DIMENSION

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P.02

TAKING THE GUESSWORK OUT OF ERP SOFTWARE PROJECT PLANNING

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P.03

REFLECTIONS ON QUEST'S BLUEPRINT 4D EVENT

In May we attended the Quest Oracle Community's Blueprint 4D event in Dallas - a unique opportunity for stakeholders to engage with the wider Oracle community. Find out what we thought of an event that featured some firsts, and some lasts for DWS.

P.04

APPLICATION MODERNIZATION: 4 KEY FACTORS TO CONSIDER

Heathrow recently replaced its 15 year-old on-prem eBusiness Suite with cloud applications. We helped them incorporate SwifTest to improve the quality of their testing and save them valuable time.

P.05

ENTERPRISE APPLICATION TESTING SUCCESS STORIES

Enterprise applications enable operations, serve as a system of record, and are a single source of the truth. These applications need to be rich in features and functions, robust, responsive to business needs, and perhaps most importantly need to be well tested.

TAKING THE GUESSWORK OUT OF PROJECT PLANNING

Enterprise application software plays a vital role in managing a wide range of business processes and workflows. The complex interdependencies of thousands of discrete objects combine to control everything from finance and accounting to warehousing and logistics, customer relationships and human resources.

Introducing change to these critical business systems is inherently risky. In many cases, it's a lack of insight that leads to uncertainty – if you don't understand the scope of the changes that are to be made, you can't effectively budget for, or resource, the project. This fear of the unknown often forces organisations to delay updating or upgrading systems, leading to a significant opportunity cost:

- Exposing core systems to security vulnerabilities.
- Failure to take advantage of new features and functionality.
- Failure to address process and workflow inefficiencies.

It's not unusual for enterprise application software customers to want to squeeze every last drop of value from their legacy systems – especially if they are running a significantly modified version. Oracle JD Edwards EnterpriseOne is a classic example.

JD Edwards EnterpriseOne 9.2 is being used by thousands of companies around the globe. It is being supported through at least the end of **2034** and Oracle has delivered more than 670 new features since it was released in October of 2015.

Given the number of enhancements made available with each release (Release 23 was made available at the end of 2022), it might seem strange that businesses choose to lag behind the innovation curve.

Why? Could it be that they are wary of change? More specifically, they may want to avoid the perceived cost and complexity involved in running an update or upgrade project. I say perceived, because in many cases, businesses struggle to accurately predict the time and effort required for these change-event projects – particularly when it comes to uplifting custom items or extensions.

Do you really know what is changing?

Accurate information is the key to good decision-making. When assessing the potential impact of an update or upgrade, you need to clearly identify what is changing, and how what is changing impacts any modifications you have made. Traditional methods, that rely on reports, and analyst/programmers doing analysis, can create inaccurate estimates as they over-estimate or under-estimate the number of modified objects.

False flags can lead to an over-estimation of the number of modified objects, exaggerating the size of your modified footprint by anything up to 60%. Worse still, a missing flag could significantly impact on systems performance if it's missed during the technical uplift.

The type and extent of modification will also impact on the amount of effort required to uplift the code. Custom code, modified standard code, or modified copies of standard code all have varying degrees of complexity.

Fortunately, there are solutions available that can help enterprise application software customers fully audit and scope their change-event projects. Our **Dimension Analyze™** service, for example, analyses every object, line of code and setting, down to pixel movement level of detail.

We identify the from/to base net change for every modified object and we identify the net change type and severity of impact against every modified object. We also identify all those modified objects that are no longer in use, so do not need to be upgraded. This represents an unrivalled opportunity to retire unused code. reduce the size of your modified footprint and move closed to standardization. This has the added benefit of making every subsequent change project smaller, faster, and smarter.

Quantifying the development costs of a change-event project

Without an accurate picture of your modified footprint, it's virtually impossible to put an accurate cost to the development effort required during and update or upgrade. Sample and extrapolate, or worse still the "one-third rule", have proven wholly inaccurate when it comes to estimating the time and effort required for a technical uplift.

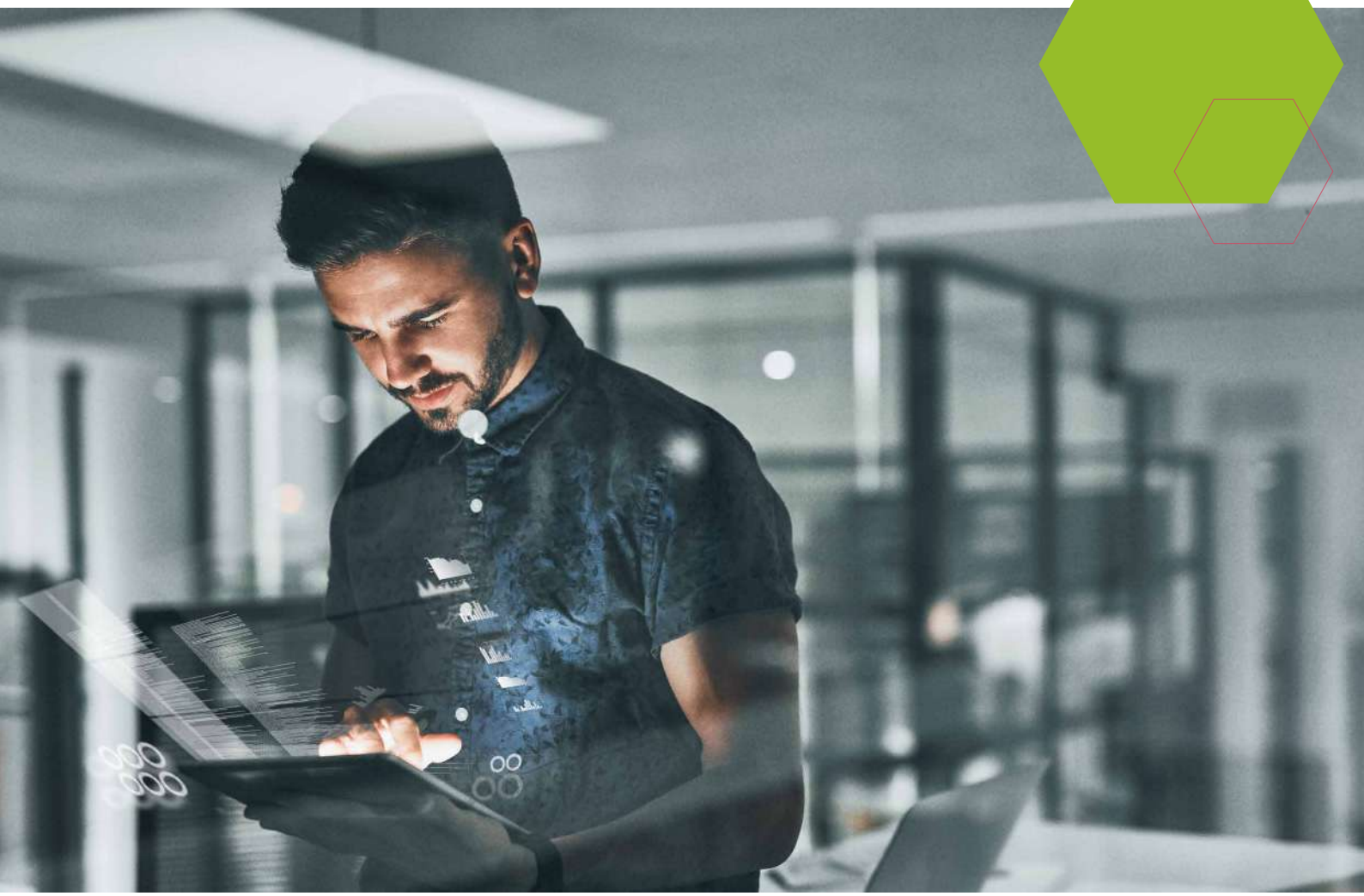
Dimension Analyze eliminates the guesswork when it comes to planning development. With the detailed information it provides, we can estimate the upgrade effort required for every modified object, not just in man days but right down to hours and minutes level of detail. This means we are able to offer fixed price and timescale update and upgrade services.

What about testing?

Given that testing can account for the majority of time and effort associated with an ERP change-event project, the requirement for informed decision-making is just as important when it comes to planning the testing that will be required. The safety-first approach of "test everything" only makes sense if you don't know what's changed and is both expensive and inefficient. With greater visibility of what objects have changed, you can significantly reduce the burden of testing, simply by only testing what needs testing.

Once again, there are tools available to help transform the way businesses test their enterprise application software updates. Our **Dimension Focus™** product is an innovative impact analysis tool that takes the guesswork out of test planning. It analyzes and grades the impact of an update (or any other change event) on standard, copied and custom objects. It then creates a testing heatmap to illustrate the level at which any application is affected by the change event. The net result is a saving of up to 80% on testing effort.

If you would like to find out more, please visit our product and services pages. For real-world examples of Analyze and Focus in action, check out the case studies in our **resource library.**



REFLECTIONS ON BLUEPRINT 4D

In May 2023, we attended the Quest Oracle Community's Blueprint 4D event. BP4D took place over four days at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas. It's a unique opportunity to engage with the wider Oracle community as it is effectively several events in one, with separate summits for JD Edwards, PeopleSoft, Oracle Cloud users, and more.

This year's event attracted over 1,500 delegates, with hundreds of businesses represented. It felt like a "high-energy" event, with good levels of engagement across the keynotes, the plenary sessions, and across the exhibition halls.

This year was a year of firsts and lasts for DWS. For the first time, we were interested in talking to businesses about more than just Oracle Fusion Cloud Applications and JD Edwards. We were bringing a wider portfolio of services to the table, so we wanted to talk to delegates about their broader enterprise applications landscape and explore the challenges they face regarding **software development** and testing.

Amongst our traditional audience of JD Edwards users, there were a lot of conversations about code currency. Users had a range of opinions as to the best approach, but most acknowledged it was a worthwhile strategy to employ – especially amongst those who were looking to reduce their modified footprint, as every project unearthed an opportunity to retire redundant code.

Digitalization, AI, and robotic process automation, all a part of the broader "digital transformation" umbrella, were hot topics.

Businesses that have a long-term vested interest in the future of ERP software are always on the lookout for ways to simplify or reduce the amount of effort involved in staying code current.

Again, this is something we have been actively involved in since the introduction of our test automation solutions for JDE E1 and Oracle Cloud Applications.

As the install base has moved away from huge, infrequent upgrade projects to smaller, more regular updates it means we are carrying out more projects. More projects mean more testing, so automation provides an opportunity to reduce project timelines, eliminate risk and save money.

It was a busy event for us as we had three presentation sessions of our own. The most exciting of these covered London Heathrow Airports' recent experience and featured Caroline Knight, Heathrow's Head of Technology. Even cooler, we received several name-checks in other presentations and roundtable discussions – Chris Noake of Granite Construction talked about testing and how we've been helping them, as did Todd Griffiths of Argano.

APPLICATION MODERNIZATION: 4 KEY FACTORS TO CONSIDER

The digital workplace, and the needs of those operating within it, are constantly evolving. Manual processes become automated as the quest for digital transformation continues. However, transformation initiatives are not just about creating new ways of automating manual processes, they are also about updating existing digital processes.

What is application modernization? Simply put it is the reengineering or replacement of existing systems that no longer deliver maximum value or meet the evolved needs of the business. It's important to remember that legacy does not mean obsolete. In many cases, legacy systems perform business-critical functions, so simply turning them off is not an option.

What follows is a short list of what we think are the four most important factors to consider when approaching an application modernization project.

1. **Understand the scope of the challenge**
2. **Assess the current state of your legacy systems**
3. **Adopt a best practice approach to application modernization**
4. **Understand the impact of testing on project timelines**

Creating an application modernization plan

Application modernization isn't a one-time project. It's a holistic, ongoing approach to improving your business-critical infrastructure and processes. Committing to a program of continuous innovation is the best way to make sure you continue to realise the maximum returns on your investment in enterprise software.

It is important to plan for future system development, and it starts with maintaining clean, well-documented procedures, processes, and code. Introducing coding and documentation standards during the modernization procedure will make things easier for developers working on future modernization efforts.

The goal of any modernization strategy should be to keep your technology systems up to date with the latest technology. Depending on your business and IT needs, legacy applications can be effectively modernized through small-scale steps such as packaging, code refactoring, or migration. However, the most important thing is to thoroughly assess your business and technical needs before deciding on your modernization strategy.

Read the full, unedited article

ENTERPRISE APPLICATION TESTING SUCCESS STORIES

Enterprise applications enable operations, serve as a system of record, and are a single source of the truth. These applications need to be rich in features and functions, robust, responsive to business need, and perhaps most importantly need to be well tested. They must always be fit for purpose. Testing needs to be managed against a backdrop of continually evolving requirements and changing software.

No matter what your testing requirements or needs, DWS is here to help.

DWS has a long-standing reputation for delivering market-leading services and software. We have formed strong and long-lasting partnerships with our clients by building a detailed understanding of their specific requirements and consistently delivering high quality, on-time and within-budget solutions.

Enterprise Application Testing

The testing requirements of organisations are a function of their entire enterprise application landscape, and the frequency with which the applications in that landscape are changing.

Since becoming part of the LogiGear Group, DWS has gained access to a wealth of testing resources. LogiGear was founded in Silicon Valley in 1994 and has gone on to establish a global reputation for high quality, professional software testing and development services. QA testing is an essential component of the enterprise software lifecycle, helping to accelerate time to value for product and service innovation.

It doesn't matter what you want to test (ERP, CRM, HCM, Integrations, Custom Web apps, Custom Games etc), nor does it matter which testing tools or technologies you would like to deploy: DWS Helps businesses #TestSmart.

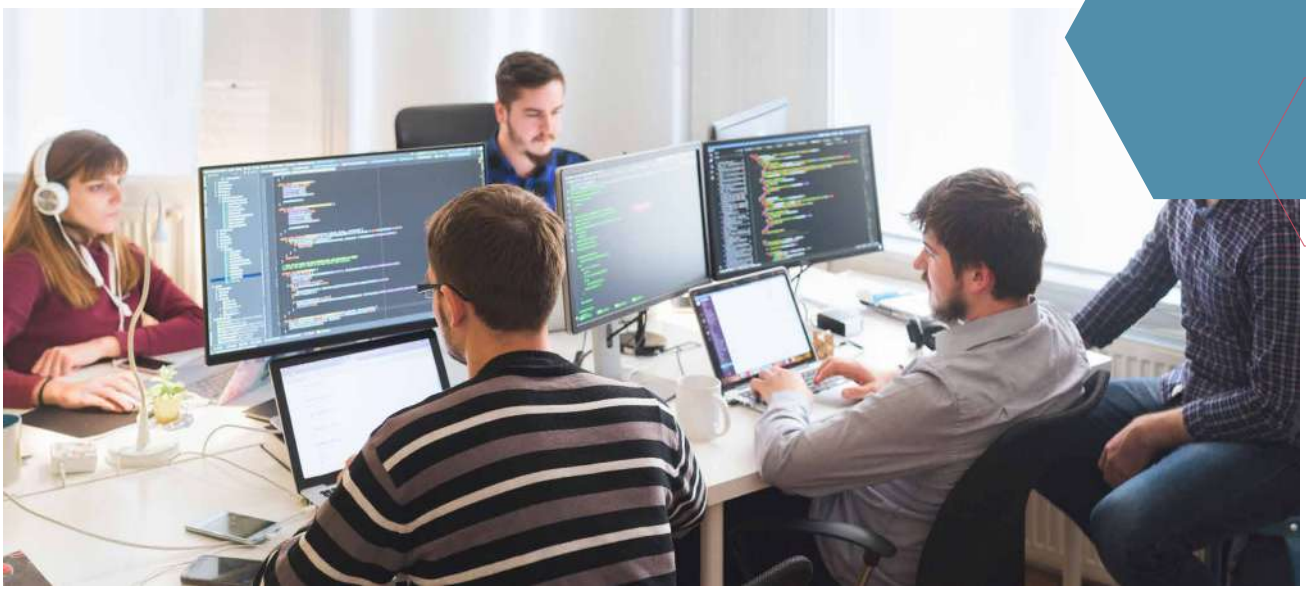
Explore some of our recent success stories.

Service Overview

- QA Test Planning & Strategic Consulting
- Onshore/Offshore Service Provision
- Functional Test Automation
- Web/Mobile Application Testing
- Localization Testing
- Load & Performance Testing
- ERP/API/IoT Testing
- e-Commerce Testing
- Blockchain Testing
- Cloud Native Testing

WHY SHOULD YOU OUTSOURCE YOUR DEV WORK?

Maximising value from JDE EnterpriseOne



Enterprise software sits at the heart of many businesses' operations. It is the catalyst that brings the disparate functions of sales, finance, human resources, production, and logistics together. However, it is rare for an organisation to implement a solution "out of the box", with no requirements for customisation.

In some instances, an organisation may find nothing in the market suits their needs, so they need to develop something from the ground up. However, experienced development, testing and deployment resources are often hard to come by, and expensive to retain. This is why more and more businesses are turning to specialist service providers to access the resources they need, when they need them.

Benefits of outsourcing your dev work

The advantages of outsourcing are well established. The same core benefits are in evidence when hiring full-stack developers from a software development outsourcing company:

Scalability

Companies can take on external developers as and when they need them. As they are not permanent employees there is no need to agree to any long-term contracts. Instead, businesses have the flexibility only to pay for outsourcing during the project span when they need them. They also can engage and pay for the developers only at the seniority levels that they need at that time. Furthermore, with advances in offshore remote working, businesses can access a large pool of developers that are based anywhere in the word.

Expertise

A professional software company that offers full-stack development can have a team of technology experts readily available to work on a range of complex development projects in their entirety. External full-stack developers can provide expertise and knowledge in both front-end and back-end coding, together with the ability to assist or even take ownership of the project.

Affordability

All this means that there is no need to retain a large and well-trained contingent of in-house developers. The recruitment, training, motivation, and retention of a dedicated development resource can have a significant financial impact on any organisation. If development work is not a sustained, ongoing requirement for the business, this resource will often find itself under-utilised. For many businesses, retaining inhouse development skills is a luxury they cannot afford.

Agility

With access to an external pool of resources, businesses can rapidly provision expertise when and where needed, accelerating development timelines, and allowing projects to be brought to market faster. Where new opportunities exist, outsourcing your development projects means you don't need to delay the start by recruiting or training resources on the skills required.

Read More

DS DWS DIMENSION SWIFTEST

30 DAYS FREE

TRIAL SWIFTEST FOR FREE

We're currently running a **30-day trial of SwifTest**, to give you the chance to get hands on with test automation for JD Edwards or Oracle Cloud Apps, before committing to implementing it fully. Try SwifTest today with no obligation to renew!

About DWS

Since 1998, we have been providing development and technical services to organizations looking to customize, integrate, extend, upgrade or support implementations of JD Edwards Enterprise One and Oracle Fusion Cloud Apps. We also sell EnterpriseOne testing products that leverage our deep domain expertise and help customers run smaller, faster and smarter projects.

DWS serves a global client base using proven methodologies and proprietary DWS Dimension™ tools.

Our best-practice approach and eye for detail help us deliver products and services that save time and money and continually drive down your TCO for JD Edwards.

For further information please visit our website, or contact us:

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