

# Better Together

## How Oracle and Accenture get government ERP to the cloud

In recent years, federal agencies have leveraged the scale and compute power of the cloud in support of individual business processes. Now, some agencies have begun to embrace those same capabilities in support of enterprise-grade applications.

One notable example lives in the realm of Enterprise Resource Planning. For agencies utilizing Oracle's ERP tools, the Accenture Federal Cloud ERP (AFCE) offering makes it possible to tap those powerful capabilities in an as-a-service model.

"An organization may have this ERP that they created say 10 or 15 years ago, and it's running in their own data center," said Brad Gladstone, managing director, Accenture Federal Services. "Moving it to the cloud reduces cost, and enables some of the newer innovations in areas such as automation and user experience."

By leveraging Accenture's configurations and interfaces, along

with Oracle's applications and cloud infrastructure, AFCE offers government a powerful new means to support the myriad tasks of enterprise resource planning.

### A better approach

A software-as-a-service offering, the Accenture Federal Cloud ERP delivers key functionality around finance, HR, payroll, budget, and analytics. By taking these functions out of the data center and shifting them to cloud infrastructure, AFCE inherently reduces the expense and effort around operations, maintenance, and servicing.

For agencies that have their own on-prem Oracle solutions, supported by in-house and contractor talent, this FedRAMP-certified approach leverages the power of the cloud in support of all the major Oracle applications, including Oracle E-Business Suite, PeopleSoft, Hyperion, and Oracle Business

Intelligence. Accenture now offers AFCE on Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI), which was built to provide predictable performance, predictable cost, and next generation security that is needed for Enterprise applications.

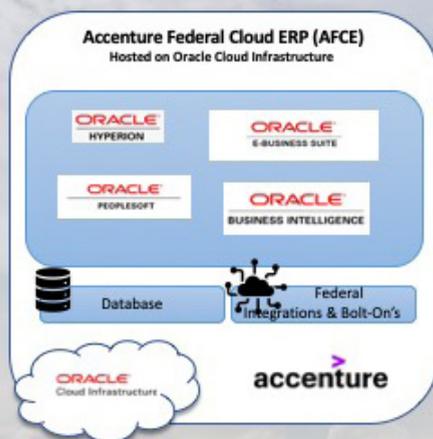
For agencies eyeing a path toward IT modernization, as-a-service ERP on the cloud reduces infrastructure costs while enabling pay-as-you-go scalability to adjust to changing business volumes.

Advantages of AFCE include:

- **Built for Federal**—AFCE is a FedRAMP Moderate Cloud Solution built on Oracle Cloud Infrastructure, managed by Accenture, and fully configured for federal organizations.

- **Kickstart Your Cloud Transformation**—Reduce or eliminate adoption time by accessing Accenture's library of pre-built interfaces and Federal extensions. You can also bring your own interfaces and extensions from your current Oracle Applications.

## Why Accenture Federal Cloud ERP (AFCE)?



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> **Stabilize your IT Budget**—Predictable Pricing model and reduced infrastructure spending allows you to take control of your IT spend.

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In addition, cloud also delivers new capabilities to drive efficiencies.

For example, it offers the robust computing needed to support advanced operations, such as robotic process automation, or RPA. With RPA, agencies can tackle the many thousands of transactions inherent to ERP with less manual prep time and fewer human interventions overall.

The cloud platform likewise supports the advanced analytics needed to tap ERP data repositories in support of sophisticated business decision-making processes.

## Best of both

As a driver of cloud adoption, AFCE brings together the best of Oracle and Accenture.

Accenture has tapped its deep understanding of the federal business and mission to create a cloud experience tailored to support Oracle's applications. Oracle in turn brings the core functionality to deliver on that government mission.

When it comes to cloud migration, experience matters, and Accenture Federal has already moved several other government organizations to AFCE. The National Science Foundation has turned to Accenture to deliver Oracle ERP on the cloud, as has the Department of Commerce and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Federal agencies that go this route can see demonstrable return on investment, starting with infrastructure cost savings of 25- to 50 percent as they shift from on-prem to cloud architectures. Cloud also delivers performance improvements of 1.5- to 2X.

"You get economies of scale by having the infrastructure operated by Oracle, right from their large delivery center," Gladstone said. "And with Accenture running the help desk along with other operations and monitoring, we've seen cost savings in the range of 20- to 30 percent just on operations and maintenance."

That combination of expertise also helps to ensure a smooth transition to the as-a-service environment.

"Historically, when you moved from point A to point B, you would buy a whole new set of hardware. You would hook them up to your network and string everything together. You would test it and you would certify it. You could spend months doing that," said Dan O'Malley, Oracle regional sales manager.

As a team, Accenture and Oracle "can have an environment ready within literally hours," he said. "And the infrastructure is at the FedRAMP high level so that you can be up and running on day one without an additional uplift to run in an authorized cloud."

As the consulting partner, Accenture tailors the implementation to support an agency's nuanced use of the Oracle toolset.

"We work with our customers to understand their module footprint," Gladstone said. "What is the architecture they're currently running? Because that matters, whether they're running on this operating system or that operating system. We take stock of that and we have the frameworks and the architectures on the Oracle cloud to guide that migration."

Accenture will dig deep to understand the current development and test environments, and then will apply migration accelerators to stand up those environments in the cloud in support of thorough testing and evaluation, as vital business applications are shifted over.

"The migration is very much a technical migration," Gladstone said. "A lot of what we're doing is validating that everything that was there before—all those different capabilities—are now running in the cloud. We make sure that all of those components and objects are accounted for."

Iterative testing, along with the involvement of process owners, helps to ensure a smooth and seamless transition.

## Looking ahead

Moving forward, the AFCE team is working to build up the operational end of things, adding elements such as enhanced monitoring and automated patching to continue driving down operational overhead. The team also is continually integrating newer Oracle capabilities, such as database-as-a-service, analytics cloud, digital assistants, and advanced data visualization.

"For larger customers, we're taking a look at their high-performance Exadata cloud service, to help them perform better, faster, cheaper," Gladstone said. "For those who need it, we are integrating innovative capabilities as fast as they come online from Oracle."

Those looking to go this route can take some initial steps now to move in the direction of as-a-service ERP.

"They can do a very thorough internal assessment of the current footprint of their solution. What are the modules and the components, what are all the integration points?" Gladstone said. "If you're going to move to the cloud, you've got to make sure that you've got a holistic view of what you're moving and migrating."

Organizations can also take a full tally of the costs of their current ERP deployment, including hidden costs around time and labor, in order to justify the investment in a cloud migration. They might also take a hard look at what elements of the ERP chain are most in need of improvement.

"They can start now to get their arms around what the current pain points are," O'Malley said. "If the IT department and the business process owners can get those out in the open, then you can begin to prioritize what you want to move to the cloud. If we understand their pain points, there's a lot we can do to help them cut costs and drive higher performance."

For more information, visit:

[oracle.com/onefederal](https://oracle.com/onefederal)