

Switching from your ERP to Oracle Cloud:

Best Practices & Obstacles to Avoid with Data

Whitepaper



Abstract

Enterprise resource planning (ERP) software is an invaluable tool for collecting, storing, managing and analyzing data to improve operations and support your organizational goals. For years, ERPs have helped companies gain visibility to manage core business processes. Allowing systems and employees across teams to simultaneously access the same data and analytics, ERPs support and simplify accounting, procurement, project management, risk management, budgeting, supply chain operation, and much more.

While ERPs remain as vital as ever, a shift is occurring as a growing number of organizations move from on-premises to hybrid or fully cloud-based ERP systems. However, organizations often underestimate the preparation it takes to migrate their data. While there is a high risk involved in the data hygiene process, there is also a high reward for having accurate and actionable data in your cloud ERP.

In the following pages, we explore what's driving that shift, why so many organizations are choosing Oracle ERP Cloud, and best practices for cleaning your data in preparation for deploying and using Oracle ERP Cloud.



A Changing Technology Landscape

The Rise and Challenges of On-Premises ERPs

In the 1990s and early 2000s, on-prem ERPs saw rapid adoption across industries. These ERP systems have provided tangible benefits like reduced inventory, increased sales revenues, converted leads, improved compliance, and lower administration and operation costs. Business intelligence has made improvements regarding collaboration, productivity, efficiency, reporting, and forecasting.

Despite their benefits, on-prem ERP hardware and software licenses are expensive, and the systems require dedicated space and resources. Staff must perform regular maintenance and upgrades that are frequently tedious and costly, with many opportunities for mistakes. The hardware can become outdated within five to 10 years, and updating to a new system is expensive, complicated, and time-consuming. For these reasons, it is difficult to keep on-prem ERPs in sync with modern business needs, processes, and emerging technologies. Businesses facing on-prem ERP limitations may delay organizational changes or introduce complicated process workarounds.

An Emerging Preference for Cloud

Since ERPs bring such high value to organizations, the costs would be worth it if on-prem ERPs were the only option. However, they are not the only option, and many businesses embrace cloud technology. Eighty-six percent of digital finance leaders say that their organization has a digital- and cloud-first mindset, and [94%](#) of mid-sized essential businesses in the US said they planned to adopt cloud in 2021 to help future-proof their businesses. In the UK, [78%](#) of CIOs say cloud technology is critical to their IT and corporate strategy, with 61% already having more than half of their data and applications in the cloud.

Garbage In, Garbage Out: Cleaning and Transforming Business Data

As organizations prepare to move to the cloud, assessing and improving the state of your data should be a key focus. Cleaning and transforming data is notoriously precarious but essential. When you regularly clean your data, you get reliable information, better customer relationships, and improved employee satisfaction. Certainly, refraining from managing your master data has far worse effects on an organization compared to the pains of sorting it all out. Translating information across systems is not free or easy, and the worst-case scenario is that, along the way, you accidentally make your data even less accurate.

By using data loading solutions like More4apps software, organizations can first check the validity of their data to ensure it conforms to defined business rules and constraints. Secondly—and perhaps most importantly—the accuracy and completeness of data can be defined. Oftentimes, it is here that companies find missing or inaccurate data within their ERP. Without the right software, this can be a tedious process. Finally, data cleanup can be performed, as outlined within this paper.

The Benefits of Moving to a Cloud ERP

Cloud ERPs	On-Prem ERPs
✓ Lower TCO ✓ Automatic updates ✓ Less labor-intensive ✓ More flexible ✓ Easily scalable ✓ Faster deployment ✓ Better change control	⚠ Higher TCO ⚠ Manual, error-prone maintenance ⚠ Costly upgrades ⚠ Requires dedicated staff & space ⚠ Limits business agility ⚠ Expensive hardware ⚠ Slow, expensive deployment

Time and Cost Savings Now and Into the Future

Cost savings and higher ROI are part of the allure of cloud, which delivers an average of [4 times the ROI](#) as on-premises technology. This savings arises from replacing manual updates and maintenance completed by internal staff with automatic updates and patches managed by your software provider. With a cloud ERP system, you stop buying expensive hardware and software licenses, free up physical space, and eliminate costly, labor-intensive on-prem ERP maintenance. Beyond saving money, switching to a cloud ERP allows IT staff to shift their focus from managing technology to supporting innovation, process optimization, and growth.

Faster Deployments Deliver ROI Right Away

Deploying a cloud-based ERP system delivers value faster than deploying an on-prem system. The process is simple, cheaper, and requires fewer team members. In addition, tools like Oracle ERP Cloud are designed for easy configuration and system integration. Cloud deployments allow organizations to recover their initial investment [2.5 times faster](#) than on-premises deployments.

Greater Flexibility to Meet Business Needs

If you are frustrated with the lack of flexibility in your on-prem ERP system, switching to cloud will help. Moving to a cloud ERP is a great opportunity to redesign your ERP to fit current business needs. Having a scalable and flexible cloud-based system will better support business changes and growth, including accommodating distributed teams around the world. Furthermore, frequent automated updates will also help keep your ERP aligned with emerging technology and business trends. While others rely on dated on-prem systems, you can gain a competitive advantage in the marketplace.

Well Managed Change Control

Better managed change control is another way cloud ERPs mitigate risk. Teams can make minor and more frequent changes rather than rare but drastic changes that carry substantial impact and risk. Many changes can be fully or partially automated, reducing the chance of manual errors and inaccurate data. Further limiting risk, cloud ERP systems also enable automatic data backup and disaster recovery.

Reduced Risk with Improved Data

When implemented correctly, a move to a cloud ERP allows you to start fresh with accurate, reliable data and defined processes that ensure ongoing data integrity. To achieve this, you must assess and clean data before the move; and select the right software and processes to support data validation and control. By improving the accuracy and usefulness of your data, as well as the insights and recommendations your ERP delivers, you reduce business risk and simplify future ERP upgrades and changes.

At More4apps, our software has helped a wide variety of organizations to successfully move to a new ERP system and improve data management. Most recently, More4apps supported a company struggling to migrate its legacy Accounts Payable supplier data. They managed 4,300 properties in 11 countries with complex AP processes and data. Against a strict deadline, the customer contacted More4apps, who solved the problem flawlessly and on schedule. Today, the company finds new ways to improve its processes and add efficiency with More4apps.



Why Oracle ERP Cloud is the Industry Leader

Broad, Ever-Growing Feature Set with Cutting-Edge AI

Oracle is the leading [cloud ERP](#) provider, with an established presence in top global enterprises. Oracle's comprehensive feature set is designed to meet your business needs, including powerful automation and configuration tools. Built-in AI, machine learning, digital assistants, and prescriptive analytics can deliver instantaneous insights and recommendations as well as automate mundane, time-consuming processes to reduce errors and costs. Updates are released regularly, offering new tools and opportunities to automate even more manual workflows. Oracle ERP Cloud is becoming more configurable, with functionality that once required customization now available as standard features.

Built for Maximum Flexibility and Ease of Implementation

Oracle ERP Cloud is designed to make it as simple as possible to deploy so that you minimize business disruptions and get up and running fast. To avoid data silos the cloud-based software easily integrates with other Oracle products as well as your entire tech stack. When integrated, the modular architecture lets you deploy what you need when you need it. If you're not ready to replace your entire ERP system, Oracle's ERP Cloud can co-exist with your legacy ERP system as you augment or modify it one piece at a time. Furthermore, an extensive team of experts is available to offer support and assist you throughout your transition to the cloud. Users of E-Business Suite and other Oracle products will also find a familiar user experience in the ERP Cloud, shortening the learning curve that comes with any new software.

Oracle ERP Cloud Customer Outcomes

- 31% improvement in reporting efficiency
- 23% reduction in legacy system costs
- 35% increase in staff productivity
- 30% increase in financial management efficiency & effectiveness

[*2020 Oracle Cloud ERP Value Realization Report](#)

Data Best Practices for Moving to Oracle ERP Cloud

Strategy & Planning

When planning a move to Oracle ERP Cloud, you first need to analyze your current ERP usage and determine additional business, stakeholder, and data needs. This assessment will shape the development of your goals, KPIs, and prioritized system requirements. The required ERP features and functionality can map to Oracle ERP cloud features and modules, along with system integrations and data required for success.

Other important steps include establishing a realistic budget, roadmap, and timeline. These documents should detail what is essential for go-live versus what can be added incrementally, with the understanding that your system will evolve as new needs arise, new data types are captured, and new features are introduced. During planning, avoid underestimating the time needed for data cleanup, testing, and verification. Along with overall system testing, this stage is vital to a successful deployment. Seeking assistance from specialists on areas outside your expertise is also advised.

Change Management

While organizational change always sparks some level of resistance, a solid management strategy can go far in mitigating this response. Before announcing plans for a new ERP, consider everyone who will be impacted and what concerns or needs they may have. These needs may range from simply being informed of upcoming changes to receiving in-depth training on how to upload and interact with data inside the new ERP system. To ensure the success of your new ERP, invest in a staff communication and training plan, including developing key points and a communication timeline that gives people adequate time to adjust. While your communications should emphasize the benefits of the new system, be prepared to respond to pain points and fears. In some cases, you can win over opinion by seeking people's input early in the process and continuing to gather their feedback to improve the system over time.



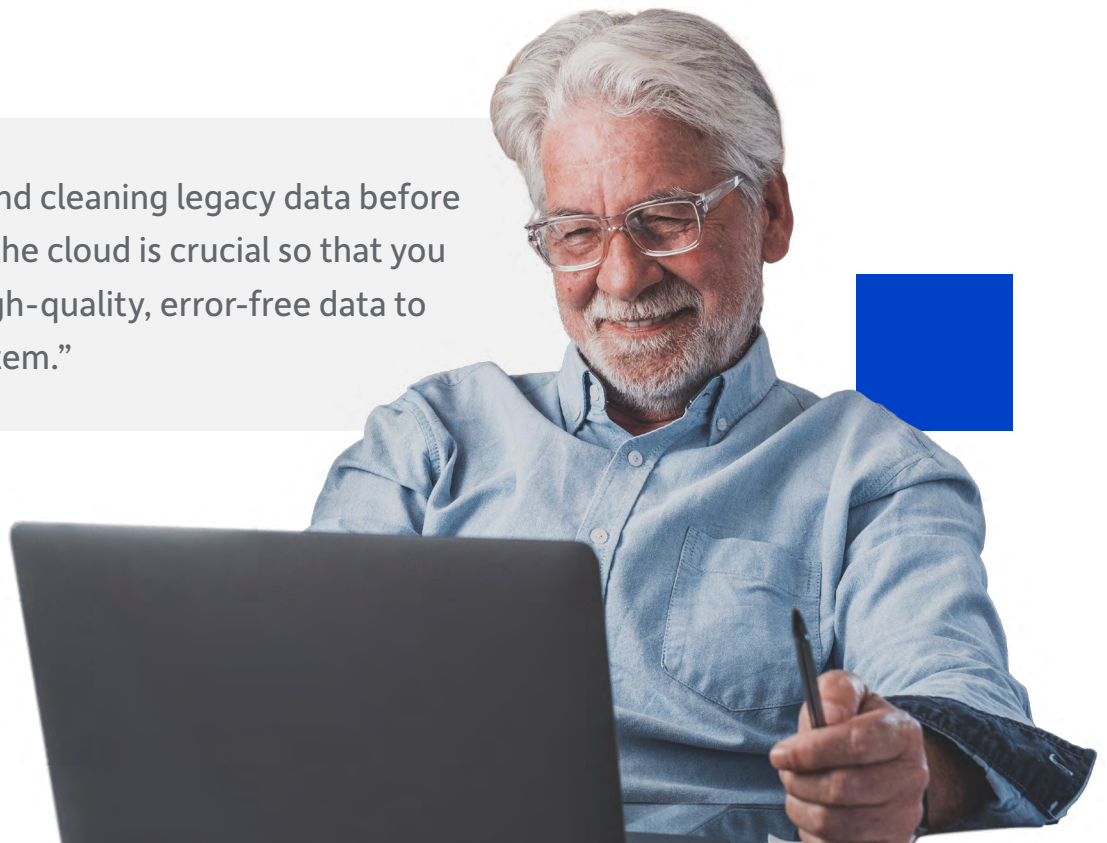
Data Cleanup and Migration

The value of an ERP system depends on the quality of its data; organizations cannot optimize business decisions and operations using inaccurate information. Evaluating and cleaning legacy data before migrating to the cloud is crucial so that you move only high-quality, error-free data to your new system. Take care to find and address any inaccuracies and inconsistencies in data. To decrease costs and minimize the volume of data migrated, assess data usefulness as well. Identify and leave behind all redundant, outdated, and trivial data, archiving anything you choose not to migrate but still want to save.

While data cleanup can sound daunting, implementing an out-of-the-box software solution like More4apps can streamline and automate this process, saving both time and money. While some organizations turn to custom development for data cleaning needs, this option requires significant effort and time for development and testing, with solution quality not proven or guaranteed. Rarely does custom development provide an adequate long-term solution. Likewise, free data cleaning tools often fall short of the features and functionality needed for efficient and effective data cleansing and maintenance.

Your best bet is software that can integrate immediately with your systems and processes and be part of your ongoing journey of managing clean data while staying up to date with Oracle cloud quarterly releases. More4apps offers out-of-the-box solutions trusted by industry-leading brands to improve and maintain data quality for their Oracle ERPs. Regardless of your chosen solution, it is imperative to create a plan for not only cleaning legacy data; but continuing to assess, clean, and validate data in the cloud.

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Simplifying Oracle ERP Data Management with More4apps

Oracle's ERP systems have many upsides but importing and exporting data into Oracle is complex. Oracle's complicated user interface for data management can slow users down and lacks valuable data validation features that can help prevent errors. Not validating data can lead to poor data quality and inaccurate reporting—something Gartner Research says costs organizations up to \$12.8M per year.

More4apps Software: A Data Loading Solution for Oracle ERP

More4apps software lets you manage and interact with ERP data using a familiar Excel interface. With More4apps, you can download, edit, and upload large volumes of data in a fraction of the time it takes to use Oracle's forms for the same tasks. Data loading and downloading are fast and uncomplicated, saving time and improving data and reporting accuracy. More4apps uses Oracle's secure web services and user authentication for uploads and downloads.

More4apps software downloads data from Oracle straight into an Excel spreadsheet, where you can prepare forms and reports using an Excel front-end integration and custom functionality. The intuitive forms and solutions provided are tailored by use case, including finance, procurement, product definition, and projects. Pasting data from existing sheets into the More4apps interface to upload to Oracle can save time, and less manual data entry means better accuracy. To reduce risk, data validation occurs before data is added to Oracle. Data loading itself is quick and low effort.

With extensive tools available for Oracle on-prem and cloud ERPs, More4apps software is easy to implement, learn, and use, so introducing new ERP processes and software is even faster for your business.

Client Use Case: Moving from EBS to Oracle Cloud

If you're planning a move to Oracle Cloud from an on-prem Oracle ERP system, More4apps software can help with data cleansing before your migration and can power ongoing data accuracy into the future. More4apps recently assisted one client in [shortening data cleansing efforts by five months](#) as they prepared to transition from E-Business Suite to Oracle Cloud ERP. With More4apps, our client identified 32,000 inactive customer and supplier records that could be disabled and excluded from the migration. The organization also used More4apps to correct and standardize data, including applying Excel functions to ensure that all fields followed desired formatting and naming conventions. Therefore, allowing the organization to mitigate risks and move forward with its migration quickly and confidently.

To learn more about how More4apps can help before, during, and after a migration to Oracle ERP Cloud, [get in touch today!](#)

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