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Data Cleansing in Oracle ERP: Use Cases, Common Pitfalls, Strategies for Success

This whitepaper covers five business use cases for cleansing ERP data, particularly during data migration to Oracle ERP, and identifies data cleansing tools that can save time and money in the process.

Introduction: What is a Data Cleanse?

Every business today knows the importance of data for operations, decision-making, and even customer experience. However, only data that is accurate and reliable is useful, which is why clean data is vital.



A data cleanse is a process that allows you to find and remedy data that is outdated, inaccurate, redundant, incomplete, improperly formatted, or perhaps entirely unnecessary. The first step of a data cleanse is analyzing the data in your systems to identify current issues and their scope. Next, you delete what you no longer need and fix inaccuracies and other problems, including updating old information. Finally, you should confirm that you successfully addressed the original issues without introducing new errors.

In this whitepaper, you'll learn about five business use cases for cleansing Enterprise resource planning (ERP) data, focusing on the most common: data migration, specifically to Oracle ERP. You'll also discover what data cleansing tools can save you time and money if you move to or from an Oracle ERP system.

Top Use Cases for ERP Data Cleansing

1 System Performance & BAU Optimization

Data discrepancies and errors can cause process delays, bad decisions, workflow inefficiencies, and poor customer experiences. At the same time, unnecessary, redundant, or outdated data can slow down your ERP and other systems.

A data cleanse will help you optimize your business-as-usual (BAU) activities and help your ERP system (and its users!) perform efficiently. As a result, your organization can be more agile and effective while delivering better customer experiences for less effort.

2 Audit or Regulatory Needs

Many industries have strict rules on data integrity and reporting accuracy. Dirty data can spark real legal, security, and compliance concerns. Cleaning your data can mitigate risks around GDPR and other regulations. It also makes completing future data audits and reporting easier and faster.

3 Improved Reporting, Analytics, and Insights

Leaders count on reporting and analytics to understand past performance, forecasting, and strategic planning. Using unreliable data can lead to poor decisions that harm business performance and limit growth. Therefore, you need clean data that you can trust to gain meaningful insights and make informed decisions.

4 Mergers & Acquisitions

Mergers and acquisitions bring many challenges. Dirty data complicates them further. When organizations merge, they often combine systems and data. At this stage, problems can arise from duplicate information, mismatched data formatting and terminology, and unneeded data that slows down ERP processes and confuses users.

When companies are from different countries or regions, language, and regulatory differences can spur additional complexity. In any case, poor data will increase distrust in an already difficult situation for employees. Poorly merged data could also harm your reputation with customers.

A data cleanse can help you get ahead of these issues. By ensuring that all data is necessary, compatible, and accurate, you can equip your teams with the ability to make smart short- and long-term decisions.

5 Data Migration

Data migration is perhaps the most common reason for a data cleanse. Whether you're moving to a new on-premise or Oracle Fusion Cloud ERP, data cleansing is a critical precursor to migration. If you're working with a migration consultant or partner, they typically require a data cleanse before proceeding with any other work. As you'll learn below, data cleansing has numerous benefits for migration projects.

Why Data Cleansing is Critical for Data Migration



Simplify Data Migration

Data migration is a complex process. Working with clean data makes it easier. For starters, eliminating unnecessary data decreases how much data you have to move. In addition to removing data and correcting inaccuracies, aligning and standardizing data to match your new ERP structure and terminology will make the migration much smoother. Clean data will reduce the risk of data mapping errors, moving incorrect data, and encountering inconsistencies during migration.



Set Up a New ERP for Success

An ERP needs accurate, high-quality data to be effective. Migrating incorrect, inconsistent, unnecessary, or outdated data can cause errors, confusion, and an unreliable ERP system that fails to meet the expected ROI. On the other hand, starting with clean data will deliver increased workflow efficiencies and insights that guide business strategy and decisions.



Bolster Change Management Efforts & User Adoption

Changing ERP systems can be stressful for users and provoke many questions. Change management and user training are a big part of adopting new technology. Having accurate and reliable data is one way to ease the change. When data is simple to understand and work with, users will have higher trust in the new system and require less training and support.



Save Time and Money

Since data cleansing requires time and attention early in the project, it's tempting to push it down the road. However, doing it now saves you from post-implementation problems and future rework. The benefits of having accurate, reliable data that you can use for decision-making and planning will be immediate and significant. As mentioned above, data cleansing reduces spending on user training and support.

Use the Right Tools to Accelerate Oracle ERP Data Cleansing

Oracle Tools

FBDI, ADFdi, and DataLoad, also known as Oracle DataLoader, are Oracle tools commonly used for data cleansing. Unfortunately, each one is slow and hard to use. They offer limited features and functionality and make debugging errors time-consuming and complex.

Their layouts lack flexibility, and they are generally unsuitable for complex datasets. Most organizations require significant IT support and customization for these Oracle tools to meet their data needs. Issues with patching and upgrading are also frequent.

Custom Development

Rather than use Oracle tools, some companies turn to custom development for data cleansing. This option also requires significant effort and time from IT for planning, building, and testing. Furthermore, you can't be sure about the quality of the solution you'll receive. In reality, the final product often lacks features and is rarely user-friendly. The required file manipulations and output verifications are also usually painful and lead to project delays.

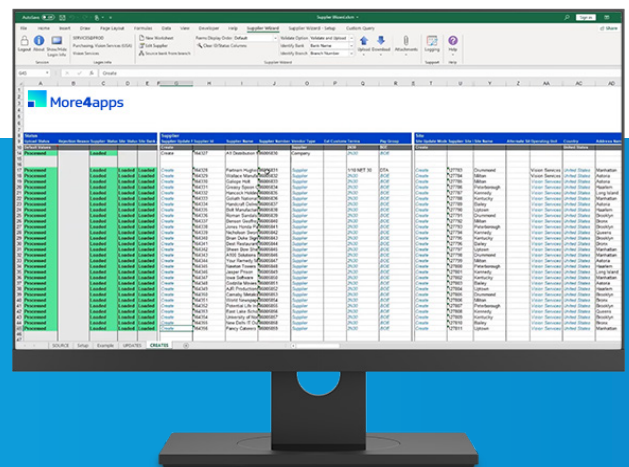
More4apps Excel-Based Alternatives

More4apps is a trusted Oracle partner that offers secure and cost-effective single spreadsheet solutions for efficiently downloading, analyzing, updating, and uploading Oracle ERP data for companies running E-Business Suite (EBS) and/or Fusion Cloud.

With these Excel-based products, you can quickly download data from one Oracle version, connect to another instance, and upload data after cleansing it. If your data is from another source, you can still export the results into an Excel format for More4apps to validate and load. Unlike Oracle Web ADI, More4apps solutions also work across EBS versions; no patching and testing is required.

Whatever your needs, More4apps templates are flexible and customizable. Finding and fixing data issues, duplicates, and missing values is simple, with the ability to use all standard Excel features. Because the software is intuitive and works out-of-the-box, no technical expertise is needed. Instead, the people who interact regularly with the data can be the ones in charge of cleaning it.

More4apps also reduces the risk of overlooking errors or introducing new ones. Loading, searching, and updating your data directly in Excel decreases the need for manual review and edits, and thus the chance of errors. On top of this, More4apps offers advanced data validation features, with clear in-spreadsheet messages that help you fix problems before uploading data.



CASE STUDY

98% Reduction in Time Spent on Data Cleansing

Need: Data Cleansing for a Move to the Cloud

Before migrating to Oracle Fusion Cloud, the council needed to cleanse their data so that they would only move active customers and suppliers. They also wanted to remove errors and standardize information across the database.

Solution: Simplified Record Deactivation and Updates with More4apps

The council used the More4apps custom query functionality to locate customers and suppliers that had no open invoices and had been inactive for three years. After that, they defined parameters to identify additional customer and supplier records that should be disabled.

All told, the client uncovered around 15,000 customers and 17,000 supplier records to deactivate using the [More4apps tools within the EBS Toolbox](#). They also used More4apps to find and address errors and standardize customer and supplier details.

Result: Immense Time Savings and Trust in the Master Data

Finding and deactivating or fixing these records manually would have taken an estimated 4 to 5 months. With the [More4apps suite of products](#), the work was done in days. When it was complete, the team was confident that the master data in the new Cloud infrastructure was accurate and up-to-date.

[READ THE FULL CASE STUDY >](#)



Maintain Your ERP Data Quality Over Time

It's not enough to clean your data once. You always want to be able to trust the data in your ERP. More4apps offers long-term solutions that help you accurately manage new and existing data in Oracle EBS and Fusion Cloud.

Most clients who use More4apps for migration keep it as a long-term data loading and editing tool for their business teams. The result is an ERP with clean, reliable data for decision-making, planning, reporting, and informing customer interactions.

Ready to get clean data?

[Contact our team today](#) to discuss how More4apps can help!!