

Migrating from Oracle EBS to Oracle WMS Cloud

To migrate or not to migrate?

Organizations that use Oracle's on-premises EBS Warehouse Management System (WMS) may question whether to migrate to Oracle Cloud Applications. There are long-term challenges associated with remaining reliant on Oracle E-Business Suite, but while there are challenges associated with a move to the cloud, the benefits are far greater.

“Oracle WMS Cloud and Accelalpha's expertise have helped Navico to transform its warehouse operations. We have migrated from a legacy, on-premises system, to the cloud. Our efficiency and productivity have increased, and our inventory accuracy has improved substantially.”

Kristen Bender, CIO Navico Group

What to consider:

The primary considerations that have influenced organizations to move to the cloud include the following:

- Improved cybersecurity
- Less expensive data storage
- More accurate reporting
- Technical modernization
- Reduced cost of ongoing IT maintenance and software updates

While continuing with the On Premise is currently an option, EBS the cloud provides significant benefits, making it an increasingly attractive and future proof option.

Cloud is the future

There is a stark contrast between WMS on-premises and the Oracle WMS Cloud. Oracle is no longer significantly investing in future development of on-premises applications.

So organizations should consider moving to the cloud to avoid being limited by outdated version of Oracle EBS WMS.

When you implement Oracle EBS WMS, you can customize the software. This is a blessing and a curse because customizations make changing the backend database or infrastructure or performing a system upgrade far more challenging.

Oracle WMS Cloud has capabilities and benefits that are mission-critical to warehouse operations. For example, WMS Cloud is not bound or restricted by legacy Inventory architecture currently impacting EBS WMS.

Other benefits that come with Cloud are; In addition to being able to talk to any ERP system, Oracle WMS Cloud has its own label-printing engine and delivers business intelligence in the form of reports and dashboards that can be easily built with a drag and drop user interface.

- In addition to being able to talk to any ERP system, Oracle WMS Cloud has its own label-printing engine and delivers business intelligence in the form of reports and dashboards.
- Oracle WMS Cloud has its own RF interface that can be used on mobile devices.
- Oracle WMS Cloud's APIs enable it to easily and effectively integrate with picking technologies and automated material handling equipment like conveyors, pick lights, and robots. Companies facing labor shortages are looking for ways to supplement their labor force, so being able to pick and pack more products through automation is key.
- Oracle WMS Cloud customers receive all quarterly updates with zero downtime. Because it's vertically integrated, the cloud application has a fully autonomous database that auto-scales.
- Oracle WMS Cloud customers receive all quarterly updates with zero downtime. Because it's vertically integrated, the cloud application has a fully autonomous database that auto-scales to meet increased data processing requirements.

Oracle WMS Cloud vs. Oracle EBS WMS

According to Oracle Cloud Economics, the Oracle Cloud offers “47% to 81%” more performance for “less cost” compared to the costs of remaining on-premises. An analysis and case study performed by Nucleus Research found that “cloud technology deployments deliver 4.01 times the ROI of on-premises deployments” and that “cloud deployments allowed the customer organizations to recover the cost of their initial investments 2.5 times faster than for on-premises deployments”. This can be attributed in part to the lower maintenance costs, less IT involvement, and reduced costs associated with both hardware and software upgrades.

Accelalpha consultants can further demonstrate the costs vs. benefits by performing a side-by-side comparison between Oracle WMS Cloud and WMS EBS, like the one provided in the graphic below.

WMS Cloud – EBS WMS Comparison

Oracle WMS Cloud	Oracle EBS WMS
Quarterly Updates with new functionality – including Oracle investment in IoT, AI, Chatbots, etc.	New functionality requires a full EBS Upgrade to current version
Integrated Label / Document Design solution	Minimal new investment from Oracle toward Product Development
Integrated Business Intelligence (Dashboards and Reporting)	> 6-month average implementation (more expensive than WMS Cloud)
Standard API's available for integration to Automated Material Handling equipment (VLM, VNA, Carousel, etc.) and RFID	Requires 3 rd Party application for Label Design and Printing (added Cost)

Case study

Accelalpha worked closely with Navico to integrate Oracle WMS Cloud with its on-premises Oracle EBS system and replace its 20-year-old barcode data collection system.

A division of Brunswick Corporation, Navico Group is an industrial manufacturer and supplier of navigation products, electronics equipment, and instruments for the marine, RV, specialty vehicle, and industrial markets.

Navico had been working with D-Log, a 20-year-old barcode data collection application. In addition to replacing its outdated system, Navico was looking to transform its warehouse operations and adopt more streamlined processes for managing its inbound, inventory, and outbound operational processes.

Navico's objectives

- Leverage standard Oracle WMS Cloud functionality to develop leading warehouse processes, including:
 - Directed put away and picking.
 - System-generated picking, counting, and replenishment tasks.
- Enable cart picking and packing for parcel-efficient cartons.
- Support for item serialization and lot requirements for hazardous materials.
- Improve inventory location accuracy.
- Establish operational KPIs for inbound and order fulfillment operations.
- Implement changes to Oracle EBS required to support best-of-breed Oracle WMS cloud solution.

Solution highlights and benefits

Navico knew that if it remained on its existing D-Log application, it wouldn't make it through its next busy season or have the capability to scale its warehouse operation. The ability of Oracle WMS Cloud to automate tasks was a significant benefit and led to increased efficiency.

In addition to Oracle WMS Cloud's ability to meet its basic requirements, Navico significantly increased its picking and packing productivity by 20% above pre-project rates.

Investing the right amount of time, planning, and resources into this project made it possible for Navico to manage its peak volumes in time for its busy season.

Three things to ask your implementation partner

When beginning a cloud migration, there are three focus areas you need to discuss with your implementation partner:

1. Communication in and out of Oracle WMS Cloud: Oracle WMS Cloud has hundreds of API's that can be leveraged to support integration with your legacy systems. A clear understanding of operational data requirements is critical.
2. Middleware: Middleware is required for WMS Cloud to support any required data transformation between your legacy systems and Oracle WMS Cloud.
3. Communication in and out of Oracle EBS: Depending on the Inventory and Sub-inventory set-up within EBS, there may be additional information that Oracle WMS Cloud will need. Accelalpha consultants are unique compared with other implementation partners because we understand both Oracle EBS ERP and the potential impacts of adding a best-of-breed WMS application. Additionally, our experience gained from completing many WMS Cloud implementations, integrated with Oracle EBS, provides us with a deep understanding of the integration architecture.

Why Accelalpha

Accelalpha was selected for this Oracle WMS implementation project because of our unique ability to provide all the Oracle EBS technical and functional resources necessary to make changes inside Oracle EBS. These changes were needed to accommodate existing customizations and build the integrations required for the Oracle WMS Cloud solution to work.

Date: May 2023

Product list

Oracle WMS Cloud