



A Step-by-Step
Guide to Implementing
Oracle Cloud ERP

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Introduction



Organizations must be agile and adaptable to stay competitive in today's rapidly changing business landscape, nudging companies to rethink their technology strategies and move away from outdated legacy ERP systems.

Traditional one-size-fits-all ERP systems are often inflexible and costly to customize, making it challenging for businesses to quickly respond to evolving market demands. The complex integration of separate solutions with on-premises ERP systems limits the ability to add new features and functionalities seamlessly.

The solution is the modern integration of Oracle Cloud ERP. It is transforming how businesses deploy enterprise

management. The increasing demand for ERP solutions, accelerated cloud adoption, and the myriad benefits of cloud ERP are rapidly driving market growth.

The cloud ERP market (which includes Oracle ERP) is projected to witness substantial growth, reaching an estimated **\$154.59 billion** by 2028, with a CAGR of **16.2%**.

This guide will walk you through the step-by-step implementation of Oracle Cloud ERP offering a modern, flexible solution designed to meet the extraordinary needs of today's businesses.

What is Oracle Cloud ERP?



Oracle Cloud ERP is a comprehensive suite of enterprise resource planning applications delivered through the cloud. It integrates essential business processes such as financial management, procurement, project management, human capital management, and supply chain management.

User demographics show that Oracle ERP Cloud is used by **72% of enterprises**, followed by 22% of mid-size companies.

Oracle Cloud ERP is hugely popular for its advanced security measures and

comprehensive functionality. Oracle's management has significantly enhanced its Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) capabilities, reinforcing its market position and expanding its service offerings.

This unified platform helps businesses streamline operations by providing real-time insights that improve decision-making capabilities and operational efficiency. Its cloud-based nature ensures accessibility, scalability, and cost-effectiveness, making it an ideal choice for organizations looking to modernize their operations.

Here's how organizations benefit from Oracle Cloud ERP:

Easily scalable to accommodate business growth

1

2

Reduces the need for significant upfront IT investments.

Provides up-to-date information for better decision-making

3

4

Ensures data security & compliance with industry regulations

Enhances collaboration across departments with centralized data

5

6

Improves operational efficiency by automating routine tasks

Supports global operations with multi-currency and multi-language capabilities

7

8

Reduces the total cost of ownership by eliminating the need for extensive hardware

Offers flexible deployment options tailored to various business needs

9

10

Offers regular updates, delivering the latest features and security enhancements to users.

Why Building a Business Case for Modernizing ERP is Essential

Building a strong ERP business case is critical to gaining approval and securing funds for an ERP project. This case gives decision-makers a clear view of the expected benefits, costs, risks, and strategies for implementing a new ERP system. It keeps the project team focused on the main objectives and reasons for the transformation, which increases their commitment to its success. A well-prepared business case also helps get employees on board about the new software or at least open to giving it a fair chance.

When an organization considers a new ERP system, leadership usually forms a project team. Their first task is to create the ERP business case. Often, the best choice is a cloud-based ERP due to benefits like scalability, flexibility, modernization, innovation, and ease of integration. Trends show a year-on-year increase in the percentage of organizations opting for cloud software, with **78.6%** of organizations selecting cloud software in 2024, up from

65% last year. The business case explores how the new ERP will enhance business capabilities and align with company goals. It quantifies the value of these improvements. For example, it might show how AI can improve forecasts and boost performance, as evident from the **91.3%** of organizations planning to deploy AI with their cloud software and the 75.7% that have already done so.

Additionally, it could demonstrate how cloud-based ERP cuts upgrade costs and makes accessing new IT features easier and more affordable. For instance, Oracle Cloud ERP users have experienced significantly lower IT costs and freed up labor and time savings, with one company reporting **\$17.5 million in savings** over the next ten years due to the shift to ERP cloud.

By outlining the value versus the price, the team can decide whether to proceed with the project, choose the right ERP solution, and secure leadership approval.

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Leverage SPL's Oracle management and integration services for enterprises. We provide detailed cost-benefit analysis and potential ROI for timely system implementation.

Get your free Oracle Cloud Assessment Now!

Explore Our Offerings

Why Getting ERP Cloud Implementation Right Is Necessary

ERP implementations can fail for many reasons. However, Boston-based UpperEdge's chief of research and strategy, John Belden, identifies three key reasons: the sheer size of the ERP implementations, their transformational nature, and the absence of implementations of such size and nature for years within an organization.

Let's take the classic ERP implementation failure example of Cover Oregon, the state health insurance marketplace. In 2012, Cover Oregon attempted to implement Obamacare while also replacing its supporting transaction processing

systems at the same time. As a result, the project got too big for Cover Oregon to handle, resulting in missed deadlines and expenses of over \$300 million. Despite the investments, no insurance application could be processed through the exchange.

Another acute case of ERP implementation failure was in 2000 when Nike invested a whopping \$400 million in upgrading its ERP system. The overambitious plan fell through, and Nike couldn't fulfill Air Jordan footwear orders, costing the athletic footwear and apparel giant \$100 million in lost sales and a 20% dip in stock prices.

The above three instances highlight some key takeaways of ERP implementation:



Trying to do too many things simultaneously can risk budgets and deadlines. To avoid this, limit the ERP project scope to a realistic timeline.



Setting realistic goals is as important as defining business and operational requirements at the outset.



Focus on all aspects of the proposed ERP implementation. Focusing on one need while ignoring the other can result in open disagreements and operational disruptions.



Most importantly, assess your organization's readiness to embrace and implement the change.

How to Implement Oracle Cloud ERP?

Companies that successfully implemented Oracle Cloud ERP experienced seamless integration with other software, robust reporting and analytics, and low to no maintenance costs. The platform's ease of use further strengthens its position as a

trusted cloud ERP solution.

Here is a step-by-step guide to help you understand the implementation of Oracle Cloud ERP.

1. Plan ERP Cloud Implementation

At first glance, managing a cloud migration may seem similar to any other business or technology project. However, the distinctions become clear once project plans and resources are outlined. Unlike most on-premises implementations, the benefits of a cloud project become apparent at the initial stages. Further, the top three business goals cited for implementation are achieving cost savings (46%), better performance metrics (46%), and improved efficiencies in business transactions (40%).

Tasks for cloud projects differ significantly from those for on-premises projects. Smaller cloud projects, particularly hybrid efforts, gain approval more quickly and with less justification due to lower costs and the absence of capital expenses.

Cloud projects can be categorized into five key areas - project definition, team assembly, design, rollout, and communications. The team should gather detailed information in each category per industry standards before the implementation process.



Project Definition

This stage lays the groundwork for a cloud implementation project. Meticulous planning here reduces the risk of issues later on. Begin with a mission statement that includes your primary objectives. Develop a project roadmap that clearly defines goals, scope, risks, budget, and staffing needs, all aligned with a general timeline and task schedule.

Usually, cloud projects progress faster since they eliminate tasks related to hardware, software installation, and custom code testing.



Team Assembly

It's easier to build a dedicated team for a cloud project since there's no need to have custom application coders, hardware architects, software installers, or report builders onboard. Instead, focus on configuring best practices and defining user roles and responsibilities. Include business process consultants and data analysts and clearly define each role and its responsibilities. Ensure you have a dedicated project manager and relevant business partners.

You can consider using Oracle Soar to accelerate the cloud transition. It also helps to establish an executive committee and appoint an executive sponsor to advocate for the project and address obstacles.



Project Design

Think of this phase as creating a blueprint for success. Design documents such as BRDs, MD 50, etc., should include applications to be deployed, third-party applications, and systems that need integration. It must detail data definitions, user requirements, and impacted business processes. Some elements, such as the chart of accounts design, require thorough planning.

Completing the design early on allows for smooth configuration tasks. Modern cloud applications simplify these tasks considerably.



Project Rollout

Identify which business units and regions will be involved and in what sequence. Define the key requirements for taking the new system live and into production. Establishing Go/No-go milestones early helps keep the project on track. You can also schedule certain features for future deployment post-go-live. Include key metrics to monitor and evaluate your success after going live.

Cloud implementations benefit from shorter schedules and improved scope control compared to on-premises projects.



Project Communications

Effective internal communication is crucial for project success. Create a project name and logo to build internal recognition. Regularly update the organization on the project's progress and benefits to foster positive anticipation. Change can be challenging, but consistent updates help teams adjust and support the new system.

Cloud technology offers a proven track record of successful implementations and user acceptance. Most people are accustomed to using cloud-enabled applications on their smartphones, making the shift from outdated on-prem systems to modern cloud solutions necessary for the present business landscape.

2. Creating a Solution Architecture

The design phase leverages detailed requirements and a thorough understanding of current workflows to create a comprehensive design for the new Oracle Cloud ERP system. This phase involves crafting new, more efficient workflows and business processes that capitalize on the system's capabilities.

User involvement is crucial during the design phase because users have deeper insights into existing business processes. Engaging them makes them more likely to embrace and use the new system effectively.

This phase involves conference room presentation-based sessions with users, during which the workflows and processes of the Oracle Cloud ERP system are demonstrated. These sessions, also known as Conference Room Pilots or Application Reviews, showcase the system to the client's business users and allow feedback on the standard functionalities of Oracle ERP. Timely feedback helps determine if the default Oracle ERP functionalities meet the desired ERP processes.

Conduct a gap analysis to identify process details and unique features that may require customization of the Oracle Cloud ERP software or workflow adjustments to better align with the ERP system. The team presents these gaps to the implementation partner or supplier to explore potential solutions. This phase also outlines the strategy for data migration from the old ERP system to the new Oracle ERP system. It includes designing the integration of third-party applications into Oracle ERP and determining the reporting requirements the new ERP system must fulfill.

3. Cloud Implementation & Design Rollouts

With the preparatory work complete, it's time to implement the project design, which involves the bulk of the workload in terms of budget, time, and tasks.

Implementing a cloud ERP solution, such as Oracle Cloud ERP, involves significantly fewer tasks than a traditional on-premises solution, as it eliminates hardware activities, custom coding, software loading and patching, etc.

Typically, cloud implementation covers five core activities: Configure, Integrate, Data, Extensions, and Reports, often referred to by the acronym CIDER. Let's understand the same below:



Configure

Cloud applications focus on configuration rather than customization. Configuring data structures, hierarchies, organizations, and user roles and responsibilities is crucial in the initial stages. Core business activities can be set up quickly and paired with standard business processes and workflows delivered by the cloud application.



Integrate

Expect some integration work, as few solutions cover all business functions. This is especially true in large enterprises. Integrating legacy systems or third-party solutions into cloud applications helps keep prior investments and unique capabilities intact. Many organizations use Oracle Integration Cloud to streamline and simplify necessary integrations.



Data

Migrating from on-premises systems involves moving data into the cloud. Once data quantity and definitions are established, the task requires extraction, transformation, and load (ETL) skills to ensure data quality and normalization. Consider using Oracle Enterprise Data Management Cloud for complex data scenarios to maintain consistency across enterprise data, even in disparate systems.



Extensions

Cloud applications are designed for configuration rather than customization. However, they can be extended when necessary, or complementary capabilities can be developed using the Oracle Platform as a service. Preintegration with Oracle SaaS applications streamlines standard integration tasks, ensuring extensions remain intact during application updates.



Reports

Oracle Cloud Applications offer numerous reporting capabilities and predefined reports. During implementation, categorize reporting requirements into two groups:

- Identify reports that can be replaced with real-time, on-screen information and analytics in the new cloud application.
- Determine the reports that need to be generated and distributed. Consider Oracle's inventory of nearly 600 cloud financial reports (XLS) as a starting point.

4. Training and Management

After development, the initial step involves conducting System Integration Testing (SIT) to verify the full capabilities of the Oracle ERP system and ensure that the third-party applications connected to it are functioning as expected.

Following SIT, user training materials are created. Training sessions are then held to demonstrate the functionalities of the Oracle ERP system to business users. These sessions usually focus on the system's functional aspects and provide technical training (as needed), depending on the technical components involved in the implementation.

This training phase is followed by, or conducted in conjunction with, User Acceptance Testing (UAT), typically supported by the implementation vendor. During UAT, a group of representative employees is asked to test the system and any migrated data by simulating their day-to-day activities in the software.

In addition to SIT and UAT, comprehensive testing is crucial for the success of an Oracle ERP implementation. This includes automated testing to efficiently identify and resolve issues. Many major implementations have failed due to poor or inadequate testing, highlighting the importance of a thorough testing strategy. Automated testing tools can help ensure the system operates smoothly under various scenarios, reducing the risk of future issues and enhancing overall system reliability.

5. Launch and Monitor the Cloud System

This phase evaluates the readiness of the new Oracle Cloud ERP system. The team must review the completion of User Acceptance Testing (UAT), successful data migration, and resolution of any outstanding issues to ensure the system is prepared for deployment. Based on this assessment, you can make the Go/No-go decision and then launch the Oracle Cloud ERP instance.

Supporting the implementation post-deployment becomes critical for maintaining user satisfaction and realizing the desired business benefits. While the project team may still oversee the ERP system during this phase, their focus shifts to gathering user feedback and making necessary adjustments. This may involve additional development and configuration as new features are integrated into the system. Training is also required for new staff members.

Oracle releases quarterly updates, which must be tested and deployed to the production instance. This ongoing activity requires validating that the functionalities in use continue operating as expected, further ensuring the continuity of current processes.

6. Partner with a Reliable Integration Service Provider

Implementing and maintaining integrations in-house can be costly and complex. Therefore, choosing a reliable integration services provider for your Oracle Cloud ERP sets the stage for fully leveraging its capabilities while cautiously navigating budgets.

According to a study, [47%](#) of organizations improved most business processes after ERP implementation, while a close 44.3% improved core business operations. The business benefits are also significant, with [83%](#) of organizations reporting that their ERP implementation achieved the expected return on investment.

Partnering with an expert consulting service like [SPL](#) ensures seamless integration, enhanced performance, and cost efficiency. SPL's team of Oracle Cloud ERP experts offers comprehensive services, including planning, deployment, optimization, and ongoing support. With SPL, you minimize downtime and disruptions, ensuring your ERP system performs at its best while delivering maximum ROI to achieve your strategic objectives.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

The biggest challenges for ERP implementation include data security concerns and integration complexities with existing systems. While implementing Oracle Cloud ERP can significantly enhance your business operations, common mistakes can hinder success.

Here are key pitfalls to avoid:

1

Neglecting the Importance of Data Quality

Data quality is crucial for the successful implementation of Oracle Cloud ERP. Poor data quality can lead to inaccurate reporting, inefficient processes, and overall system failure. Ensure thorough data cleansing and validation before migrating data to the new system. Investing time in data quality upfront prevents costly errors and disruptions later.

2

Lack of Proper Training Sessions for Employees

Proper training is essential for user adoption and effective utilization of the new ERP system. Skipping or minimizing training sessions can result in confusion, resistance, and underutilization of the system. Provide comprehensive training tailored to different user roles, ensuring employees are comfortable and proficient with the new system's functionalities. Well-trained users are more likely to embrace the new system and contribute to its successful implementation.

3

Unnecessary System Errors Stemming from Inconsistent Processes

System errors often occur when proper implementation processes are not followed. This includes skipping critical steps like thorough testing, proper configuration, and adhering to best practices. In fact, **51-54%** of companies face operational disruptions when going live, which increases the implementation

cost by 50% to 300%. To overcome this, avoid shortcuts and ensure that every phase of the implementation process is executed meticulously. A structured approach minimizes the risk of errors, facilitating a smoother transition and stable system performance.

Key Considerations to Ensure Oracle ERP Cloud Implementation Success



Successfully implementing Oracle ERP Cloud requires careful planning and execution, involving several key considerations:



Software-related Enhancements

To maximize the benefits of Oracle ERP Cloud, leverage software-related enhancements through Oracle's quarterly updates. Regularly updating and optimizing the ERP system ensures you take full advantage of new features and improvements.

Partnering with [SPL](#) can help you stay ahead. Our experienced Oracle experts provide expert guidance on the latest software enhancements and how to implement them effectively, ensuring your system remains cutting-edge and fully aligned with your business needs.



Choosing the Right Partner for ERP Management

Selecting the right team to manage your ERP system is vital for a successful implementation. This includes technical experts and business process specialists who understand your organization's operational aspects.

SPL can assist in this area by helping you identify and onboard the right talent. Our highly skilled team can also provide training and support, ensuring your ERP management team is well-equipped to handle the system and drive business value.



Establishing Proper Testing Methods

Thorough testing ensures the ERP system functions as expected and meets business requirements. This includes unit testing, integration testing, and User Acceptance Testing (UAT). According to a **study**, the two most commonly cited challenges during implementation are insufficient testing and inadequate process reengineering.

In this regard, **SPL** can support your testing efforts by providing detailed testing strategies and resources. Our experts can help design and execute comprehensive test plans, identify potential issues early, and ensure a smooth transition to the new system. It minimizes the risk of post-implementation problems and enhances overall system reliability.

Choosing the Right Oracle Cloud ERP Service Provider

Implementing Oracle Cloud ERP is a strategic initiative that can significantly improve your business operations, enhancing efficiency and innovation. The project's success depends on careful planning, effective change management, thorough data mapping, and robust testing procedures. Involving users from the start, providing comprehensive training, and following a structured approach to system

integration and deployment are crucial for maximizing the benefits of the new ERP system.

Shifting to the Oracle Cloud ecosystem is a complex process that demands the right skills and implementation expertise, which may not always be the internal team's forte. That's why SPL can be your reliable partner in Oracle Cloud ERP implementation.

Designed Custom Solutions for the Successful Integration of Oracle Cloud ERP for a Leading Automotive Firm



Challenge

A leading **automotive aftermarket parts provider** partnered with SPL for cloud integration. They faced the challenge of merging two distinct ERP systems into a unified Oracle Cloud ERP. Further, they needed to align Salesforce with Customer Master and integrate the two separate POS systems with real-time data analytics.



Solution

SPL provided a comprehensive solution with an Auto-Cutover approach, which enabled customer rollouts and reduced IT interventions.



Outcome

Within 18 months of implementation, the transformation reduced IT intervention in the cutover and allowed parallel operation of legacy and new systems, which enhanced operational efficiency.



With extensive industry expertise, SPL is well-equipped to manage and support your cloud implementation project. Our comprehensive services encompass software enhancements, strategic planning, testing, and ongoing support, ensuring your ERP system operates optimally.

Achieve peak performance and maximize ROI for your Oracle Cloud ERP with SPL.

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