



The complete guide to
successful IFS implementations

Why your choice of implementation partner matters

Executive summary

Implementing an ERP solution is one of the most significant investments an organisation will make. The right ERP platform can transform operations, improve visibility, increase efficiency and provide the foundation for future growth. However, even the most capable software can fail to deliver expected outcomes without the right implementation strategy and the right implementation partner.

For organisations investing in **IFS Cloud**, the implementation partner often has a greater impact on project success than the software itself.

This white paper explores the common challenges organisations face during IFS implementations, the characteristics of successful projects, and the criteria organisations should use when selecting an IFS implementation partner.

It also examines how experienced implementation partners help reduce risk, accelerate value and create long-term success beyond go-live.



Why IFS implementations matter

Modern organisations face increasing pressure to improve efficiency, reduce operational costs, respond faster to customers and gain better visibility across the business. IFS Cloud provides a powerful platform to support these goals by connecting critical business functions across:

Supply chain
Finance
Manufacturing
Customer operations
Asset management
Projects
Human resources
Service management

However, technology alone does not solve business challenges. The success of an implementation depends on how effectively the solution is aligned with business processes, operational requirements and long-term objectives. This is why choosing the right IFS implementation partner is so important.

Why ERP implementations fail

Despite advances in technology, organisations continue to experience implementation challenges. In most cases, projects do not struggle because of software limitations. Instead, issues typically arise from:

Lack of clear business objectives

Projects focused purely on deploying software often fail to deliver measurable business improvements. Successful organisations define clear outcomes from the outset. Examples include:

- Improved project visibility.
- Faster month-end reporting.
- Better asset performance.
- Increased service efficiency.
- Reduced operational costs.

Underestimating change management

ERP implementations change the way people work. Without effective communication, training and stakeholder engagement, user adoption can suffer.

Over-customisation

Many organisations attempt to recreate legacy processes rather than adopting modern best practices. This often increases project complexity, costs and future upgrade challenges.

Insufficient testing

Testing remains one of the most critical stages of any implementation. Failing to properly validate processes, integrations and data can lead to costly issues after go-live.

Lack of experienced guidance

Organisations implementing ERP systems infrequently often face challenges that experienced implementation partners encounter every day. The right expertise can prevent many common project risks.

The role of an IFS implementation partner

An IFS implementation partner does much more than configure software. A successful partner provides expertise across every stage of the project lifecycle.

Strategy and planning

Helping organisations define objectives, scope and success criteria.

Business process review

Assessing current processes and identifying opportunities for improvement.

Solution design

Aligning IFS Cloud functionality with operational requirements.

Project governance

Providing structure, reporting and risk management throughout the implementation.

Data migration

Supporting the movement of accurate and reliable data into the new environment.

Testing

Ensuring business-critical processes function as expected before deployment.

Training

Helping users understand new ways of working.

Ongoing support

Providing expertise beyond go-live to ensure continuous improvement.

What separates successful IFS implementations?

While every project is different, successful implementations often share several common characteristics.

Executive sponsorship

Leadership engagement remains one of the strongest predictors of project success.

Clear business outcomes

Successful projects focus on solving business challenges rather than simply replacing software.

Realistic planning

Organisations that invest time in planning often experience fewer delays and surprises later.

Strong user engagement

Users should be involved throughout the implementation journey.

Continuous improvement mindset

Go-live should be viewed as the beginning of the journey rather than the end.

Choosing the right IFS implementation partner

Not all implementation partners offer the same capabilities, experience or approach. When evaluating potential partners, organisations should consider the following factors.

Proven IFS expertise

Look for a partner with extensive experience delivering IFS projects. Deep product knowledge can significantly reduce risk and improve outcomes.

Industry knowledge

Every industry has unique requirements. A partner with sector experience can apply lessons learned from similar organisations and recommend best practices.

Global delivery capability

For organisations operating across multiple regions, global delivery capabilities can simplify project execution and ongoing support.

Long-term support services

Implementation is only one stage of the ERP lifecycle. Consider whether the partner can support future optimisation, upgrades and managed services.

Testing expertise

Testing often determines the quality of the final solution. Partners that invest in testing capabilities help organisations reduce risk and improve confidence.

Why organisations choose Platned

At Platned, IFS is our primary focus.

We combine deep technical expertise with practical business understanding to help organisations achieve successful implementation outcomes.

IFS expertise

Our teams have extensive experience delivering IFS Cloud projects across multiple industries and regions.

Global delivery model

With more than 200 specialists across the UK, North America, Sri Lanka, Australia, Dubai and beyond, we provide scalable implementation support wherever our customers operate.

Industry experience

We support organisations across:

- **Manufacturing.**
- **Construction and engineering.**
- **Service industries.**
- **Energy and utilities.**
- **Aerospace and defence.**
- **Telecommunications.**

Proven methodology

Our structured implementation approach helps reduce risk, improve governance and accelerate project success.

Automated testing capabilities

Through Platned Mahara, organisations can automate significant elements of implementation and upgrade testing, helping reduce effort while improving quality.

Long-term partnership

Our support extends beyond implementation to include:

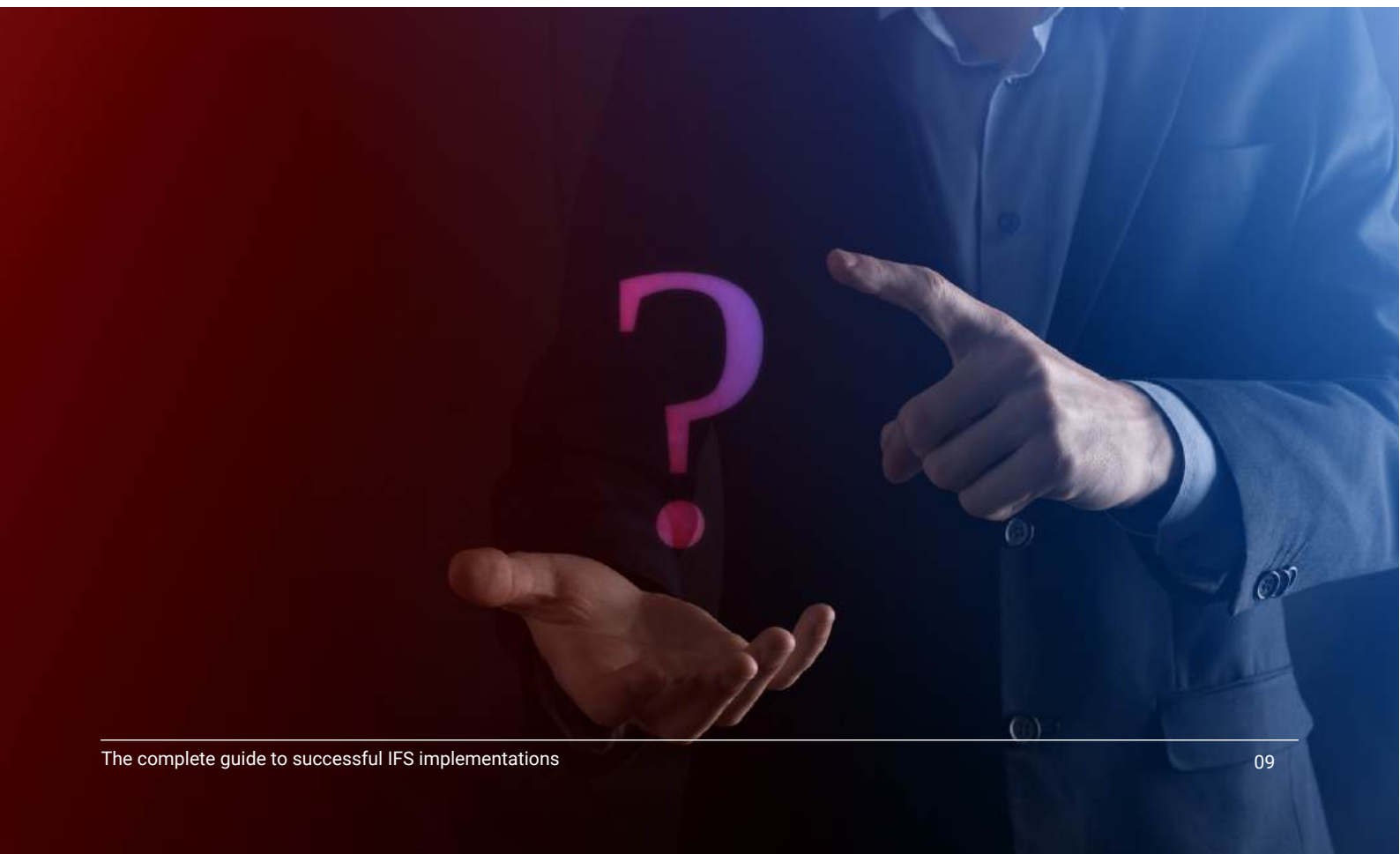
- **Managed services.**
- **Cloud hosting.**
- **Upgrades and migrations.**
- **Business System Health Checks.**
- **User adoption support.**
- **Ongoing consultancy.**

Questions every organisation should ask before selecting an implementation partner

Before committing to an implementation project, organisations should ask:

- How many IFS implementations have you delivered?
- What experience do you have within our industry?
- How do you manage project risk?
- What is your approach to testing?
- How do you support change management?
- What happens after go-live?
- Can you support future upgrades and optimisation?

The answers to these questions often reveal whether a partner is focused solely on project delivery or on long-term customer success.



Looking beyond go-live

Many organisations view implementation success as reaching go-live. The most successful organisations take a different view. They recognise that implementation is the beginning of an ongoing journey of optimisation, innovation and continuous improvement. The right IFS implementation partner supports that journey by helping organisations adapt, evolve and maximise the value of their investment over time.



Conclusion

A successful IFS implementation requires more than technology. It requires clear objectives, strong governance, effective change management and a partner with the expertise to guide the organisation through every stage of the journey.

Choosing the right IFS implementation partner can significantly reduce project risk, improve user adoption and accelerate business value.

For organisations looking to maximise their investment in IFS Cloud, selecting an experienced partner is one of the most important decisions they will make.

The question is not simply whether your organisation is ready for IFS Cloud.

It is whether you have the right partner to help you succeed.

