

King Ranch harvests big returns from their investment in Oracle Cloud

King Ranch, the largest ranch in the United States, upgraded its back-office operations to Oracle's second-generation cloud to scale its exponential growth. Here's their story.

Challenges

Founded in the 1850s in South Texas, King Ranch is the largest ranch in the United States at 850,000 acres – that's larger than Rhode Island. Dubbed the "Birthplace of American Ranching," King Ranch operates multiple lines of agribusiness in Texas, Florida, and California including renowned cattle and horse breeding, citrus, almonds, sugarcane, and turfgrass, luxury retail goods, and more.

King Ranch is no stranger to growth. Over the past century and a half, the family-owned company has expanded into multiple businesses across the country, with each business unit overseeing exponential growth. As a result of this growth – and with multiple business units across geographies using the same systems and platform – keeping up was a challenge.

To help modernize King Ranch's IT platforms, the company previously migrated its on-premise, legacy financial operations to Oracle JD Edwards (JDE) Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system on Oracle's first generation cloud. Yet with King Ranch's continued growth came growing pains – largely due to the way its previous partner managed the Oracle cloud environment. These issues included weekly and sometimes daily restarts of JDE, creating downtime and availability issues for the business. Business units would frequently experience downtime during the last half of the month when processing heavy transaction loads. IT resources were often tied up in server maintenance and data center management.

To scale to its full potential, the IT leadership (or team) was tasked with modernizing its existing IT infrastructure to support its vision for the future and simplify complex integrations including:

- Multiple third-party apps
- Oracle Analytics
- Fusion Human Capital Management (HCM)
- Oracle Integration Cloud (OIC)
- Disaster Recovery on Oracle Cloud Infrastructure

Solution

King Ranch reached out to Syntax to help guide their journey to the cloud by migrating to Oracle Cloud Infrastructure's next-generation cloud solution, which is designed to connect and run applications faster, more securely, and at a lower cost. Following an initial assessment, Syntax identified key areas of improvement, including improved network configuration and server management, as well as an upgrade to the current JD Edwards tools release. This would allow King Ranch to better leverage native orchestrations within JD Edwards and eliminate the need for Oracle Integration Cloud.

"As we were growing, we weren't keeping up with the maintenance agreements to make sure that was in sync with our contract," Ryan says. "Syntax brought that to our attention, and we absolutely let them manage the entire block. That was important because that's part of the growth: you've got growing pains."

“The magic word for us is
“scalability” for everything, and
the only way to do that is put as
much as you can in the cloud.”

Mike Ryan, IT Director,
King Ranch

“A lot of the changes Syntax made for us have improved performance. Their Oracle Cloud Infrastructure team is making recommendations all the time and relieving a lot of stress for me. They’ve been a great help, making the right recommendations and using their tools to monitor and optimize usage.”

Joe Soliz, Enterprise Systems Manager,
King Ranch

Result

The move to the next-generation Oracle cloud was seamless. With JD Edwards now running on the next-generation Oracle Cloud, scalability has been King Ranch’s number one asset. The migration reduced downtime and created a highly available, highly stable environment – its most stable to date – and significantly strengthened security over its previous environment. Earlier problems created by availability concerns when running heavy transaction loads during the second half of the month have now been eliminated.

Upgrading to the latest tools on JD Edwards allowed King Ranch to leverage native orchestrations and eliminate the need for Oracle Integration Cloud, which has been a net saver, shaving close to \$20-30,000 per year in costs.

King Ranch’s IT talent is no longer inundated with data center maintenance and can act as subject matter experts focusing on strategic business initiatives that help manage and grow the business. Meanwhile, the Syntax’s managed services team can help keep things running smoothly.



About Syntax

Since 1972, Syntax has been providing comprehensive technology solutions to businesses of all sizes with thousands of customers trusting Syntax with their IT services and ERP needs. Today, Syntax is a leading managed cloud provider for mission-critical applications. Syntax has undisputed strength to implement and manage multi-ERP deployments in a secure and resilient private,

“Syntax’s expertise to do the migration seamlessly was huge, and from a system standpoint we had no major hiccups. Some of the bigger challenges for us were just making sure that integrations didn’t break and we did not have any malfunctions. In all honesty, the user was oblivious to the migration from one day to the next.”

Joe Soliz, Enterprise System Manager,
King Ranch

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