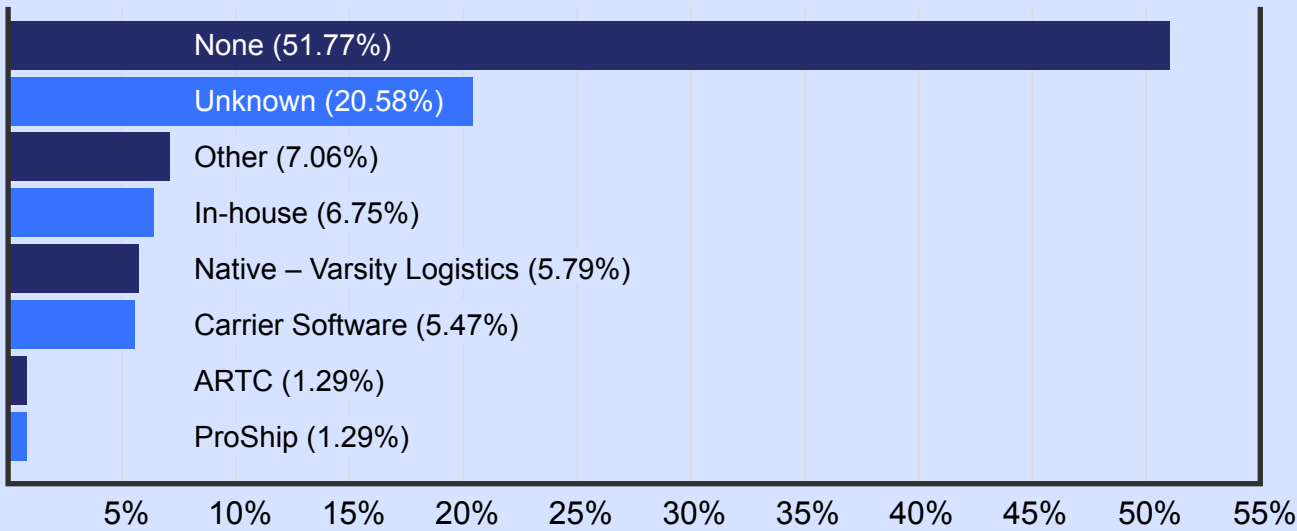
Built-in rating, label generation, and tracking

Add-ons like cartonization (extend your capabilities)

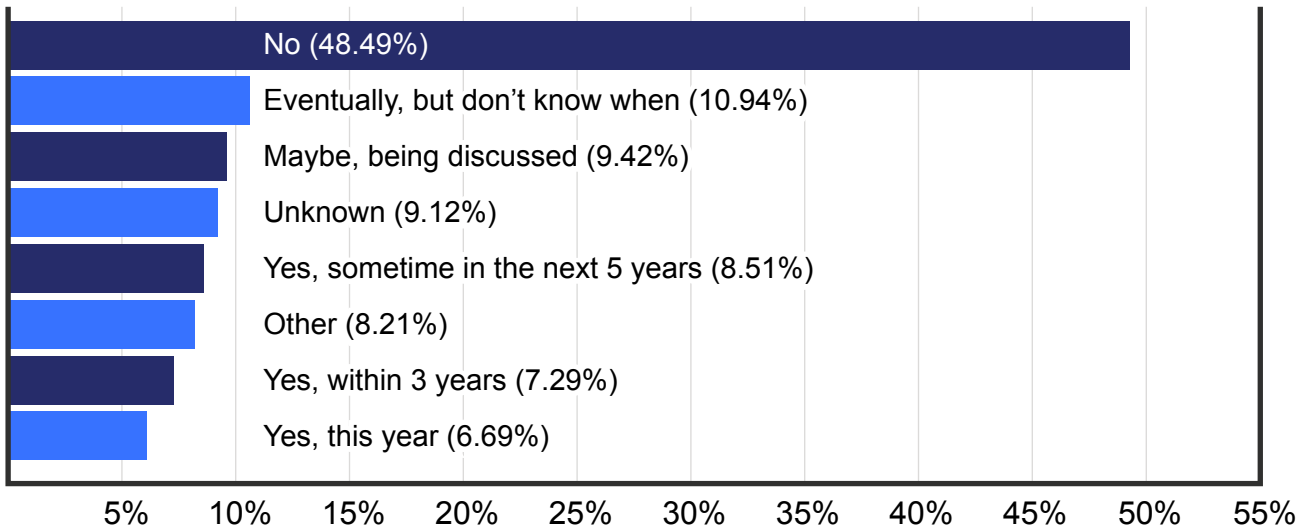
Real-time audit trails, analytics dashboards, and exception management



What do you use for shipping software?



Does your company have plans to migrate off of the IBM i platform?



What ERP package are you using?

Custom ERP System	19.81%
None	16.56%
Our Own	7.14%
JDE World	5.84%
Not Applicable	5.84%
Bespoke	5.19%
Unknown	4.87%
Infor/XA	4.22%
Mapics	3.90%
BPCS	2.92%
Oracle	2.60%
SAP Business Suite	2.60%
System 21	2.60%
Infor Infinium	2.27%
Infor/LX	2.27%
JDA	2.27%
Manhattan	2.27%
Movex (Original)	2.27%
SAP/HANA	2.27%
WMS	2.27%
Friedman Frontier	1.95%
IPTOR (IBS)	1.95%
Salesforce	1.95%
VAI S2k	1.95%
Equation	1.62%
Infor/M3	1.62%
Infor S/21 Aurora	1.62%
Epicor CMS	1.30%
Infor A+	1.30%
JDE E1 (Oracle E1)	1.30%
Lawson (Original)	1.30%
LogPro	1.30%
Odoo	1.30%
PeopleSoft	1.30%
PRMS	1.30%
FIS	0.97%
Harris Data	0.97%
Infor/LN	0.97%
Jobscope	0.97%


[Non-Negotiables]

Key Capabilities to Look for in an IBM i (AS/400) Power- Compatible Shipping Solution



To fully optimize your shipping operations on IBM i, it's essential to choose a solution that checks every box, not just a few. The right platform should streamline both parcel and freight, reduce manual effort, and provide the intelligence needed to control costs and drive performance. Here are seven must-have capabilities to ensure your shipping solution delivers maximum efficiency, scalability, and value.

Non-Negotiables for New Shipping Software Solutions

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- ✔ Offers both parcel AND freight management
 - ✔ Includes rules-based automation for routing and rating
 - ✔ Thorough auditing functionality for cost recovery and compliance
 - ✔ Embedded analytics for shipping KPIs and cost centers
 - ✔ Scalable modules that grow with your business
 - ✔ Add-on modules that tailor the software to your business
 - ✔ Automated containerization capabilities

What is **Auto Containerization**?

[Auto containerization](#) is the automated process of efficiently packing goods to minimize wasted space and avoid shipping inefficiencies, so you're not "paying for air." More broadly, containerization focuses on optimizing how goods are loaded onto pallets and trailers, while cartonization—its smaller-scale counterpart—deals with selecting the ideal cartons for individual shipments. [Read this blog](#) to learn more about Auto Containerization.

Why **IBM i (AS/400) Power + Varsity Logistics** is the Modernization Sweet Spot

Modernizing your shipping operations doesn't have to mean ripping out your core systems. With native IBM i support, Varsity delivers advanced logistics capabilities without the disruption, cost, or complexity of a full WMS, TMS, or ERP overhaul. It's the ideal balance of modern functionality that enhances your existing AS/400 investment while keeping control and visibility in-house.



How Varsity **modernizes** your shipping operations.

Built-in IBM i compatibility delivers high performance and reduces IT complexity

Minimizes the need for expensive overhauls of your WMS, TMS, or ERP systems

Frees teams from manual entry, spreadsheets, and one-off solutions

Keeps control in-house without sacrificing logistics intelligence



You Don't Need a New Platform— Just a **Smarter Way to Ship**

Modernizing your shipping operations doesn't mean walking away from the reliability of your IBM i (AS/400) Power, it means extending its power. As you've seen throughout this guide, with the right tools in place, IBM i can continue to serve as the foundation for fast, intelligent, and scalable shipping. And if your long-term roadmap eventually leads you beyond AS/400,

Varsity has you covered with a direct upgrade path to our sister company's well-respected solution: [ProShip's enterprise-grade multi-carrier shipping platform](#). This ensures your shipping operations stay future-ready, no matter where your tech stack goes.

A Snapshot of Varsity Logistics Carriers, Tech Partners and Customers



and more!



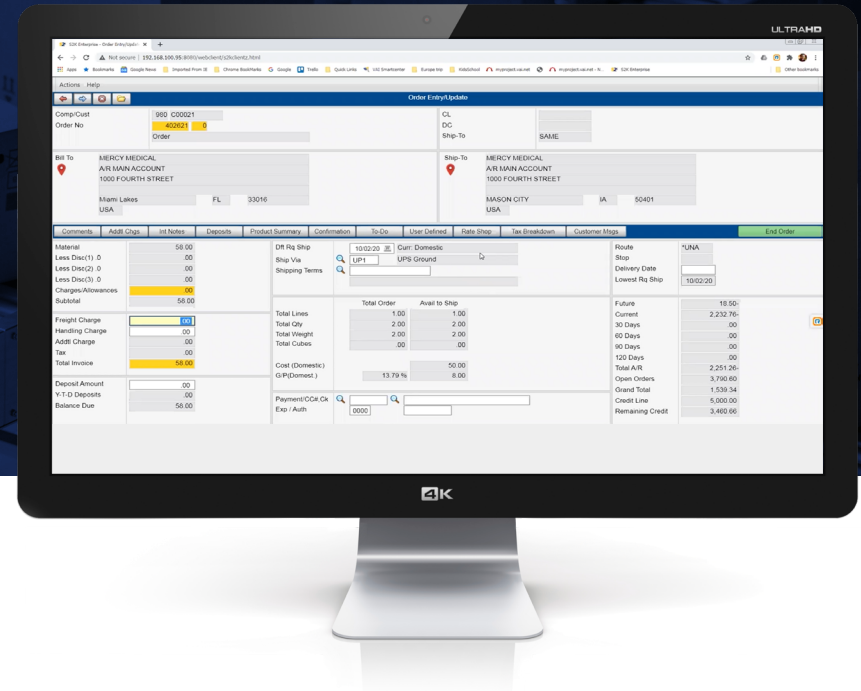
and more!

and more!

Let's Get Started. Contact **Varsity Logistics** today.

Ready to modernize shipping on IBM i (AS/400) Power? Book a demo with a Varsity Logistics Shipping Expert for a walkthrough of our comprehensive multi-carrier shipping software suite.

[SCHEDULE A DEMO >](#)



The only holistic **shipping solution** built for the **IBM i**

Varsity Logistics is the leading provider of native multi-carrier parcel and freight shipping software for the IBM i (AS/400) Power Systems. Beyond core functionality, such as automating and streamlining parcel and LTL shipping across the entire business, Varsity offers additional modules, such as pack verification, vendor compliance (UCC128/ASN), routing, containerization, shipment optimization, load planning, and parcel and freight bill auditing.

These features reduce costs, maximize efficiency, and provide complete control, all within one platform. Seamlessly integrate Varsity's suite of software modules, available individually or part of an overall solution, with your existing IBM i based ERP/WMS systems for order management, customer service, financials, and more. With proven reliability and experience, Varsity is the only holistic shipping solution built for the IBM i. Visit varsitylogistics.com to learn more.

varsitylogistics.com

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