Placid Refining is an independent privately held petroleum refining company.

They needed to upgrade their JD Edwards system whilst preserving critical custom code alongside controlling upgrade costs and timescales.

DWS partnered with CSS to assess and scope the effort required to perform the upgrade, using its Dimension Analyze™ and Dimension Professional™ services to achieve this for a fixed price and within a short timeframe.

The upgrade to 9.1 was delivered one week early with zero upgrade defects, significant cost reduction and notable performance improvements.

Placid Refining Company LLC is an independent, privately held petroleum refining company located in Port Allen, Louisiana.

The refinery is Placid's only manufacturing facility, producing a full range of transportation fuels which are distributed across the southeastern United States.

Placid Refining's JD Edwards EnterpriseOne system was originally implemented in 2008, and since then has played a critical role in the operations of the business. In the years since implementation, Oracle announced the withdrawal of support for their version of JDE.

The system has 35 users and runs the JD Edwards modules GL, AP, AR, FA, AB, SO, Advanced Pricing, IM and AM.

While Placid originally wished to use the native system wherever possible, the specialised nature of some of their requirements meant a small number of custom objects needed to be developed.

Smart analytics for your testing team. Do not test what has not changed.
Project Scoping

Placid originally engaged with CSS as its systems integrator, who promptly introduced them to DWS once they recognised that the upgrade would require specialist skills and knowledge.

The primary aim of the project was to perform an ‘as is’ technical upgrade to their JD Edwards system to version 9.1, ensuring that key components and customisations on the system were preserved and overruns on budget and time were avoided.

“DWS used its Dimension Analyze™ service to examine every object and every line of code.”

Enterprise Systems Manager, Placid Refining

Because of the time-sensitive nature of this upgrade, we planned for the upgrade of their 369 JD Edwards objects, to EnterpriseOne 9.1, to be completed in 25 days.

Dimension Professional™ ensured this time-sensitive project was planned to take just 25 days and completed one week early, with zero defects.

Thanks to our Analyze and Professional tools, we were able to complete the project one week early and – importantly – with zero defects in the code.

We began our support of the upgrade process by using our proprietary Dimension Analyze™ service to scope Placid’s system and customisation.

The analysis identified that, of the 661 modified objects in Placid’s system, 292 were no longer needed. This meant that the total number of modified objects could be reduced to 369, a saving of 44%.

**Dimension Analyze™ identified a 44% saving on modified objects that did not need to form part of the upgrade.**

Additionally, we identified a number of reports that were not in use, and therefore didn’t need to be brought up to the new release.

This process of accurate scoping helped us deliver a fixed price and timescale for the upgrade, meeting Placid’s sensitive requirements.

The DWS Approach

Once Dimension Analyze™ had provided our developers with an accurate assessment of the work to be done, alongside the dependencies and impacts that the upgrade will have, we used our Dimension Professional™ toolkit to manage and deliver the entire uplift project.

Smart analytics for your testing team. Do not test what has not changed.
Additional Cost Savings

During the upgrade project, it became apparent that Placid had a requirement that was thought to require additional expenditure on new third party software licenses.

However, after analysis, our developers established a more cost-effective alternative which, after applying a small amount of bespoke code, would provide the functionality required at a fraction of the cost.

This meant that we were able to save Placid significant financial outlay on unnecessary licenses – once again meeting the cost-sensitive element of their brief.

“With just one week of skilled developer effort, DWS was able to save us significant financial outlay on unnecessary licenses.”

Enterprise Systems Manager, Placid Refining

Performance Improvements

Whilst the new functionality of EnterpriseOne 9.1 was not a driver behind Placid’s upgrade, staff have welcomed the performance improvements it’s brought.

These enhancements led to such enhancements as invoices being produced sooner, discrepancies investigated quicker and an improvement to customer service. In addition, staff are more productive, spending less time waiting for reports or updates to be completed.

“Performance improvements mean that invoices can be produced sooner and any discrepancies investigated more quickly, allowing us to provide better customer service.”

Enterprise Systems Manager, Placid Refining

Smart analytics for your testing team. Do not test what has not changed.
“Our system has been performing smoothly since completion thanks to DWS’ in-depth knowledge of EnterpriseOne and the tools they used to deliver the upgrade project.”

Enterprise Systems Manager, Placid Refining

About DWS Testing & Quality Management

Since 1998, DWS has been providing software development and technical support to companies who want to customize or extend JD Edwards EnterpriseOne. Our award-winning Dimension Analyze™ service has now assisted more than 150 customers in Europe, Australasia and North America with their JDE EnterpriseOne upgrade projects.

DWS is the trading name of Developing World Systems Limited, which is registered in England and Wales.

For further information please visit our website, or contact us:

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