



CASE STUDY

Edenhouse enables Orbian to migrate
SAP solution to virtualised platform

Edenhouse enables Orbian to migrate SAP platform from old hardware to latest virtualised platform

Orbian is a world-leading Supply Chain Finance (SCF) company offering organisations cost-effective receivables finance, market-leading IT service, balance sheet optimisation and proven operational execution.

Orbian's core business model seeks to provide buyers and suppliers with a new method of settling their trade payables and financing their trade receivables at lower costs.



The Challenge

In 2011 as part of a strategic initiative to consolidate all its SCF IT services on a contemporary cloud infrastructure, Orbian chose a third-party IT managed services provider, Adapt PLC, to host all of Orbian's SCF services on a virtual hosting facility, termed the eVDC.

At the same time, Orbian wanted to further outsource the management of their SAP system landscape in order to focus more on their core SCF technology layer.

Huw Jones, Orbian's Director of IT Service Management, says: "We're a small company, and we really need a more bespoke service than we get through our enterprise support with SAP. Edenhouse really understands our needs and can provide the technical bridge between us and SAP whilst offering value-added services of their own."

Edenhouse Solutions was already one of Orbian's key technology partners who had built a consistent track record of delivering quality SAP services to Orbian since 2010. They were therefore the obvious choice to take on the full management of SAP for Orbian.

The Solution

Edenhouse implemented the EdenEdge support model, which gives a number of "Eden Days" to be used as required.

This model was initially applied to the work required to migrate SAP 4.6C from SPARC Solaris 8 to a new platform based on virtualised RedHat EL5 servers as part of the overall SCF service migration to the cloud.



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The Edenhouse Solutions technical team began working on the migration approach in September 2011 from Edenhouse's offices in Birmingham.

"Red Hat is a good, lightweight system which delivers what Orbian needs but without delivering things that they don't need," says Edenhouse consultant Duncan Barclay. "It gives cost-effective, quicker deployment."

First, Edenhouse needed to demonstrate that the new Red Hat platform could host SAP.

Duncan exported a copy of Orbian's Production system on to the virtual platform to provide a 'proof of concept' solution. SAP 4.6C was only built for a 32-bit Linux but the Red Hat Linux solution was to be 64-bit. Duncan had to reconfigure the SAP installation software to be able to install the 64-bit version.

The Edenhouse team also needed to build Solution Manager to allow SAP to connect to Orbian's solution to run the OS/DB Migration Analysis and verification service reports, and ensure that everything was working to the certified standard. Solution Manager will also be needed in the near future for the upgrade of Orbian's SAP solution.

Working closely with Orbian's technical team, the Edenhouse consultants ran the development system for a month, testing it thoroughly and fixing any errors as they occurred.

For example, says Duncan: "The SAP system couldn't connect cleanly to Orbian's existing MaxDB 7.5 database, so this needed to be upgraded to 7.6. This in turn caused a couple of business processing errors, which we tracked down and fixed."

The first name for SAP support

Edenhouse is a privately owned SAP business with a prime focus on support, enhancements and projects. With some of the most experienced consultants in the UK, Edenhouse focus on developing long-term relationships with their clients by delivering high quality, value-added services to organisations that have chosen SAP as their strategic enterprise platform.



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SAP ran their OS/DB migration service reports from Solution Manager for a week, and gave the go-ahead for go-live, with some recommendations for improvements.

The Edenhouse team migrated all the development and test/regression systems including Production, enabling the new system to go live in November 2011.

The Outcome

Orbian's Huw Jones says: "This was a high risk project. The migration of our SAP landscape to the cloud represented a significant technical challenge to us but Edenhouse fully embraced the task in hand, working closely with our technical team.

"The SAP migration project was completely successful and to date has been working very effectively for us on the new platform. It was a great team effort."

Edenhouse director Ian Fisher says: "This is the first time that we have migrated an SAP solution to a virtual platform, rather than to a 'proper' server.

"As a result of this work, Orbian now has a reliable, more cost-effective and upgradeable system.

"We're delighted to be working with Orbian, who now have the ability to focus on their core business, while we manage their SAP for them."