

TEN WAYS TO DE-RISK YOUR NEXT UPGRADE PROJECT

Stagnation is the enemy of innovation. Without innovation, there can be no evolution, let alone revolution. Just ask Darwin or Franklin.

Anxiety can be a powerful motivator, but also a barrier to change; especially when it's concern about the unknown. Businesses can find themselves paralysed into inaction if they are more worried about the risks associated with change than they are of complacency.

Here are ten ways to de-risk your next upgrade project

Be Realistic

Companies tend to talk about upgrades as either being technical or transformational. Transformations are hard. A technical upgrade is comparatively easy if, of course, you manage it the right way.

Don't Be Intimidated

Don't get caught in the mindset of 'this is too big to tackle, so let's just leave it'. Change is change. It will almost certainly be easier to get current on JDE E1 than to implement something new. This will be true even if you're on a very old version of the software (OneWorld XE, EnterpriseOne 8.x, etc.).

Partner For Success

If you don't have the resource internally, engage with an experienced Systems Integrator to manage the project. Where necessary, leverage the experience of technical retrofit specialists to handle the challenging aspects of your modified code. Look for support from proven sources.

Know What's Changed and What Hasn't

It's considerably faster and easier to perform retrofitting if the customized footprint is properly analyzed and audited. Unused objects should be jettisoned from the mix before you start down the retrofitting path. Why would you spend time and effort dealing with redundant objects?

Not All Customized Objects Are Created Equal

Some objects will require considerably more effort than others when retrofitting. Think about a "Best Upgrade Approach" for retrofitting. Re-coding your customizations against the target release objects is often the least efficient approach. Like the last point, contextual planning for each object is more efficient than trying to re-code everything – determine which objects you actually need and which you do not.

Pick Your Moment

You should time your larger internal projects such that they avoid coinciding with an E1 upgrade or code-current event. Run each project when it best suits your business stakeholders. However, there is no **absolute** requirement to avoid a code-freeze on the business during a project.

Stick To Your Plan

Know what's going to happen when and hold people accountable. Retrofitted objects should be delivered in bundles that can be installed and tested immediately. Bad quality retrofitting will inevitably require reworks and result in delays, throwing your project timeline out of sync.

Communication Is Key

You should build your project teams on a basis of trust and respect. Encourage open dialogue and cross functional, cross hierarchical communication. Be prepared to listen to, and to take advice from, any experts that are part of your team.

#TESTSMART

Retrofits should be delivered after unit testing. Leverage the best tools available to automate your testing where appropriate. Well documented project team testing will ease some of the burden you place on end-users during acceptance testing. If you need help for this stage, **we're currently offering a free 30-day trial of our test automation solution SwiftTest, with no obligation or commitment.**

Embrace Continuous Delivery

By embracing continuous delivery, your organisation will avoid the irregular and large-scale upgrade pain points. Staying code current doesn't need to be difficult, especially if you appreciate that regular code-current change event projects cost less, deliver more value and carry less risk.

"Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today!"

Get your **free 30-day trial** of our test automation solution SwiftTest, with no obligation or commitment.

GET YOUR FREE TRIAL



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