What is the University of Tennessee’s DASH Program?

After two decades of service, the University of Tennessee’s Systems Applications and Products platform—known throughout the university as IRIS—will no longer be supported in 2025 as software providers are moving the industry to cloud-based solutions. Given the central role that IRIS plays in processing all of UT’s financial and human resources activities, UT officials began planning in 2019 for the transition to a new, cloud-based enterprise resource planning (ERP) system, known as DASH (Dynamic Administrative Systems for Higher Ed).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IRIS 2020 Transactions</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Dollars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IRIS Web Portal Logins</td>
<td>546,594</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll Check Deposits</td>
<td>406,200</td>
<td>$1.1B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplier Payments</td>
<td>153,600</td>
<td>$872M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Applicants</td>
<td>64,159</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hires</td>
<td>12,987</td>
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</tbody>
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What does DASH provide that IRIS does not?

Modern cloud-based resource systems give organizations a competitive edge by enhancing operational efficiency, reducing costs to operate, ensuring accountability, opening transparency and improving customer service. At its core, it allows the organization to be more agile and dynamic.

The benefits

- Bring core processes together under a single platform
- Streamline and automate processes, creating a leaner, more accurate and efficient operation
- Provide better reporting and decision making
- Give real time visibility into crucial business processes
- Improve end user experience and confidence
- Improve security and accessibility
Why now?

- **End of Life.** The current platform will no longer be supported in 2025 and UT must move to a new operating platform.

- **Prerequisites.** A solid modern comprehensive finance and HR system is a necessary building block for a student system of the same caliber.

- **Cost Avoidance.** IRIS, the current legacy system, is running on old hardware that will require a multi-million-dollar investment if not replaced by a modern cloud system.

- **Thwarting Progress.** The nearly 20-year-old system hampers the ability to streamline and automate processes because the changes required are not supported in the current platform.

What is the timeline?

*Phase 2 implementation timeline is tentative. Dates are subject to change during implementation planning with vendor.*

Bottom line - best practices and change

Modern resource systems incorporate best practices through the vendor’s learned experience and development of best practices from implementations at other universities and across other industries. Use of built-in best practices reduced risk by 71% compared to other ERP software implementations industry wide. Additionally, use of best practices eases compliance with rules, regulations and industry standards.