CASE STUDY

Apps Associates Helps Pearson plc Migrate Entire Enterprise Oracle Environment to AWS in Record Time

apps associates

Pearson plc is the world's learning company with more than 22,500 employees operating in 70 countries. They provide content, assessment and digital services to learners, educational institutions, employers, governments and other partners globally.

Pearson leverages Oracle Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) for financials and planning, with 80-90% of the business heavily dependent on the system. With their current vendor contract nearing its expiration date, Pearson had to move quickly to identify the solution that would best fit their needs. Cloud migration would be a substantial project, given the large, complex cluster of Oracle technologies that was supporting Pearson servicing locations in North America, Europe and Asia. With more than 400 servers supporting 30,600 named users with a typical concurrent load of 3,000 – 5,000 users and a huge amount of data, Pearson needed a cloud provider with experience hosting and managing massive enterprise workloads. The scope includes global instances of E-Business Suite, Hyperion, Oracle BI, Advanced Supply Chain, Governance Risk Compliance, SSO and many custom applications and third-party integrated systems. This ERP environment was not only complex but supported the majority of global revenue for Pearson. The key to success? A migration to Amazon Web Services (AWS), led by an expert team from Apps Associates.

Partner Priorities for a Global Company

Pearson reviewed multiple cloud providers, but ultimately selected AWS as the best fit for an enterprise workload of their size. When looking at other options and researching the market, Pearson's team of decision makers felt AWS outperformed the competition in terms of maturity of the platform. There were other perks and benefits as well, including a lower total cost of ownership than competing enterprise cloud solutions. AWS also had a large percentage of clientele that matched Pearson in terms of scale.

Applying the same thorough research to their quest for finding the right migration partner, Pearson decision makers acted on a recommendation from AWS and partnered with Apps Associates. Pearson felt App's key differentiator was the company's proven ability to migrate Oracle enterprise workloads to AWS, with over 200 workloads successfully migrated to-date. David Pitzely, VP

of IT and Operations at Pearson, noted that while Pearson had existing partners who specialized in the cloud, "migrating legacy on-premise solutions to AWS is a unique skill set. It's only recently that people have started to move more traditional enterprise workloads to the cloud, but we knew Apps had been doing it for a while and had great customers under their belt." Apps' migration track record with AWS, combined with Apps' experience offering managed services cloud support, reassured Pearson that Apps experts could help them migrate effectively without downtime.

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Migration on a Deadline

The scope of the Pearson migration was one of the largest, most complex Oracle ERP migrations to AWS attempted to-date. This kind of large-scale project required leadership sponsorship from both AWS and Pearson in order to meet the critical go-live deadline before the legacy contract expired. Apps worked closely with an AWS task force of Solutions Architects, Pro Serve, and senior leadership, as well as with Pearson's dedicated project team to formulate the best path forward.

With Apps experts, "really leading the charge in terms of the build out of the new environment living in AWS," according to Pitzely, the migration was focused on execution on the production hardware kit to validate approach, performance and stability. Apps experts identified the need to re-architect the existing RAC-based systems to fit a total of 407 AWS EC2 instances with about 400 terabytes of storage in order to support the migrated applications.

Reliability Found: Operating in the Cloud Brings Peace of Mind

After four and a half intense months of building the new environment and migrating large amounts of data, Pearson went live wit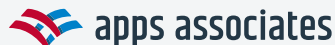h their cloud-hosted ERP system. Pearson was then able to retire their legacy on-prem contract as planned. Viewed internally as a tremendous success, the migration drove immediate increases in performance. Pearson reported up to 20% performance improvement in critical areas such as supply chain processing. Pearson was able to complete monthly financial closes successfully, without any problems.

Given the AWS environment required new skill sets to manage and the upskilling of some staff, Pearson turned to Apps for support while their internal team continued getting up to speed.

"They've been really taking a look at our ecosystem overall," said Pitzely about Apps Associates. "The key priority was to get up and running. With that, we made several efficiency trade-offs and we knew going into this that shortly after launch we were going to have to reclaim cloud capabilities that were costing us money, such as contingencies and duplicate systems. After launch, Apps has been critical in scaling back a number of the resources. There were some areas where we had a lot of performance challenges with changes in design and architecture, especially in the reporting space. With managed services support we were able to scale that up appropriately to address many of the problems that we were seeing, and the Apps Associates team helped us get over that hump together with Amazon."

Learn more about how Apps Associates can support and guide your Oracle to AWS migration or help you manage your environment.

About Apps Associates

Apps Associates is an enterprise application services leader with a customer-first focus. For more than two decades IT decision makers have turned to Apps Associates for strategic counsel, system integration and the services required to solve their most complex business and digital transformation challenges. To learn more about how Apps Associates can help you align your business with the right technology, visit: www.appsassociates.com, or follow Apps Associates on social media on Twitter and LinkedIn.

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