

TechStone Chronicles

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Latest News...

“More than 40,000 Strong in San Francisco”

Oracle may be the second largest software company but even Mr. Gates would be envious in the turnout for OpenWorld this year. The throng descended on San Francisco like wild locusts with laptops. It seemed everywhere you turned you saw the hustle and bustle of attendees in the city. And as they normally do, Oracle did an exceptional job of handling logistics like feeding and busing the thousands of folks.

With literally thousands of sessions to attend there was plenty to do during the conference. These sessions ranged from PeopleSoft case studies to Oracle RAC technology. The focus though in sheer number of sessions and the subject matter of keynotes was Fusion middleware. It seems the (con)fusion has been lifted as many of these sessions brought some clarification for the fusion solutions. In very simple terms, Oracle is building its applications for the foreseeable future in a SOA framework allowing these applications to be integrated with a large number of third party and custom systems. These future applications are called ‘Fusion’ since they’re built with the Fusion middleware component intact.

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

“A Tale of Two Case Studies”

During OpenWorld we attended two very similar sessions with very different approaches. Both sessions dealt with the efforts involved in rolling out a global PeopleSoft upgrade. Staples and Duke Energy were the two case studies represented. Duke’s upgrade was for their Financials to go from v8.0 to v8.9. Initial efforts included a database conversion from DB2 to Oracle 10g. As well, during this process they migrated to Hyperion System 9. The upgrade included a lot of customizations. There were 318 customizations in all to be accounted for and the Duke team assembled a large staff. Approximately 25 functional team members and 13 technical resources were used for this upgrade effort that lasted more than 18 months. Duke brought in both OCS and Accenture for the project including one Accenture consultant assigned to each individual workstream. Oracle Consulting Services handled performance responsibilities and they also utilized a sizable offshore team for development and testing. There were 1800 users.

Staples, on the other hand, decided to upgrade their HCM systems to v9.0. Their goal was to standardize on a single global platform. And, much like Duke, they had a ton of customizations that exceeded the 2000 range. They also used an offshore model but a much smaller team overall for the project. Staples had 3 functional team members, 2 technical resources and 4 offshore developers. The total upgrade duration was 8 months.

TechStone provides upgrade services much like the one for Staples that are specialized and smaller in scope. For more information you can contact sales@techstonellc.com