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JD EDWARDS IN THE **DISRUPTION AGE**



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For decades, companies have relied on JD Edwards (JDE) ERP solution to optimize core business processes. Despite pressures to move to newer ERP platforms, many of these customers have made the thoughtful choice to stay, citing the functional depth and vast user network made available through the JDE ecosystem.

And the decision to stick with JDE is a strategic one many companies make, knowing that trading in their instance may well and good mean upgrading a very familiar problem set. The reality is that modernizing your application landscape doesn't necessarily imply a need to rip everything out and start again. In fact, modernization can happen around your core business processes to bring focus and execution to the most dynamic and high impact business needs first.

In this eBook, we discuss the obstacles JDE customers face when it comes to modernizing their IT landscapes. We will cover how complementary platforms can create custom experiences without the need for customizing JDE. And we will dive into opportunities for transforming peripheral, manual processes into powerful enterprise applications.

OBSTACLES FACED BY JD EDWARDS USERS



Despite being incredibly well-architected software, JDE users are more and more frequently having to decide if taking the latest upgrade is a worthwhile endeavor. Over its lifetime, layers of updates and customizations have made it increasingly difficult to innovate quickly. The resulting technical debt has left JDE users with two choices: Either invest more in customizations (and the ensuing maintenance) or adjust your business processes to meet the software at standard.

Every business has unique processes that should be celebrated as competitive advantages, not punished. The vast majority of businesses require some level of customization to align their JDE instance with their unique requirements, but extensive customization is time consuming, often very expensive, and causes significant headaches when it comes time to upgrade.

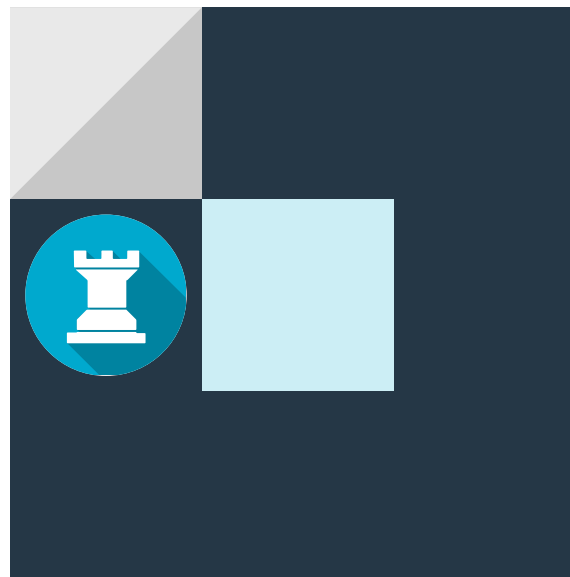
In the most extreme cases, this “vicious upgrade cycle” results in teams or individuals completely dedicated to preparing for and recovering from upgrades, rather than focusing on value-added tasks. In today’s competitive job market, the frustration of constantly putting out upgrade-related fires can lead to employee dissatisfaction that many businesses can’t afford.

Recruiting and retaining talent has become a significant challenge across industries, particularly in technical roles, due to the need for continuous upskilling and reskilling of existing tech talent to keep pace with rapid advancements and evolving tools and trends.

Many of the technical professionals who dedicated their careers to JDE technologies are on the cusp of retirement – leaving a shortage of these particular skillsets in their wake.

According to [Constellation Research](#), the productivity gap between legacy ERP software and modern business needs has pushed companies to explore enterprise platforms as a means to fully integrate and extend their JDE instance, as well as build new applications to align with the digital transformation pace of this century.

Modern platforms allow JDE users to build, manage, operate, extend, and integrate enterprise applications. Their centralized frameworks allow organizations to manage and execute various business applications and processes.



EXTENDING JD EDWARDS WITH A PLATFORM



Create custom experiences

Because JDE plays such an integral role in the day-to-day operations of many businesses, and because it is such a massive investment, many companies can't fathom replacing with something new. Any rightly so. Replacing your ERP often invites the exact same problem set on newer—yet still static—technology. Many would rather adjust how they work than take on the overwhelming task of ripping and replacing.

A platform helps fill the productivity gap between standard JDE functionality and today's business needs. While JDE remains at the core of your business, and the source of truth, layering on a platform opens the door for many additional capabilities to augment your business or automate the parts that are unique to you but likely accomplished somewhat manually today. Likely, these are the custom projects you have considered but chosen not to reflect in your ERP—all for the simplicity of maintaining what is standard.

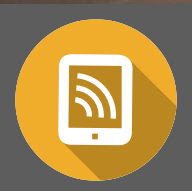
These platforms are the antidote to customization and upgrade dilemmas, allowing any end user to build new applications or customize prebuilt capabilities and connect them with JDE. This level of customization means every application meets your company's specific requirements, all backed with the power of an enterprise platform.

JDE customers can also take advantage of a platform to retire lightly used point solutions to reduce license, integration, support, and training costs. These can be rebuilt on a platform and quickly become a familiar end-user experience as the application investment grows. Beyond point solutions, the spreadsheets being used to run or store enterprise data and transactions, too, can become enterprise applications complete with workflow, security, reporting, AI, and auditing features.

While other software solutions require an "all or nothing" commitment, modern platforms are built on composable architecture, enabling you to string together business capabilities like building blocks to meet your unique requirements.

With this approach you can leverage comprehensive enterprise applications to handle everything from finance to inventory management, procurement, and manufacturing, all built on the platform with modern mobility, workflow, security, and AI capabilities built right in.





Rethink data connectivity

Critical to augmenting the functionality of JDE is the ability to connect with it as a data source. Best-in-class platforms offer granular, table-level REST APIs and JDE-specific data transformations to ensure the proper flow of information across systems.

Many JDE customers use platforms to consolidate multiple ERPs or sources of data among inventory or financial applications. Others find that a platform is the exact remedy to reliance on spreadsheets for any custom, enterprise-level transaction or data storage.

Whether your unique processes require multiple ERPs or collecting spreadsheets across business units, the right platform synthesizes data from all sources to streamline workflows and foster collaboration between teams and departments.

A platform eliminates the effort and errors associated with collecting and coordinating information across any mix of product lines, divisions, business units, factories, facilities, and countries.

By leveraging the pre-built connectors, robust data transformation tools, and comprehensive security features inherent to a platform, you can achieve seamless integration, real-time data synchronization, and operational efficiency—ultimately driving greater value from JDE.





Future-proof your JD Edwards investment

But what about when it comes time to upgrade? This notoriously complex and expensive process has many JDE customers avoiding upgrades altogether, so they don't lose the customizations they've painstakingly built.

By transferring your JDE customizations to a cloud-native, no-code platform, you can enjoy hassle-free upgrades that preserve your custom projects and production data. Applications built on no-code platforms automatically inherit new features and technologies without any work required.

This means your purpose-built applications adapt and scale as your business needs evolve over time, no matter how often you choose to upgrade JDE. Additionally, you can incorporate and leverage new technologies as they emerge without disrupting business operations.



Digital transformation on your terms

Despite its aging underlying technology, many businesses still rely on JDE at the core of their processes. Unlike ripping and replacing with a new ERP system, adding a platform charts a non-disruptive path forward that solves business problems today and ensures sustainability into the future. In other words, you don't have to replace your core finance applications when you're really just trying to automate a specific piece of your unique invoicing process.

Whether your digital transformation begins with replacing core processes or introducing new applications and capabilities incrementally, a best-in-class platform can take you where you need to go.

From moving your on-prem instance to the cloud, to enabling the use of mobile applications and wearable devices, augmenting business decisions with artificial intelligence, adding custom modules to your dashboards, or building new applications that JDE doesn't offer, you can focus on adding functionalities that will make the biggest impact first, accelerating time to value.

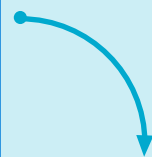
Platforms enable rapid innovation and re-invention by stripping away much of the technical implementation behind bringing new ideas and applications into the fold. Modern platforms leverage these technologies to drive automation, improve decision-making with advanced analytics, and enhance customer experiences.



Choosing the right approach for *modernizing legacy software*

1

Reduce reliance on spreadsheets



Transform the spreadsheets you use for enterprise transacting or data management into robust enterprise applications complete with workflow, reporting, AI, and auditing features.



2

Enhance and automate

Rather than customize JDE, introduce sustainable customizations with a platform that augments existing JDE core capabilities for complete, connected, and custom automation.



● Existing ISV

3

Rebuild JDE customizations on a platform

Make upgrades and ongoing maintenance less painful by retiring custom work from JDE onto a platform. Keep your core processes standard and put a platform to work to create custom experiences.

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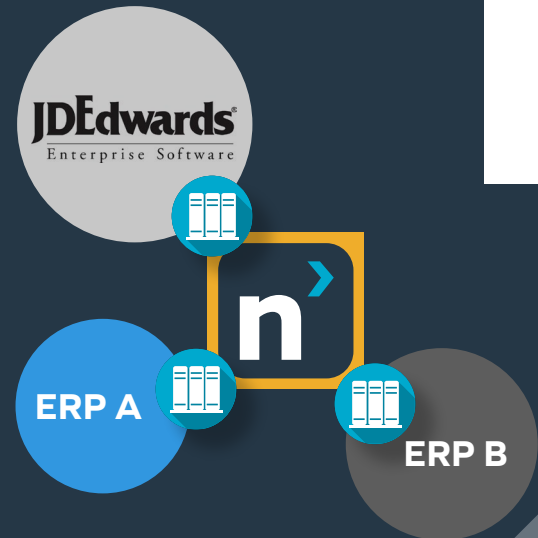


Choosing the right approach for *modernizing legacy software*

4

Retire point solutions

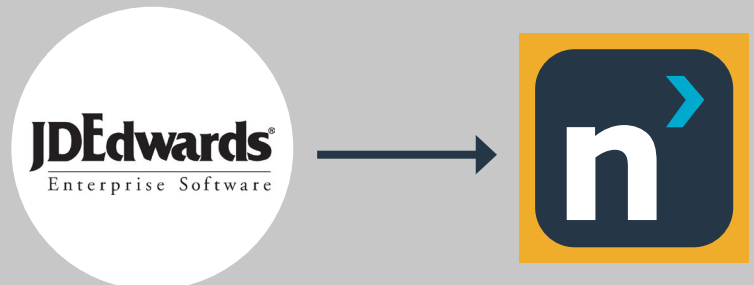
Consolidate individual software applications, get rid of redundant solutions, or end licenses for under-utilized products. Redevlop with a platform to ensure seamless data flow and familiar user experience.



5

Rip and replace

In some cases, the most effective way to modernize a legacy ERP system is to replace it entirely. Implementing a new, modern platform solution from scratch provides a clean slate to incorporate the latest technologies and best practices.





Focus on what's next: How Nextworld helps

Nextworld is a leading platform that promotes businesses' digital transformation goals, allowing them to compose tailored experiences that solve the most pressing business problems.

Many of our customers find themselves slowed by aging architectures—like JDE's underlying technology—but don't want to undergo a major rip-and-replace project. Unlike ERPs, platforms can solve business problems with a modular approach, offering a variety of packaged capabilities that can be singularly used, or used to compose larger business processes and workflows.

Nextworld's no-code platform delivers enterprise-grade capabilities with unmatched speed and efficiency. By leveraging declarative application development processes, you can foster collaboration between IT and business departments and align the software with your unique needs, all without writing a single line of code.

With Nextworld, organizations can embrace innovation, adapt to change, and maintain a competitive edge in the modern business world.



Want to see the benefits of the Nextworld Platform in action?

[Schedule a 30-minute call](#) to get a personalized workshop using your customizations and JD Edwards data in real time.