

WHY UPGRADE ORACLE FORMS APPLICATIONS?

Many organizations around the world have been using Oracle Forms based applications as part of their business information infrastructure for years.

As business requirements change over the years and new challenges arise, Oracle has consistently kept up with these needs by providing upgraded versions of Forms. New technology advances provide access to better functionality, more convenience with better cost savings. Since its introduction, Forms technology has evolved from desktop block/character mode to client-server to the web.

Yet still, there are many organizations that are hesitant to upgrade to newer versions. The common adage still rings, 'if it's not broken, then there's no need to fix it.' There are also other concerns which are preventing many organizations from upgrading their forms applications.

Some of these concerns are:

- Not sure where the Forms technology is going
- Upgrading means user re-training
- Upgrading means hiring new staff with new skills
- Upgrading can be risky as there is a chance of losing well proven business logic
- Upgrading and deploying applications can be expensive

Migrating to newer versions of Forms is a viable option.

Here are the primary reasons that companies should choose to migrate to a newer version of Forms.

- Risk of de-support and obsolescence
- Potential for cost savings
- Business Process Integration and enhanced functionality
- Keep up with Oracle's future direction

RISK OF DE-SUPPORT AND OBSOLESCENCE

Risk of De-support

As new versions of Forms are released, Oracle stops supporting the older versions such as 6i which is no longer supported by Oracle. The option to purchase extended support comes with an additional cost and has a limited life cycle. **Versions 6i and 9i are only under extended support until early 2008. Once the life cycle has expired, Oracle will no longer provide support and companies are left with unsupported technology.**

Risk of Obsolescence

Not only will the Forms technology become obsolete, the hardware and operating systems to support these older versions become obsolete.

POTENTIAL FOR COST SAVINGS

Depending on your specific situation, there is the potential for significant cost savings for migrating to newer version of Forms. Cost savings can result from:

Avoiding the cost of extended support

With newer versions there is no need to pay additional fees for extended support on top of the regular maintenance costs.

Reduced cost of new version licenses

Reduced deployment costs

New version of Forms allows web deployment. This enables access of Forms applications via a web browser from any where in the world, eliminating the need for using remote access software. Since web applications are deployed centrally, the cost of deploying an application is reduced significantly. Web deployment could also result in reduced maintenance costs.

Leverage existing investment in Oracle Technology

BUSINESS PROCESS INTEGRATION AND ENHANCED FUNCTIONALITY

Web-based functionality

Upgrading to newer versions of Forms allows company's access to web based functionality. Versions of Forms such as 9i and 10g are all web based applications that enables users to sign on remotely from any computer with internet access.

Integration with other applications

Large organizations typically use many different applications (e.g., CRM, Financial and HR etc.) alongside their custom forms based applications. There is a need to integrate all their applications. The new version of Forms facilitates this integration and enables implementation of Service Oriented Architecture (SOA).

Support for new technologies

The new version of Forms runs on Oracle Application Server which supports new technologies like mobile devices (PDA's, Cell Phones etc.), wireless and RFID etc, which are becoming essential aspects of many organizations.

Improved graphical user interface (GUI)

Older versions of Forms have alphanumeric, monochrome screens which operate on tabs instead of mouse clicks. Form to form transfer is manual which becomes tedious for the user and susceptible to errors. Upgraded versions of Forms can have colorful, user friendly screens that incorporate graphics and are mouse enabled. Integration of other applications in to the same screen and data exchanges with other applications becomes simple and automatic.

KEEP UP WITH ORACLE'S FUTURE DIRECTION

Oracle FUSION Strategy

Oracle is continuously upgrading the technology and moving towards their FUSION strategy.

CONCERNS ALLEVIATED

Not sure where the Forms technology is going

Oracle Forms has a very large user base around the world. Many mission critical business applications are running on Oracle Forms. Even Oracle E Business suite is based on Oracle

Forms. Recognizing this fact, Oracle has developed a clear roadmap for Oracle Forms and has not declared any intention to discontinue the product. In fact, Forms is now part of the Oracle go-forward FUSION strategy.

Upgrading means user re-training

Not True. By migrating to a higher version of Forms, users will see little difference in the basic functionality and business logic of the applications. Re-training will not be necessary and users will be able to adjust to the upgraded applications quickly and easily.

Upgrading means hiring new staff with new skills

Not True. The new version of Forms development tool provides an integrated Forms and Java visual development environment. It makes existing Forms developers feel at home and allows them to re-use their current PL/SQL.

Upgrading can be risky as there is a chance of losing well proven business logic in those applications

Not True. The migration can be accomplished with little risk to the existing business logic in the Forms applications. The migration tools make this process simple and painless.

Upgrading and deploying applications can be expensive

Not True. Upgrading an application manually can be expensive and a lengthy process. The use of migration tools can result in significant savings in the cost (up to 60%) and can cut down the time required significantly.

UPGRADING IS A VIABLE OPTION

Upgrading their existing legacy Forms applications to a new technology platform is the only viable way that companies can stay on a level playing field with their competitors.

The companies who choose not to upgrade will not only incur higher costs, but also eventually run the risk of falling behind their competitors. The longer the wait to upgrade, the more expensive the upgrade will be.