JDEtips
Knowledge
EXPRESS

Cloud

The Basics of JD Edwards Cloud and Oracle Cloud Applications

By Andy Chase, Velocity Technology Solutions

E1 W *Editor's Note: We've been looking forward to publishing our first Cloud article ever since we became aware of Oracle's almost total emphasis on the Cloud. There's quite a bit of new terminology to master, and some trepidation in the JDE ecosystem about being left behind. Andy Chase does an excellent job presenting the basics of the Cloud and how JDE has played and will continue to play in the Cloud.*

Introduction

Recently I was speaking with a Senior IT Director of Enterprise Applications who works in the wine industry. Our conversation had evolved (or perhaps, digressed) into a discussion about the growing importance of customer and employee experiences in determining both the products and services we buy and the places we work. Rapid technological innovation, social media, and the proliferation of lower cost competitive alternatives are all contributing toward what appears to be an age of delighted customers and employees.

As such, many individuals and organizations will likely have to rise up and change how they go about doing their business or else they may run the risk of losing their customers and employees to more attractive alternatives. For those organizations that are already producing an attractive or delightful product or service today, unless they also continue to evolve they too may run the risk of losing their customers and employees to a fresher alternative in say three to five years. All of which could result in individuals and organizations leaping from one lily pad to another in their pursuit of business excellence while striving to enjoy and help others to enjoy the various things that they do.

"I'm fortunate to have hitched myself to JD Edwards early on in my career".

Cloud

This was his response to our discussion.

Pretty amazing really, that this ERP package developed out of Denver, Colorado, in the 70s has been able to stand the test of time for nearly 40 years and that Oracle continues to enhance all aspects of JD Edwards with at least a nine-year development road map on the horizon (Oracle being a publicly traded company can only reference nine years).

Recent enhancements, for example, have already made self-service reporting, role based portals, automated alerts, mobile applications, and Internet of Things a reality for JD Edwards customers wanting to extend personalized experiences to their users while beginning to grow and integrate their digital workforces (devices, sensors, autonomous machines) directly into their ERP applications. But in all this excitement there have also been some looming Cloud and Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) questions developing within the JD Edwards community.

Public, Private, Hybrid and Managed Clouds, and various "as-a-Service" offerings are not necessarily unfamiliar topics to those of us working within the JD Edwards ecosystem. Yet for individuals and organizations who still run JD Edwards on premise, in a designated co-location facility, or even for those already running JD Edwards within a third-party's Cloud, these terminologies may prompt some unanswered questions and maybe a bit of confusion, especially given Oracle's Cloud strategy and rapid release of new Cloud Applications such as the CX Cloud, HCM Cloud, SCM Cloud, and even the ERP Cloud. Most importantly, what does the evolution of Cloud and SaaS along with all of Oracle's Cloud Applications mean to the future of JD Edwards?

The following content is intended to be an aid for IT Directors, Senior Business Analysts and other JD Edwards professionals who work for midsize companies and want to better understand current and future JD Edwards Cloud options and considerations, including practical scenarios for integrating JD Edwards with other Cloud and SaaS Applications.

We will begin by reviewing the history of the JD Edwards Cloud, then will briefly explain the various X-aaS's and the differences between public, private, hybrid and managed clouds. As there are already a multitude of online articles and resources that define these terms, the purpose of this article is to focus on answering some specific JD Edwards Cloud and SaaS questions, including:

- Where does JD Edwards fit within the Cloud today?
- What's different now from years past?
- What can we expect in the future?
- How does the JD Edwards Cloud differ from traditional SaaS offerings?
- Could JD Edwards ever be a true SaaS solution? (Does it matter?)
- How would that affect customizations and modifications?
- What is Oracle's strategy for integrating JD Edwards with other Cloud and SaaS Applications?
- What Oracle Cloud Applications complement JD Edwards?

Finally, we will cover some key considerations around the topics of "Cloud Cannibalization" and "On-Premise ERP vs SaaS".

The History of JD Edwards Cloud

Concepts such as computer time-sharing, service bureaus and intergalactic computer networks date back to the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. However, computing as a utility did not become mainstream until much later. The advent of personal computers in the late 1970s and 1980s resulted in a shift away from centralized to decentralized computing models. Then in the 1990s internet and bandwidth technologies advanced enough to enable the introduction of Application Service Providers (ASPs) where smaller and midsize businesses could now afford and access specialized software in a shared services model. This is where the JD Edwards Cloud began.

This Article Continues…

Subscribers, log in from our main search page to access the full article:

www.JDEtips.com/MyAccess.html

Not a Subscriber? Gain access to our full library of JDE topics:

www.JDEtips.com/JD-Edwards-Library