Everything treasury needs to know about tech debt

What is tech debt? Technical debt is the additional cost incurred by operating inefficient treasury systems and processes—the hidden costs in daily treasury operations. Treasury is not exempt from hidden costs. Identifying and measuring the technical costs associated with inefficient treasury systems can help treasurers drive their strategy and optimize operations.

Do you have tech debt?

Identifying and mitigating tech debt is key. Here are some factors that might contribute to tech debt in treasury operations:

- Current technology systems that require ongoing maintenance
- The people and effort required to complete tasks
- The degree of complexity in technology infrastructure

Mitigating tech debt

By identifying and measuring these costs, treasurers can drive strategic decisions and optimize treasury operations:

- Raise the company's tech debt consciousness with a comprehensive assessment.
- Take inventory of current technology.
- Identify technology workflows and capability gaps.
- Analyze the trade-offs between keeping existing technology or implementing new systems.
- Prioritize initiatives.

Overcoming challenges

As treasury seeks to transform, it will require the help and sponsorship of many stakeholders.

Make tech culture part of the DNA.


Measuring success

It’s important to ensure the work statement identifies and defines exactly what the business needs—and what the transformation should produce. The work statement should:

- Identify key performance indicators the company wants to achieve
- Contribute to the company’s overall success
- Measure the fraction being transformed

J.P. Morgan’s Corporate Treasury Consulting team can help your organization with a process review and treasury roadmap.