



ExitLegacyWorkflow

FIELD GUIDE, IBM BAW MIGRATION

The IBM BAW Exit and Migration Playbook

A practical guide to migrating off IBM Business Automation Workflow: the version reality, the real reasons teams move, and a seven-phase method to plan the rebuild.

A sourced field guide, reviewed August 2026, lifecycle dates are IBM's own, verify before acting

01 The version reality

IBM Business Automation Workflow is not being discontinued. IBM continues to develop it on a Continuous Delivery model: a single current version line, updated frequently, rather than the old major-release cadence. What does carry a fixed date is each specific version.

Version	Status	What it means
BAW 23.0.x	END OF SUPPORT APR 30, 2026	Can no longer be purchased. Runs unsupported after this date without a paid extension.
BAW 24.0.x	IN SUPPORT	Proactive security fixes for a 3-year base support period from release, under IBM's standard policy.
If BAW is ever withdrawn	POLICY, NOT AN EVENT	IBM's stated policy is at least 12 months' notice, with an optional paid extension.

Why this matters for planning: because support tracks your specific version, staying supported is a recurring cost, periodic upgrades, not a one-time decision. That recurring cost is what leads some teams to migrate instead.

02 Why teams migrate anyway

Independent comparison sites report BAW's licensing and implementation costs as high relative to alternatives such as Camunda or Nintex Process Platform, with reported ranges from roughly \$500 a month for a single user up to \$30,000 or more a month at 100 seats, plus separate implementation, customisation and training costs. Reviewers also describe BAW's cloud migration path as lagging more cloud-native BPM tools in agility, and as more machinery than many simpler processes need. Treat these as reported industry figures, not settled facts, and price your own real volume.

03 Where BAW workloads go next

Destination	Best fit	Watch out for
Power Automate	Organisations already committed to Microsoft 365.	Long-running cases need a state-machine design to work within its run limits.
Appian	Rapid deployment, case-heavy processes.	New vendor relationship and licensing model to evaluate.
Pega Systems	AI-driven decisioning at enterprise scale.	Best suited to larger enterprises already invested in the platform.
Camunda	Developer-led process orchestration.	More engineering-led than citizen-developer friendly.

ProcessMaker	Smaller deployments, tighter budgets.	Less suited to very large, complex case-management estates.
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04 The seven-phase method

Phase	Goal
1. Inventory	Catalogue every active process, case type and integration, with real usage, not assumed usage.
2. Triage	Retire processes that are duplicated, unused, or better replaced by a simpler tool.
3. Score complexity	Separate simple approvals from heavy case management with parallel branches or complex data models.
4. Map to a target	Assign each survivor by runtime need, integration complexity and who maintains it.
5. Migrate data	Move case data, documents and audit history. This is a data move, not a logic move.
6. Rebuild logic	Recreate rules, routing and forms optimised for the target, not copied verbatim.
7. Test and cut over	Parallel-validate live case types, train process owners, cut over in planned waves.

The trap to avoid: there is no automated converter between BAW and any modern target. Case logic, forms and integrations are rebuilt by hand every time; budget for that, not for a lift-and-shift.

05 Your worksheet

Process band	Your count (post-triage)	Notes
Simple approvals		
Medium case management		
Complex, multi-branch cases		
Target platform		
Version currently running		

SOURCES AND VERIFICATION

- IBM: Business Automation Workflow 23.0.x product lifecycle, [ibm.com](#)
- IBM: Business Automation Workflow 24.0.x product lifecycle, [ibm.com](#)
- IBM: BAW and Integration Designer software support lifecycle addendum, [ibm.com](#)
- PeerSpot: Top IBM Business Automation Workflow alternatives
- ITQlick: IBM BPM reviews, pros, cons and pricing verdict

- TrustRadius: IBM Business Process Manager competitors

Lifecycle dates are IBM's own and can change; confirm against [ibm.com](https://www.ibm.com) before acting. Pricing and comparison figures come from independent review sites and are reported ranges, not verified facts.