

TechStone Chronicles

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Latest News...

“The Loyalty of JD Edwards Clients”

TechStone worked with JD Edwards customers before the PeopleSoft and Oracle acquisitions. Although there's been a ton of changes in terms of who's running the ship, there's always been one constant. That constant is the loyalty that JDE clients have for their vendor and software. It became obvious to Oracle and they've now invested heavily in R & D and product development as well as designating sales and support just for servicing those loyal JDE clients. Oracle has progressively assembled an upgrade migration path that will service JDE customers for years to come.

Both JDE World and Enterprise One clients now have strong support and new functionality coming their way. Oracle's Applications Unlimited is a reaction to those JDE clients and is extending its enhancement and support efforts on both the World IBM System I Platform as well as Enterprise One beyond 2013. Oracle is establishing separate business units for each of the product lines and investing more in developers for innovation and customer support. Oracle is leading the release of the first significant World release since 1997 in A9.1. This new release for the benefit of World clients will provide enhancements including; compliance support, operational enhancements, technology improvements and international country localizations. JDE Enterprise One clients have a number of versions in which to choose. The latest is 8.12 that provides enhancements to business functionality, greater usability, performance and drives down the costs of ownership.

TechStone works with Oracle to deliver these upgrade solutions to the JDE client base. To learn more contact sales@techstonellc.com

“Integrating the Utility World”

In a world of de-regulation the new crop of utility companies that have penetrated the market is staggering. There's never been choices like this before for the consumer. These include the larger mega conglomerate utilities to the COOP owned smaller groups that serve a more regional basis. One thing that's common among all of these utility groups is minimizing costs and accelerating profit to thrive. And the way in which these companies are doing this is through using technology to better integrate their billing systems.

In 2006, Oracle purchased SPL, the leader in utility billing software. Recently, TechStone has been helping utility clients with integrating this software with their meter systems, financial systems and CRM. Part of this process included an architecture evaluation as well as an integration strategy. Once that was completed, integration via Web Services, flat files and Java JDC was incorporated.

TechStone provides strategies and solutions that emphasize SOA-based integration. For more information you can contact sales@techstonellc.com

“Leveraging Customer Data”

One of the most common goals in companies today is in the consolidation of customer data. In the recent flurry of a heavily active mergers and acquisitions market, companies are left with customer data that needs to not only be consolidated but also cleansed and synched through third party source systems. Companies that own the Oracle E-Business Suite are implementing the Oracle Customer Data Hub (OCDH) to provide a solution to these needs.

The OCDH is deployed with Oracle 11i and leverages the Trading Community Architecture (TCA) underlying data model found in 11i. With the TCA, the OCDH centralizes customer data through the establishment of those entities involved in a business process. These include persons, organizations, branches and subsidiaries. Attributes are assigned to these and they're matched. The Data Librarian improves the data quality through the matching process providing flow-based UI for business users that controls the creation of new customer records. It also identifies and resolves duplicates automatically. Most companies that implement the OCDH do so because of having multiple disparate systems. The OCDH enables the synchronization of the data in these source systems through API's and/or web services.