



No More Wrestling with On-Premise Servers JDE Upgrade & Cloud Migration



World Wrestling Entertainment turns to GSI to help it bring its ERP forward 15 years and take its hosting into the cloud.

An organization whose members are known for their dramatic on-stage acrobatics, dropkicks, and takedowns, World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) needs robust technology to run its worldwide enterprise. Until recently, it was using a 15-year-old version of Oracle's JD Edwards EnterpriseOne enterprise resource planning (ERP) software suite. Ready to upgrade to the latest release of JD Edwards EnterpriseOne, and wanting to move to a cloud-hosted environment, WWE knew it was time to modernize its IT environment. "One of our key technology pillars has been leveraging the cloud," explained Luke Freeman, VP, Enterprise Systems. "We were already using the AWS cloud environment, so we wanted to take advantage of that."



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**Luke Freeman
VP, Enterprise Systems
World Wrestling
Entertainment(WWE)**

COMPANY SNAPSHOT

Company: World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE)

Location: Stamford, Connecticut, USA

Industry: Professional Wrestling
Streaming Media

Employees: Approximately 800 Employees

Products & Services: Films, Live Events, Home Video, Merchandise, Music, Publishing, Streaming Network Service, Television Services, Licensing

GSI Solution:

- JD Edwards Upgrade
- Cloud Migration

Managing the End-to-End Project

Unlike other major sports like basketball, baseball, football, and hockey, WWE doesn't take a break. In fact, the sports entertainment organization operates 52 weeks a year. For help with its upgrade and move to cloud hosting, WWE went in search of an experienced integration partner to help advance its financial operations and supply chain management systems by about 15 years.

"One of my team members had prior dealings with GSI, so we included them in the evaluation along with other technology partners that we'd been working with," said Freeman. "After a thorough evaluation, we chose GSI."

For WWE, GSI provided overall project management and orchestrated all of the steps that had to be taken for both data migration (to the cloud) and the ERP upgrade. GSI also provided the technical experts who set up the new environment in AWS.

"With the servers that were going to be used for the JD Edwards application, we moved from an Oracle to a SQL database, so GSI provided database expertise," said Freeman. "They also provided technical resources/CNC resources to help set up all of the server environments."





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Stepping Stones to Success

Because the organization hadn't upgraded its ERP in about 15 years, its technical upgrade had to be completed in steps. With too much of a gap between releases, GSI used a “stepping stone” approach where they had to move prior to the release before moving WWE to the latest version.

“GSI managed the entire project,” said Freeman. “They provided various technical resources for the complete database migration, set up the environment, and performed the upgrade.” WWE also needed help retrofitting some of the computer code, particularly in cases where it had previously modified JDE objects, and where Oracle had since completely modified those objects.

“We needed to really do a retrofit and migrate all of those custom objects,” he added, “so we relied on GSI for a lot of technical expertise.” WWE budgeted six months for the entire project, and GSI helped it hit that deadline on the nose. “It was pretty much done to the day,” said Freeman, who was pleased with the results. There was minimal disruption for team members.

A Seamless Implementation

Wanting a seamless transition for its users, WWE avoided “layering in a whole bunch of enhancements,” said Freeman, and instead focused on replicating the look and feel of its existing system. The user interface was enhanced and browser capability was expanded to include access to Google Chrome (versus just Internet Explorer).

“There were some natural user experience improvements,” said Freeman, “so we did a couple of rounds of user navigation training and we were pretty much ready to go.” The switchover to the new system kicked off at 5 p.m. on a Friday afternoon and the new system was up and running two days later. “From a user perspective, there was

minimal disruption,” said Freeman. “It all went very well.” Reflecting on GSI’s role in the projects, Freeman said WWE was pleased with its choice of partners. “It was a good working relationship. They had all of the right subject matter experts, were easy to work with, and our teams were aligned well,” said Freeman. “There were really no major pains during the implementation; it all went pretty smoothly.”

After going live on the latest release of JD Edwards EnterpriseOne, WWE transitioned to GSI for managed services for its JDE environment.



For more information:

Contact us today to learn more. You can also email us or call (855) 474-4377.

GSI, Inc.

GSI is a forward-thinking organization that aligns and optimizes your digital footprint with your business goals. We combine our deep business and industry experience with our expert knowledge of enterprise applications, automation, cloud and cybersecurity to deliver secure and flexible systems that allow your business to thrive and not just survive.“

GSI’s comprehensive suite of solutions includes: AppCare, a 24/7 managed service that includes EaaS with flexible “on-demand” services and dynamic pricing; GENIUS AI, an Application Intelligence Platform (AIP) for creating application health and user experience monitors; GENISYS, a solution for optimizing system performance; RapidReconciler®, its inventory reconciliation software; GENOME, which automatically Detects, aNalyzes and Automates the process of converting customizations into Orchestrations; and GatewayNow, low-cost, accelerated time-to-value ITSM solution using the industry-leading ServiceNow platform in a fully managed environment.

GSI consulting and managed services are backed by its signature 100 percent guarantee. Founded in 2004, the rapidly growing company is headquartered in Atlanta with worldwide resources. With over 100 employees, GSI consultants average over 15 years of real-world experience and are certified experts in business, industry, and enterprise applications. GSI provides comprehensive 24/7 global support.

Why GSI?

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