

# UAB InfoEd eRA System Implementation Recommendation

The UAB Offices of Research and Information Technology, in collaboration with our eRA solution provider, evaluated four options for relaunching the UAB InfoEd eRA system:

**New database  
single deployment**

**New database  
phased deployment**

**Existing database  
single deployment**

**Existing database  
phased deployment**

Impact on user experience, operational stability, and system sustainability were key considerations. A thorough assessment revealed that a **phased deployment with our existing database** provides UAB with the greatest benefit and least amount of risk.

## Risk Analysis

Decreased risk by utilizing our existing database:

- ✓ No need to run parallel systems for new and old modules, providing one entry point for end users and a single system for functional and technical teams to support
- ✓ No ETL needed to consolidate data, eliminating a potential point of failure
- ✓ Less complex data conversion
- ✓ Vendor has the greatest amount of experience with this option and can rely on previous experience

Decreased risk through a phased deployment:

- ✓ Provides new functionality and improved system performance sooner, increasing ROI, stakeholder satisfaction and maintaining business continuity
- ✓ Reports can be revised on a module-by-module basis, distributing project team workload
- ✓ Training can be provided in phases, easing the transition for stakeholders and decreasing demands on operational and technical support

Increased risk by utilizing our existing database:

- × Legacy settings could cause unforeseen issues

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## **Risk Mitigation**

- ✓ We compared our current database to the most current software version and determined that while there are several new tables, there are no major schema differences, so risks associated with utilizing our existing database are lower than starting with a new database.
- ✓ We plan to decrease the size of our existing database by purging/archiving records in compliance with data retention policy prior to new system implementation.

## **Additional Recommendations**

1. System will be re-branded as myUABresearch to generate stakeholder excitement and combat negative perceptions of the current IRAP system
2. System will remain on premise because transitioning to a hosted solution would add time and cost to the project
3. We will continue using SQL database because InfoEd does not anticipate better performance from Oracle and they have limited experience supporting Oracle