

# Continental Building Products

## Upgrading JDE While Migrating to AWS



Production Live on AWS 2017

### Continental Building Products

- ▶ Corporate HQ: Herndon, Virginia
- ▶ Industry: Manufacturing

### Technology Footprint

- ▶ Oracle JD Edwards E1 9.2

### Syntax Solutions

- ▶ Syntax Enterprise Cloud®
- ▶ Syntax EnterpriseCare®



*Since our JD Edwards instance was already being hosted by a 3rd party, moving JDE to the Public Cloud would allow us to prove that Cloud was ready to support our business better than having resources internally support it.*



**Jeffrey Cogley**

Director of IT

Continental Building Products

### The Original Situation

Continental Building Products (CBPX) is a leading North American manufacturer of gypsum wallboard and complementary finishing products. The Company is headquartered in Herndon, Virginia with operations serving the residential, commercial, repair and remodel construction markets primarily in the eastern United States and Canada.

For over twelve years, Continental Building Products has utilized JD Edwards as their Enterprise Resource Planning software. Their Director of Information Technology, Jeffrey Cogley, is responsible for shaping application strategies and roadmaps to provide an integrated set of tools and systems that streamline business operations, increase employee productivity, and foster a program of continuous improvement.

Over time, Cogley and his team have observed a shift in how companies are managing their IT infrastructure, with many organizations moving critical workloads from private hosting providers and their own data centers to public Cloud. “We didn’t want to be left behind,” said Cogley.

Contemplating an upgrade to JD Edwards EnterpriseOne 9.2, the Continental team was interested in taking advantage of new functionalities and end-user improvements. After a close review of processes and internal discussions, they decided to upgrade while migrating to AWS. “We made the decision to upgrade EnterpriseOne and migrate to public Cloud simultaneously. For us, it only made sense since we were going to have to test all functionality and didn’t want to burden our business having to test twice. We saw the move as laying the foundation for future enhancements,” said Cogley.

## Partnering for Success: Identifying the Project Plan & Expectations

The Continental Building Products team was behind the move, fully supporting both the upgrade and migration to AWS. The next step was finding the perfect partner to help them navigate the road ahead. After thorough research, countless interviews, and careful consideration, Continental Building Products selected Syntax as their partner for the JD Edwards upgrade to EnterpriseOne 9.2 and migration to Syntax Enterprise Cloud® powered by Amazon Web Services.

“We were looking for a full-service provider with experienced functional and technical resources. We also knew we wanted a proven Cloud environment partner, and specifically, an Amazon Web Services Advanced Consulting Partner. Syntax fit that mold and also brought to the table industry leading tools. From Syntax EnterpriseCare® and FraudID, to EnCrypto and Vision, they had an offering which really set them apart,” said Cogley.

The teams hit the ground running by developing a clear project plan and identifying expectations. Terri Jackson, Syntax’s Vice President of JD Edwards Delivery, helped to lead this process. “The main goals were to upgrade the existing JD Edwards EnterpriseOne environment to the JDE EnterpriseOne 9.2 release, while preserving data and transferring a pre-defined list of customized objects. This was all to be done leveraging the AWS infrastructure.”

Together, they identified a number of goals to be achieved through the process including:

- ▶ **Uplifting the infrastructure to be supported by internal IT and third-party vendors**
- ▶ **Successfully positioning the organization to leverage future business needs including EnterpriseOne mobility features and applications**
- ▶ **Improve system performance and increase flexibility for the organization**

“They worked hard to get our processes documented and made the onboarding process very smooth,” said Cogley. With project plans and expectations in hand, the Syntax team was equipped and ready to upgrade and migrate the organization seamlessly.

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**Jeffrey Cogley**  
 Director of IT  
 Continental Building Products



## Change Leads to Improved Performance and Flexibility

Together, Continental Building Products and Syntax simultaneously upgraded JD Edwards to EnterpriseOne 9.2 while moving to Amazon Web Services in eight months. Because of proper planning and collaboration, the changes were seamless to their daily business operations. “The Syntax project team was excellent,” said Cogley. “We knew we were facing some risks, but trusted the project team and the issues were minimal. They were highly available and easy to reach, with resolution and assistance always in a timely fashion.”

And getting across the finish line has resulted in a number of noticeable results for the Continental Building Products team. “We were a bit worried about performance, but our users have expressed that the system is faster now that we are on AWS,” said Cogley. In addition, the organization has already benefited from the flexibility which AWS provides, “Being able to scale up and down as we manage data for cost optimization with AWS is invaluable.”

The Syntax team is happy to see another client embrace change and flourish in their new environment, “Together, we were able to exceed the expectations which the Continental Building Products team set for us during the planning phase. Because of their JDE upgrade and move to AWS, they are experiencing quicker access to information and improved data flexibility. And most importantly, this is all being done in a more secure and reliable environment,” said Jackson.

## A Successful Partnership with Measurable Results

The simultaneous upgrade of JD Edwards and move to Amazon Web Services produced the following:

- ▶ **Seamless Upgrade.**  
A seamless upgrade to JDE EnterpriseOne 9.2, with no interruptions or down-time.
- ▶ **Improved Performance.**  
Quicker access to information, opening up extra time to be used on other projects and business needs.
- ▶ **Flexibility.**  
Option to scale data storage on AWS up and down based upon need and availability, achieving cost optimization.

“Because of their JDE upgrade and move to AWS, they are experiencing quicker access to information and improved data flexibility.”

**Terri Jackson**  
VP of JD Edwards Delivery  
Syntax



### 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.