

LSB Industries

Migrating the Corporate Infrastructure to AWS



LSB Industries

- ▶ Corporate HQ: Oklahoma City, OK
- ▶ Industry: Manufacturing

Technology Footprint

- ▶ Oracle JD Edwards E1 9.2

Syntax Solutions

- ▶ Syntax Enterprise Cloud®
- ▶ Syntax EnterpriseCare®

The benefits of moving to Public Cloud were staring us right in the face. We knew that migrating to the Cloud would provide a more reliable, scalable and secure infrastructure than our own IT department could provide.

Michael Sullivan

VP and CIO

LSB Industries, Inc.

The Original Situation

LSB Industries, Inc. manufactures and sells chemical products for the agricultural, mining, and industrial markets. Products include nitrogen based fertilizers, industrial grade ammonium nitrate used in the mining industry, EarthPure DEF® (Diesel Exhaust Fluid) used to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions, and industrial acids.

Based in Oklahoma City, OK, LSB has used JD Edwards EnterpriseOne for many years. The software is utilized throughout the entire organization and is an integral part of the success of their business.

Michael Sullivan, VP and CIO at LSB Industries, played an integral role as a Cloud Migration change agent, communicating the benefits of Public Cloud within the organization and amongst the Board of Directors. “I’ve been implementing ERP systems for the past 25 years, and during 23 of those years, I wouldn’t have recommended running ERP in the Cloud. Over the past 2 years, I have witnessed a major shift in this mindset and now too believe the technology is ready,” said Sullivan. “The transition of migrating to Public Cloud is happening and it’s happening fast. If your organization is not being proactive on this front, you’ll soon fall behind to the competition.”

Through communication and education, LSB began to research the benefits of migrating to Public Cloud. After careful consideration, LSB turned to Syntax Solutions to move their entire corporate infrastructure to Amazon Web Services, via Syntax Enterprise Cloud®. In October of 2016, this migration began and in January of 2017, just 90 days later, JD Edwards EnterpriseOne and the rest of their corporate infrastructure was running smoothly on AWS.

When is Your Company Moving to the Cloud?

Research shows that one of the biggest hurdles companies face when assessing whether to move to Public Cloud is the access to Cloud expertise. Within many organizations, IT departments are not equipped or do not have the necessary knowledge to make the transition on their own. LSB was faced with these challenges and recognized the need to bring in an expert to partner with them on their migration.

LSB began their search for the right partner, with careful consideration in finding a match which would provide strengths to support their internal team. “Many factors were involved in the decision-making process including the tools Syntax provides like Syntax EnterpriseCare®, the depth of JDE knowledge on their team, the flexibility to work with us in a manner that fit our needs, and the service-oriented culture displayed by everyone within the Syntax organization.”

Once Syntax was selected for the migration, the LSB management team decided to utilize the Syntax team to upgrade JD Edwards to E1 9.2 simultaneously.

Migrating to the Cloud? A Perfect Time to Upgrade JD Edwards EnterpriseOne

Much of the effort and testing required to migrate to a new technical environment, including to Public Cloud, is similar to regression testing required for an upgrade. After reviewing the process, LSB decided to upgrade to JDE E1 9.2 during their migration to AWS and Syntax Enterprise Cloud®. “We found that doing both at the same time saved us quite a bit of money,” said Sullivan. “It only added about two weeks to the overall timeline, so we felt it was strategic and cost effective to do it all at once.”

Change within an organization can sometimes be challenging to accept, however with the proper communication and planning, it can be seamless. Together, LSB and Syntax carefully organized a step-by-step migration plan including communication and testing which worked for their entire IT team. If your organization is considering a migration to the Cloud, it’s important to start taking the time now to learn the benefits and capture the skills required to become a change champion.

After a 90-day migration process, all the expected benefits of moving to the Cloud had been achieved and continued to progress as expected. LSB started to realize additional benefits from their upgrade to JDE E1 9.2 that they didn’t even plan on. “Some of the new features helped us improve business efficiencies within the organization,” said Sullivan. “Also, having Syntax’s expertise helps us continue to deploy additional functionalities which are expected to provide us even more benefits in the coming years.”



Exceptional Customer Support a Key Differentiator

In a crowded space, Syntax continues to differentiate within the industry by providing superior business solutions and the best customer support. “The customer service which Syntax provides is simply outstanding,” said Sullivan. “Everyone in the organization cares about the customer and they are very responsive. The culture starts at the top of the organization where the management team are all clearly servant leaders, and it continues throughout the organization.”

A Successful Partnership with Measurable Results

The upgrade of JD Edwards E1 to 9.2 and migration to Syntax have produced successful results:

- ▶ **Increased Reliability and Improved Scalability**
Moving to the Cloud provides LSB with a more reliable infrastructure, while at the same time, provides them with the flexibility to scale up or down as needed.
- ▶ **Business Continuity**
Syntax Enterprise Cloud® affords LSB more comprehensive business continuity and disaster recovery capabilities than internal resources could provide.
- ▶ **Industry Leading Security**
LSB now benefits from teams of experts securing their technology in the Cloud with industry leading security practices.



About Syntax



Syntax is a leading provider of cloud and managed IT services for Oracle and SAP customers. Syntax has been providing comprehensive technology solutions to businesses of all sizes since 1972. Syntax delivers the best combination of software, infrastructure, cloud, security, migration and application management services to meet the needs of its diverse range of customers in a wide variety of industries. Syntax partners include SAP, Oracle, Amazon, Microsoft, IBM and other world-class technology leaders.