REALIZING VALUE THROUGH CODE-CURRENT-AS-A-SERVICE
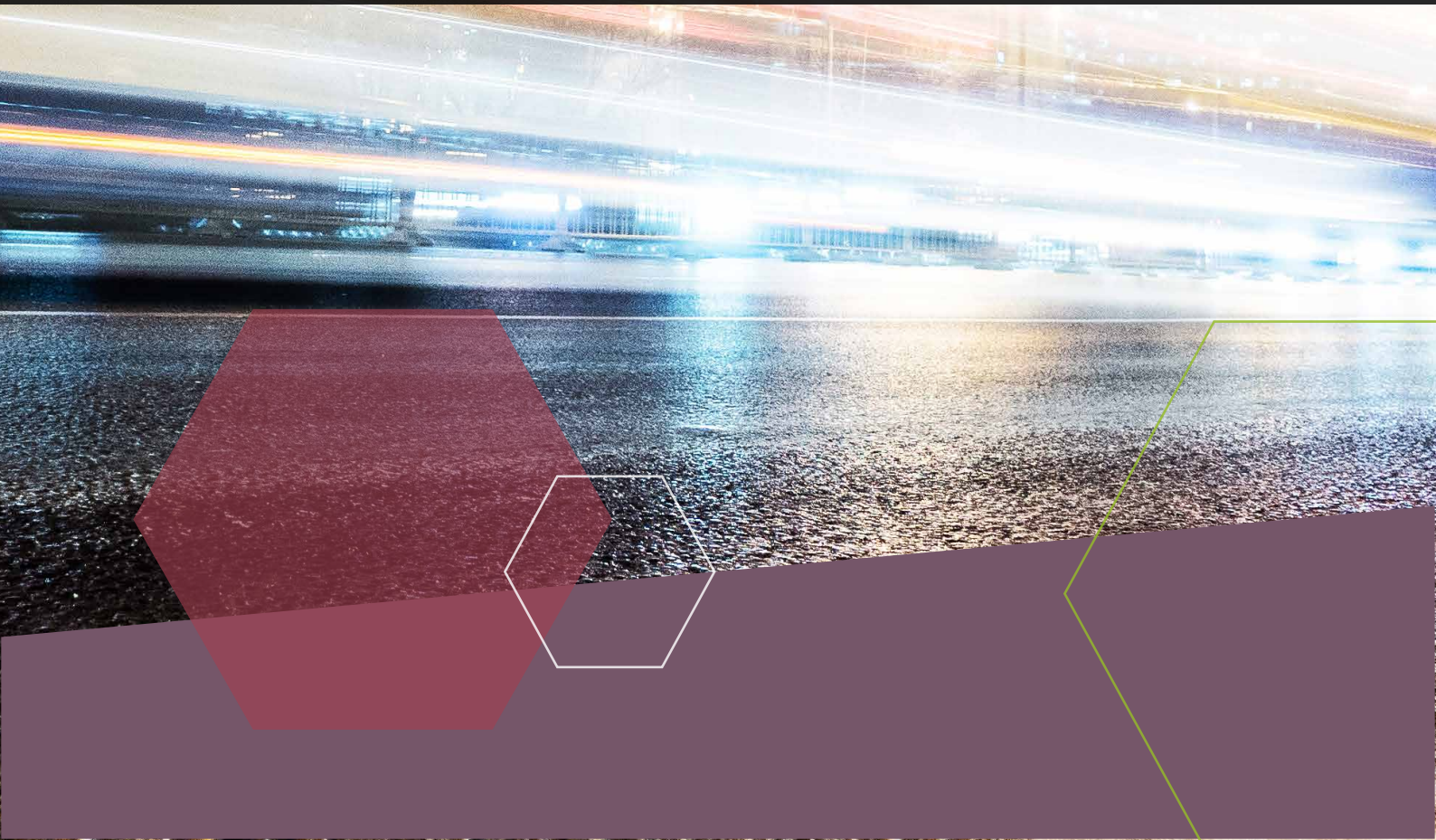
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"Continuous Delivery is a software engineering approach in which [Oracle JDE development] teams produce software in short cycles, ensuring that the software can be released at any time. It aims at building, testing, and delivering software faster and more frequently. The approach helps reduce the cost, time, and risk of installing changes by allowing for more incremental updates from JD Edwards to the applications you have in production."
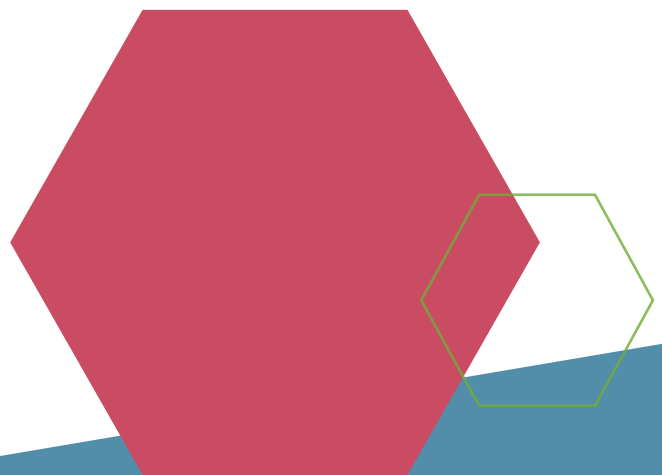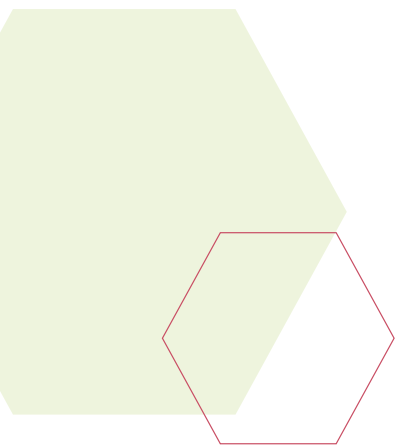
JDE CONTINUOUS DELIVERY

Oracle recently confirmed Premier Support for JD Edwards EnterpriseOne would be extend to at least 2034. The move is further evidence of Oracle's commitment to EnterpriseOne as a product and to continuous innovation as a means to helping companies committed to EnterpriseOne get the most from their investment.

Publishing the extended roadmap for JD Edwards EnterpriseOne (JDE E1) is essential to the long-term strategy for the product. Since the introduction of JDE E1 9.2 in 2015, Oracle has been committed to its programme of continuous delivery, with tools and applications updates three or four times a year. This long-term support policy provides a greater level of certainty about the future of the product and is a compelling reason for customers to get code-current.

What is continuous delivery?

Oracle's continuous delivery model was, in part, in response to changing customer behavior. The ways in which companies consume enterprise application software has been forever changed by the advent of cloud computing and by software being made available as a service.

Continuous delivery provides organizations with timely access to bug fixes and new features without the cost and disruption traditionally associated with major upgrade projects.

The benefit fully from continuous delivery, and to create a better platform from which to innovate and expand their use of JDE, customers must first get to 9.2. Although 9.2 has been around since October 2015, seven years after release there were still some 15% of the installed base running legacy core versions of the software.

A change in naming convention saw release 22 debut in October 2021, and release 23 a year later in 2022.

Of course, getting to the latest release is just part of the solution. As best practice, Oracle advocates customers maintain their JDE E1 environment by taking the regular updates as they are made available. We recognize that for some, this will mean thinking differently about how you maintain your JDE E1 environment, so we have given a lot of thought to what code-current actually looks like and to how teams that are responsible for JDE E1 might package and sell code-current as a service to the businesses they serve.

WHY CODE-CURRENT?

Adopting a code-current stance is as much about mitigating risk as anything else. Older system components are no longer certified or supported and can lead to system vulnerabilities, exposing your organization to unnecessary risks. Updated system components such as databases, operating systems, Internet browsers, language compilers and enterprise security applications are all addressed in the most recent releases.

We strongly believe that JDE E1 customers need to adopt a new way of thinking when it comes to maintaining their systems. Given Oracle's long-term commitment to the software, a code-current strategy makes more sense than ever.

By staying code-current your organization will become more agile and able to take advantage of the constant developments and improvements being made by Oracle; ultimately achieving a much higher ROI on your annual maintenance costs. You will increase the rate at which you can apply updates because you will become experts at looking after your modified code-base and running code-current change event projects.

Each time you perform a code-current exercise you will be starting from an improved position, so your update costs will reduce, you will be able to benefit from the latest (lowest cost) technologies and reduce maintenance effort. These all combine to continually reduce your on-going total cost of ownership.

Making the most of new features

Code-current also means taking advantage of hundreds of enhancements that have been driven by industry Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and developed in partnership with current JDE E1 customers.

Notable JDE E1 product enhancements include:

- Orchestrator
- One View Financial Reporting
- UX1
- Customization Workbench
- 64-bit Enablement
- Platform Certifications
- Project Forecasting
- EnterpriseOne Search
- Outbound Inventory Management
- Global Revenue Recognition
- Enhanced Mobile Functionality
- IoT Studio

CODE-CURRENT AS A SERVICE

'As a service' propositions have become commonplace with organizations choosing to outsource the delivery of strategic technology services. These propositions have largely replaced the high CAPEX approaches of the past, allowing decision-makers to implement and maintain an ever-increasing portfolio of business-critical applications as a managed service.

Any business that has made the move to 9.2, or the subsequent release 22 or 23, should be looking to leverage Oracle's continuous delivery strategy to reduce the cost and complexity associated with maintaining and updating their JDE E1 implementation.

For JDE E1 customers, code-current as a service (CCaaS) represents a new level of support from the JDE community. It is a proposition that is designed for organizations that have embraced the concept of continuous delivery and are looking to evolve and innovate.

To provide CCaaS, the team that is responsible for JDE E1 needs to consider a level of support above what is provided by an annual maintenance agreement with Oracle, or from a simple managed service arrangement provided by a systems integrator.

Consultancy plays a vital role in any code-current as a service proposition. The provider needs to be a trusted advisor, with the ability to offer guidance on how to make the most of new features, functions, and capabilities as they are made available.

To support a strategy of continuous innovation one needs to bring together a broad portfolio of capabilities. These should include, but not be limited to:

- End user support
- CNC services
- Infrastructure management
- Ad hoc development services
- Code-current retrofitting services
- Functional and performance testing

DIMENSION TEMPO™

Most, if not all, JDE E1 customers will have modified standard objects or added their own custom objects to meet specific business needs. These modified and custom objects collectively form a modified footprint that needs to be addressed any time changes from Oracle JDE are applied. Any objects impacted by a code-current change event need to be reconciled and retrofitted.

Dimension Tempo

Dimension Tempo (DT) is a managed code-current retrofitting service, developed specifically to support organizations that want to take advantage of continuous delivery. It leverages proprietary tools and methodologies to enable DWS to offer a 3-year fixed price code-current retrofitting service.

The main aim of the service is to introduce predictability and manageability whilst reducing complexity over time – minimizing the modified footprint and eliminating any functional or technical obstacles that prevent customers from maximizing the returns on their investment in JDE E1.

A core element of any code-current as a service solution is the cadence of change event projects. A company might want to get code-current once or twice a year, or just twice every three years. Whatever the cadence, it is important to recognize that there needs to be a well-managed, considered and consistent approach.

The retrofitting or uplifting of any modified or custom objects impacted during a code-current change event is what DT addresses.

DWS uses its proprietary Extract and Analyze tools to understand a company's modified footprint and to quote for DT.

Each code-current change event project is then comprised of three key elements:

Health Check

A review to identify decommissioning opportunities, designed to reduce the modified footprint.

Impact Analysis

A forensic analysis of the net changes between a customer's current code base and the latest vendor release.

Technical Retrofitting

A fixed-timescale, fixed-cost, near-zero defect development project executed as part of the wider code-current change event project.

TEST SMART

Another core component of delivering on a code-current strategy is the functional and performance testing of your system. To further support JDE customers committed to a continuous innovation strategy, DWS has developed a suite of testing products.

Dimension Focus™

Dimension Focus is the first product available to JD Edwards customers that will analyze your entire EnterpriseOne system to identify exactly which objects (modified or entirely unmodified standard-JDE) are impacted by the proposed change, how significantly they are affected and how to approach the testing challenge.

This insight not only helps you understand the business impact of the proposed change but can also be used to inform your test planning and management, so you only test what needs testing.

Dimension SwifTest™

Dimension SwifTest has been designed for both EnterpriseOne and Oracle Cloud Applications. It is the easiest way to script and execute your testing without the need for specialist test engineers or programmers. Business Analysts and Super-Users can now build their own test scripts and scenarios quickly and easily.

The scripts in the catalog can then be executed automatically to accelerate the testing process. This not only eases the overall workload but ensures consistency in respect to test execution and documentation.

Dimension LoadTest™

Dimension LoadTest™ is a flexible and powerful product that allows users to simulate the impact of load on their JDE E1 applications and any supporting technical infrastructure. It allows customers to easily simulate load and do the work of hundreds of users in a fraction of the time, reducing overall test resource by more than 95%.

Virtual agents can be spun up to simulate workloads from on-premises or cloud-based applications; allowing users to go live with confidence and providing a greater level of quality assurance and risk management.
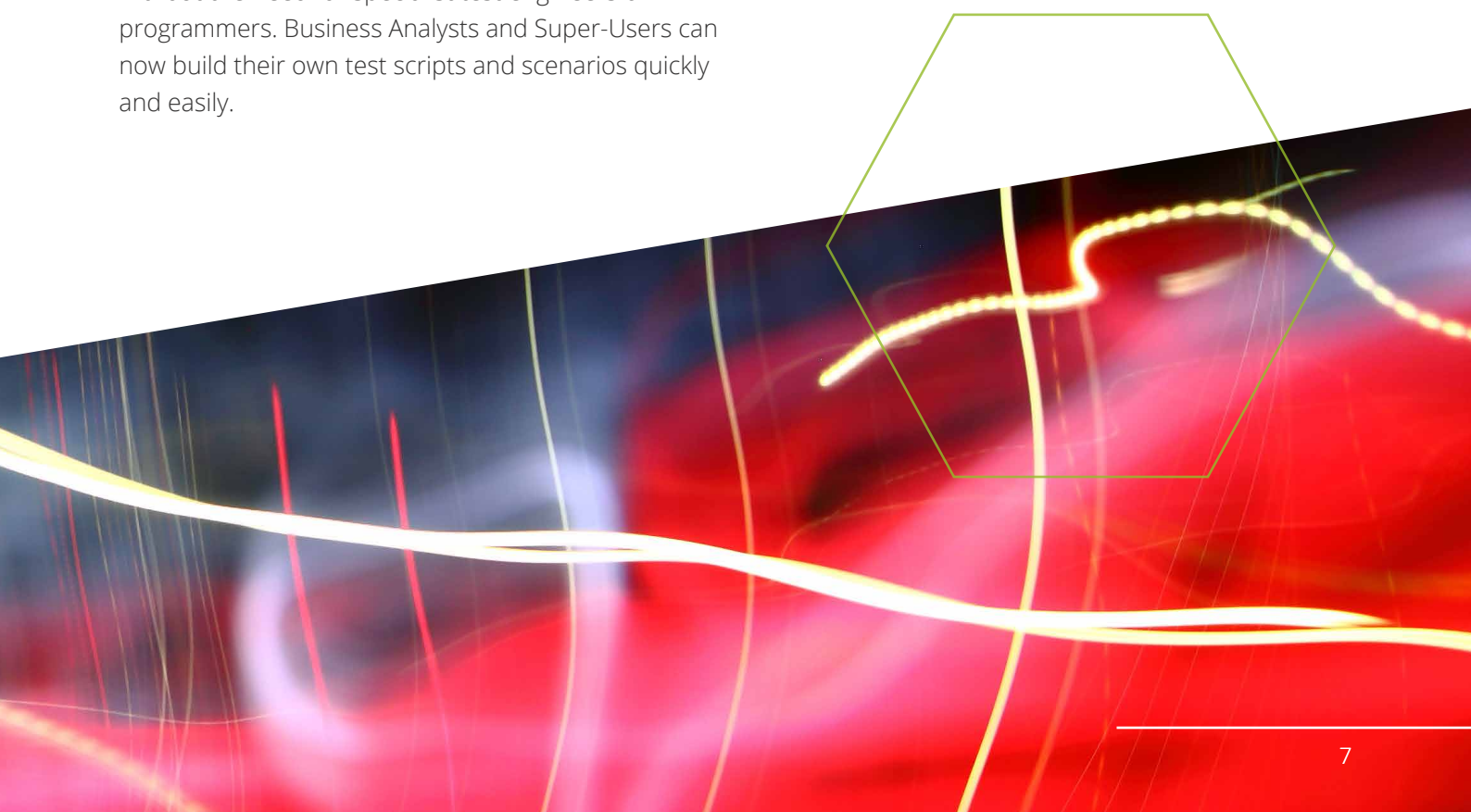
About DWS

DWS is a leading provider of Oracle's JD Edwards EnterpriseOne and Fusion Cloud Applications products and services.

Since 1998, we have been providing development and technical services to organizations looking to customize, integrate, extend, upgrade or support their enterprise software applications.

DWS serves a global client base with proven methodologies and an innovative range of proprietary software and services. Our solutions help drive down the TCO of your enterprise software by delivering smaller, faster, smarter projects.

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

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