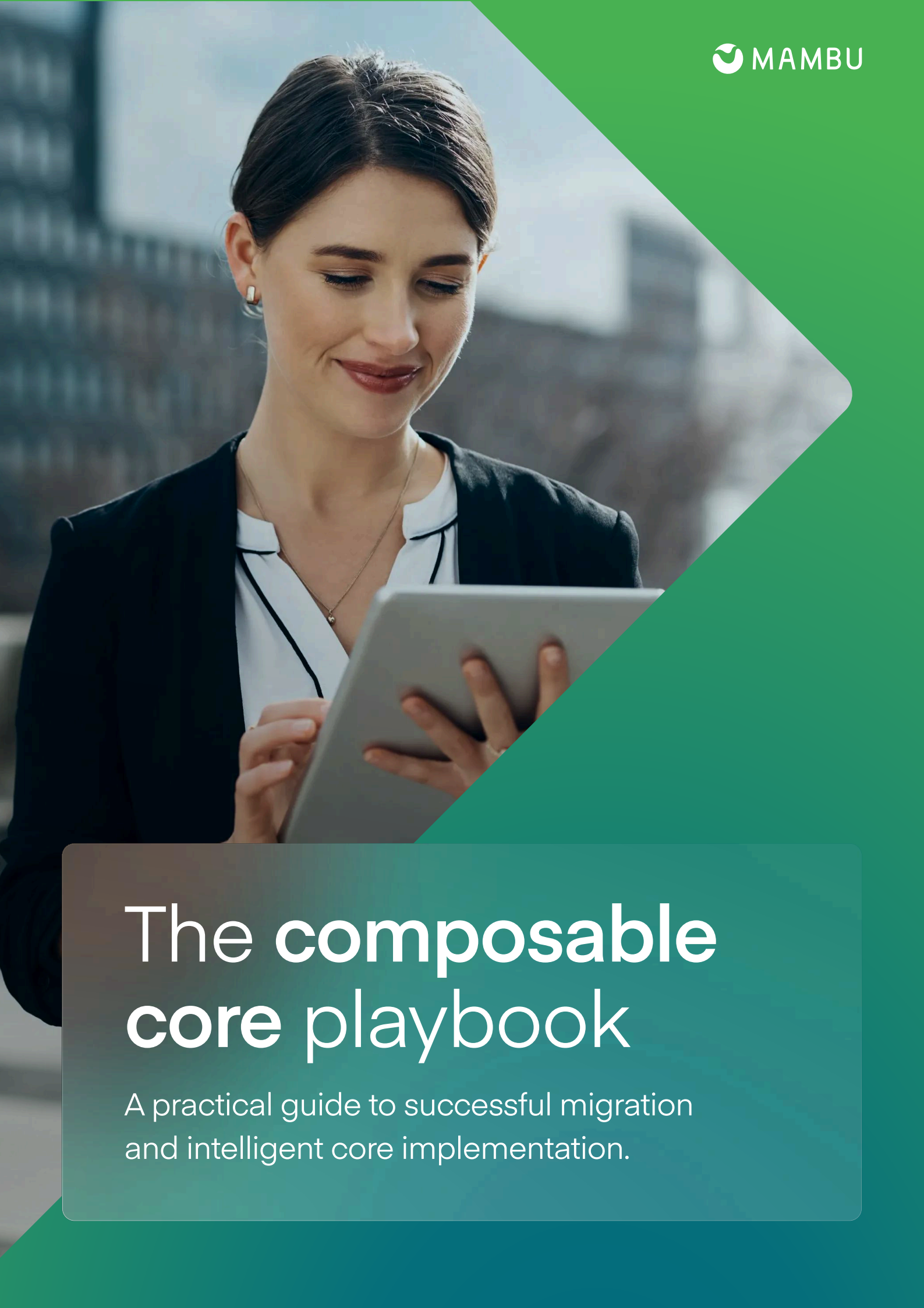


A woman with dark hair, wearing a black blazer over a white shirt, is looking down at a tablet computer. She is smiling slightly. The background is a blurred city street. A large green diagonal shape is on the right side of the image.

The composable core playbook

A practical guide to successful migration
and intelligent core implementation.

Introduction

Transforming your core can feel overwhelming. But you don't have to do it alone. Every bank has a unique journey. The key to success? Choose a strategy that fits your business, your customers, and your appetite for change.

Today, transformation is no longer just about modernising infrastructure. Financial institutions must also prepare for banking at the speed of AI, where real-time data, agentic AI, and connected systems redefine how banking operates. The composable foundation that enables agility today is what enables more intelligent, connected banking tomorrow.

This guide gives you the strategies and clear steps you need to avoid common pitfalls, keep disruption to a minimum, and build a foundation that's flexible and resilient, so you're ready for whatever...

...comes next.

Getting started

Practical paths to core modernisation

Once the decision to modernise is made, the next step is choosing a low risk, phased approach that supports future innovation, intelligent connectivity, and long-term adaptability.

Here are three proven strategies:

Migrate by product or service

Move specific products and services – like credit cards, deposits or lending - to your new core, one at a time. This keeps risk low, lets you learn as you go, and keeps your business running smoothly and creates stronger foundations for connected, data-driven banking capabilities.

Geographic or business unit migration

Transition branches or specific business units independently. Tailor your approach to local needs, regulatory requirements, or specific market segments without disrupting your entire organisation at once.

New product or service launch on a new core

Build and launch new products or services straight onto your modern, composable platform enabling faster innovation and more intelligent customer experiences. Your legacy systems can keep supporting existing services, so you can bring fresh, differentiated experiences to market faster, and start seeing value right away.

Five ways to modernise your core

No matter which path you choose, core modernisation usually fits into one of these five proven approaches. Each one offers a different way to move forward, so pick what works for you.

The five proven core implementation models

GREENFIELD

Neo-bank

Built from scratch with fresh tech and new team

Usually VC-funded

No existing customers, start with a clean slate

In process or recently received a license

DUAL CORE

Shared legacy

Launch a new fintech sponsored by existing bank

Uses existing technology and integrations

Core is still tied to the sponsor bank, which can limit flexibility

On the edge

New composable core runs alongside the existing legacy system

Share legacy functions where needed, but stand out with new features

Lower risk with phased, long-term migration

SPEEDBOAT

Spin-off

Shared ownership but legally and operationally independent

Funded by the existing organisation to launch fast

Quickly capture new market segments with fresh, differentiated offerings

MIGRATION

Legacy replaced

All in – complete replacement of core system

High complexity, like open-heart surgery

Needs rigorous planning and continuous C-level governance

Mambu.

Your transformation partner for banking at the speed of AI.

Since inventing composable banking in 2011, Mambu has set the pace for core modernisation worldwide. We get the complexities of transformation because we've partnered with hundreds of financial institutions, each with their own journey.

Today, that same composable foundation is enabling the next evolution in banking. By combining real-time data, intelligent connectivity, and AI-ready infrastructure, Mambu enables financial institutions to modernise with greater speed, flexibility, and intelligence.

Whatever your starting point, we've got proven blueprints and best practices for every model, from building a greenfield neo-bank to replacing legacy systems. When you choose Mambu, you get more than technology. You get a partner who's with you every step, helping you innovate, evolve, and grow.

REAL-WORLD RESULTS

Building intelligent banking foundations with composability

Banks and fintechs around the world are seeing real results. Fast launches, lower costs, and smoother migrations. Here's how composable banking is transforming a powerful reality.

1. The product pioneer: launching faster with composable



Designed for tech-savvy Gen Z and Millennials, Cake quickly became Vietnam's outstanding digital-only bank, offering a full suite of financial services from payments and savings to loans, BNPL and credit cards. To close the gap for accessible, user-friendly digital bank solutions, Cake needed more than technology. It needed a future-ready platform that could help it scale fast and deliver growth.

Result

Mambu enabled Cake to go from a Minimum Viable Product (MVP) to market in just 74 days, setting a new benchmark for rapid deployment in Vietnam's financial sector. Our API-first architecture allowed Cake to launch a seamless, mobile-first experience, enabling users to open accounts and start banking in just two minutes.

Since then, Cake has achieved industry-defining milestones:

- 5 million customers by 2025.
- Vietnam's first digital-only bank to turn a profit.
- 80% retention for transactional users and 95% for financial product users.
- Recognition as Best Digital Bank in Vietnam 2025 and one of the Top 100 Digital Banks globally.

"Like Cake, Mambu is nimble and agile, and we are excited about the potential of what our two tech-focused businesses can do together."

Nguyen Huu Quang

CEO of Cake Digital Bank

[Read the full story](#)

2. The digital speedboat: competitive arms free from legacy



New10, the SME lending spinoff by Dutch bank giant ABN AMRO, was created to serve small and medium enterprises with fast, fully digital credit decisions and a simplified borrowing experience. The team needed a modern, cloud-native core that could support rapid build and launch in a highly regulated banking environment.

Result

Leveraging Mambu's API-enabled core banking engine, New10 integrated best-of-class systems to streamline operations and focus on customer-facing value creation.

- New10 went from concept to launch in 10 months, delivering 15-minute credit decisions fully digitally and disbursing loans within two working days.
- Within six months of launch, the SME lender acquired over 2,000 accounts with 65% of customers being new to ABN AMRO.

"Mambu offers us scalability, flexibility and speed to market at a fraction of the cost of traditional core systems."

Co-Founder & CTO, New10

[Read the full story](#)

3. The multi-core advantage: driving cost savings



Formerly TymeBank

GoTyme Bank, South Africa's first fully digital retail bank, has become the world's fastest-growing profitable standalone digital bank, reaching 10 million customers in under six years. Built for simplicity and affordability, GoTyme Bank's mission is to make banking accessible to all South Africans, especially the 11 million who remain unbanked or underbanked. To meet surging demand and scale efficiently, GoTyme Bank needed to modernise its infrastructure.

Result

The bank turned to Mambu for its SaaS core banking platform, built on AWS. In doing so, it transformed its core operations and unlocked real-time, inclusive banking at scale.

Within just six months, GoTyme Bank migrated 85% of its core operations to Mambu. The results were transformative:

- 50% reduction in operational costs.
- Seamless onboarding of 100,000 customers per month.
- Increased agility to innovate and deliver services faster.

[Read the full story](#)

This shift empowered GoTyme Bank to grow customer deposits, now nearing R7 billion, at a pace surpassing South Africa's traditional 'Big Five' banks.

4. The phased migration: minimising disruption



LEAGUE DATA

League Data, a cooperative fintech services 37 credit unions across Canada's 4 Atlantic provinces, set out to future-proof its banking operations. The team needed more than a secure, modern core. They needed the flexibility to support varied product needs across their member network while meeting strict Canadian regulatory requirements.

Result

Using Mambu's API-first, composable architecture and SaaS delivery model on AWS, League Data seamlessly integrated with over 20 technology partners and built tailored applications that scale as member needs change.

The successful migration saw more than 35 credit unions move to the new platform within 12 months and introduced a cutover protocol that enables full customer transitions in under 48 hours with zero service disruption.

This shift replaced a decades-old, end-of-life outsourced legacy system and positioned 130 branches, serving 320,000 members for a truly digital-first future.

"Some folks talk about agility in their approach and their model. We've actually got it stem to stern. We can confidently say, 'Yeah, we know that we can do that.' Using Mambu and AWS, we've built a flexible foundation for the future"

Chad Griffin

CEO of League Data

[Read the full story](#)



steps to **accelerate** **your core evolution**

To help get you started, we've taken the insights from hundreds of financial institutions into seven practical steps that drive real transformation. Here's how to move faster, smarter, and build the foundations for more intelligent, connected banking.

1

Set a bold vision and strategy

Start with clarity. Define where you want to go, customer-first, agile, and ready to scale. Create a phased roadmap that connects today's reality with tomorrow's goals.

- Set clear business outcomes, like speed to market, cost savings, or new revenue streams.
- Get executive buy-in for the journey ahead.
- Align transformation goals with future intelligent automation, connectivity, and evolving customer expectations.

2

Design for composability and intelligent connectivity

Build with interchangeable, decoupled components. Stay in control and avoid vendor lock-in.

- Skip point-to-point integrations, use a central integration layer.
- Standardise APIs and microservices so every new capability plugs right in.
- Prioritise interoperability. Modern banking depends on connected systems, governed data, and real-time orchestration across the ecosystem. Your architecture should welcome new partners, products, and technologies with minimal friction.
- Ensure your architecture can securely connect to AI models, intelligent agents, and real-time data systems.

The composable ecosystem in action



3

Unlock the power of data with a modern, governed strategy

Data is your most valuable asset and the foundation of more intelligent banking operations. Make it flow seamlessly and securely in every system.

- Create a comprehensive data governance framework. Define ownership and quality standards.
- Centralise your data capability by creating a unified platform.
- Sync legacy and modern systems for smooth coexistence.
- Governed, unified data enables real-time insights, intelligent workflows, and future AI-driven capabilities.

4

Build a skilled and collaborative team

Effective transformation is a team sport. Ensure you have expertise in both legacy and modern technologies.

- Invest in upskilling your workforce on cloud, APIs, and current ways of working.
- Explore the strength of cross-functional squads, pairing business, technology, and operations experts.
- Upskill teams to work effectively with intelligent automation and evolving digital workflows.

5

Test relentlessly, validate rigorously

Every migration step is a potential risk so each step matters. Rigorous, automated testing is non-negotiable to keep your data and systems safe.

- Set up automated testing pipelines for continuous checks.
- Run parallel systems when needed to validate outcomes before going live.
- Introduce governance frameworks for intelligent workflows and automated operational processes.

6

Lead and manage effective change

Keep everyone who needs to know in the loop. Clear, frequent communication is critical for adoption.

- Share wins, setbacks, and next steps early and often.
- Prepare teams for change with clear guidance and support.

7

Roll out in phases, monitor constantly

Forget the big bang. Go step by step to minimise risk and unlock growth sooner.

- Start with non-critical products or specific customer segments. Learn, iterate, and scale.
- Monitor performance and customer feedback in real-time to spot issues and optimise quickly.

Transform incrementally, build for the future.

Core transformation is not about leaving the past behind, it's about how every next step builds on the last.

PHASE 1

Cloud migration

Moved on-prem infrastructure to the cloud and built cloud-native apps.

PHASE 2

Platform migration

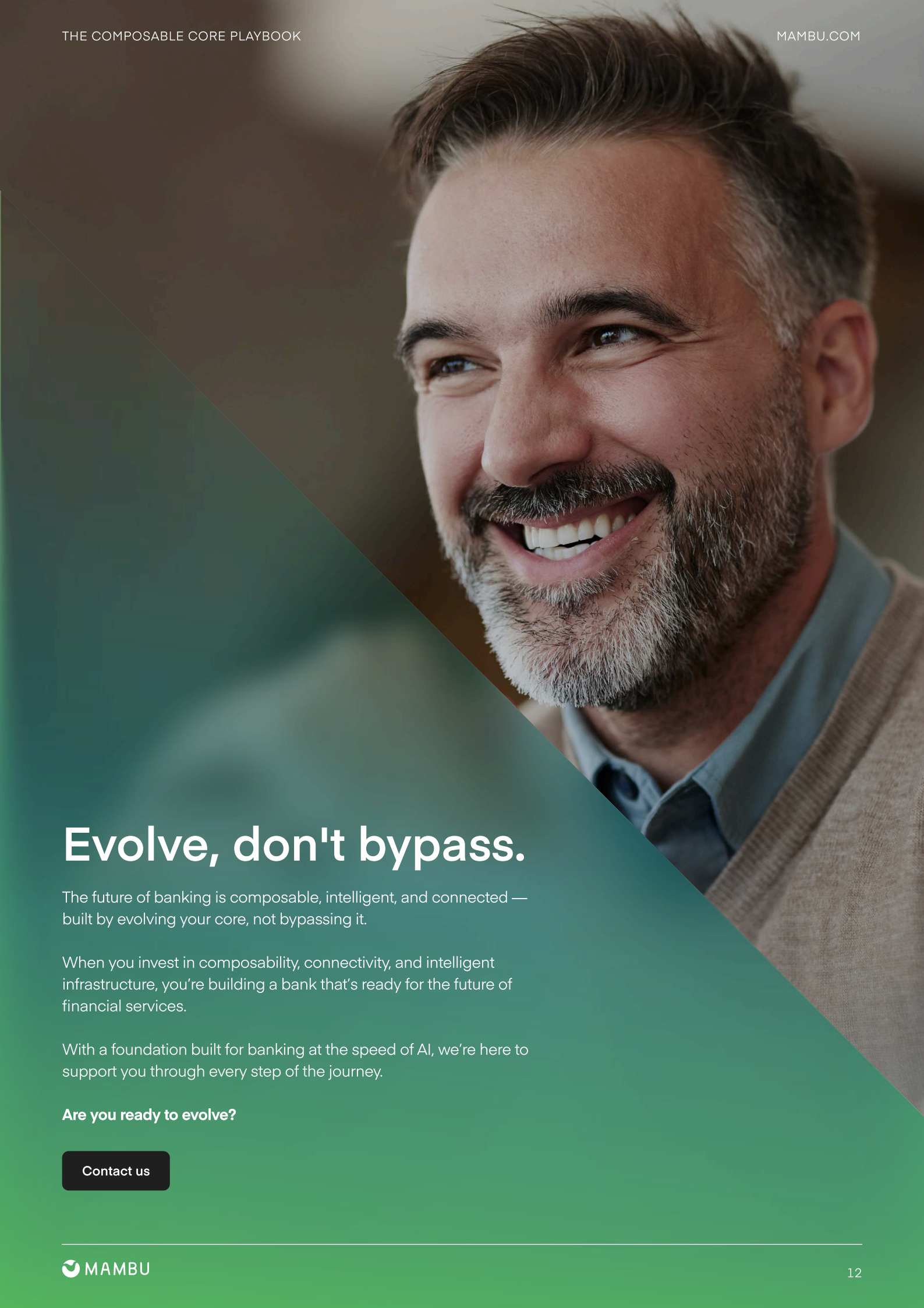
Focus on new customer acquisition and product innovation with a new core for reliability and scale.

PHASE 3

Data migration

Migrate deposit and loan accounts to the new core, moving customers in phases as products evolve.

We've seen how transformation is most powerful when it's connected, linking each phase to your broader vision. And we're here to help you through every step of the journey.



Evolve, don't bypass.

The future of banking is composable, intelligent, and connected — built by evolving your core, not bypassing it.

When you invest in composability, connectivity, and intelligent infrastructure, you're building a bank that's ready for the future of financial services.

With a foundation built for banking at the speed of AI, we're here to support you through every step of the journey.

Are you ready to evolve?

[Contact us](#)

