

Case Study - Education Transitioning to Oracle Fusion Cloud: EF Education First's Journey & Overcoming Difficulties with Oracle Data Loading Tools

After migrating from a legacy on-prem ERP to Oracle Fusion Cloud, this education company discovered that Oracle's data loading tools were confusing and lacked critical functionality.

Keep reading to see how a user-friendly solution from More4apps fulfilled their data loading needs and streamlined accounting processes.



The Client

EF Education First is an international company specializing in language training, educational travel, academic programs, and cultural exchange. Founded in Sweden in 1965, EF has grown into a global organization with a presence in more than 100 countries.



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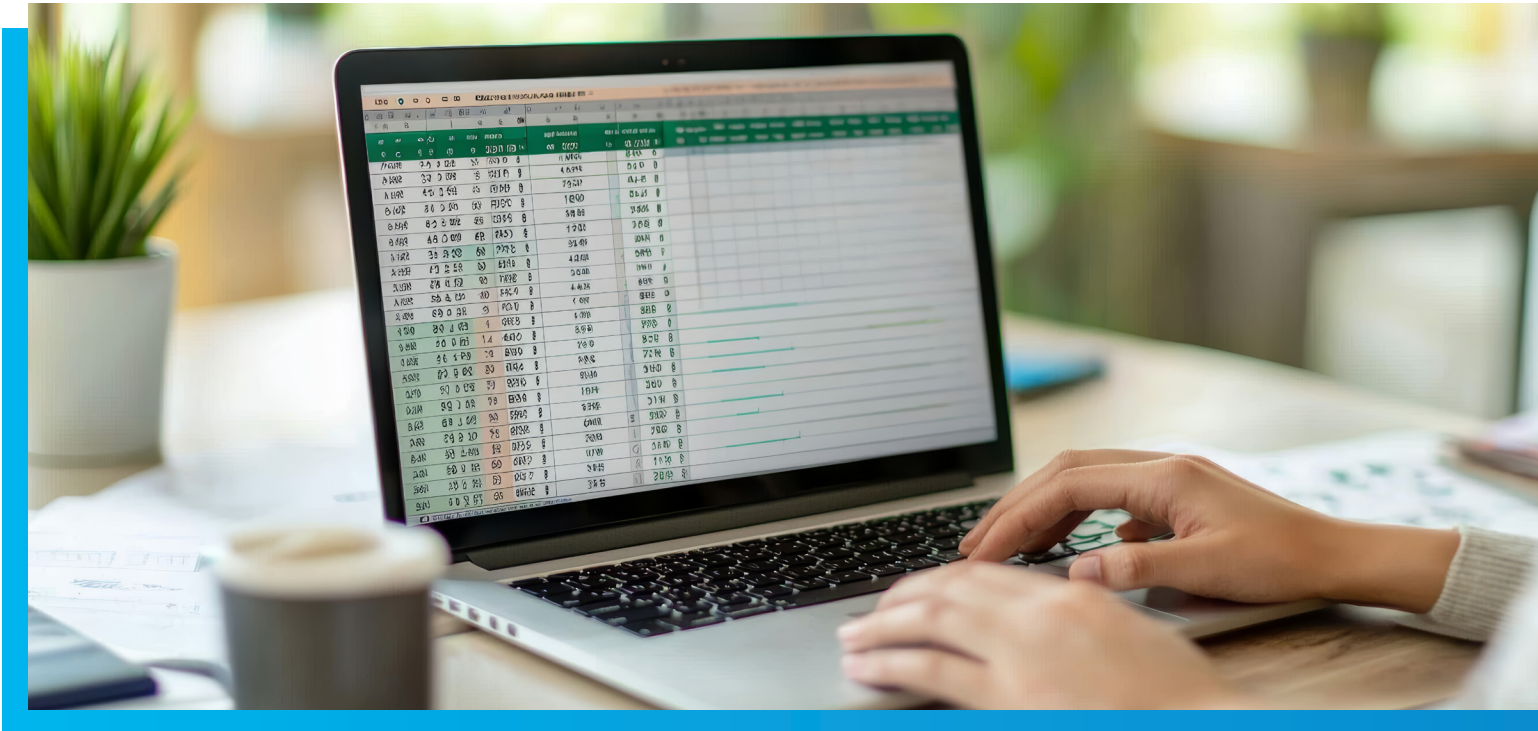
Pehr Karlsson, Head of Finance Transformation at EF

Pre-Migration: A Legacy ERP in Use for 20 Years

For over 20 years, EF used an on-premise ERP system. It had worked well at first but now felt dated. Due to the company’s rapid growth, the system no longer met business needs.

Pehr Karlsson, Head of Finance Transformation at EF, spearheaded the transition to Oracle Fusion Cloud ERP. “You wouldn’t use a cellphone from 20 years ago,” he says. “You probably shouldn’t be using an accounting system from 20 years ago.”





During the Migration: People, Processes, and Hurdles

EF decided to move all of its financial systems to Oracle Fusion Cloud ERP. It was a two-year project that affected 50,000 team members in 100 countries.

During the migration, EF's biggest challenge wasn't technical. Instead, it was change management. "The technical issues paled in comparison to the obstacles we came across when it came to change management," says Pehr. "We paid a lot of attention to it from the get-go, but it seems like whatever communication you plan for, you should double or triple it."

The project required employees and teams around the world to make adjustments as they moved away from an ERP they'd used for 20 years. They had to learn a new system, implement new processes and procedures, and figure out who to go to for questions, training, and support. Internal communication was vital to ensuring a successful rollout.

"It can be difficult to go through these changes. Do not underestimate the need to communicate with the users," he advises. "If you think that you have been repetitive, if you think you've said something too many times, you probably are still on iteration three or four. You still need to go through five, six, and seven until everybody is on board."

Following an increased focus on helping users through the change, EF successfully launched the new ERP system in January 2024.



Post-Migration Challenges: Data Needs and Gaps

While some of the organization’s systems integrate directly with Oracle, several processes require uploading data into the ERP. After migrating to Oracle Cloud, the company quickly realized that the in-built tools fell short in usability and functionality.

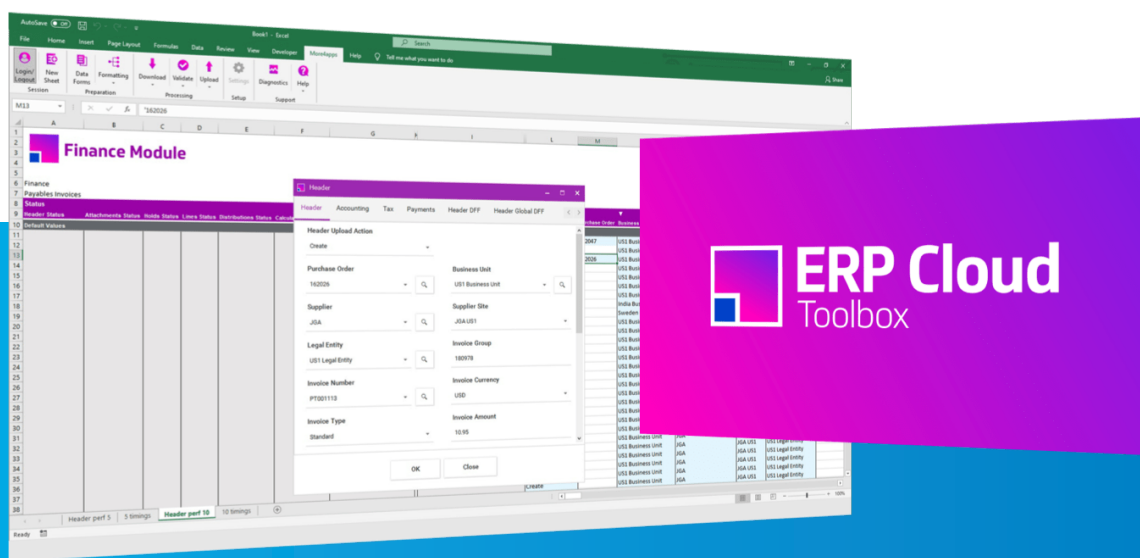
EF initially attempted to use ADFdi for data loading but it wasn’t very user friendly. It also didn’t allow users to upload supplier and customer data, including invoices. FBDI was even more difficult for users to navigate and required separate spreadsheets for each level of data.

Oracle also had no real-time data validation or in-sheet error reporting. If the upload failed, there was no immediate feedback or easy way to determine what went wrong. Instead, users had to scour a separate error-log document and compare it to the spreadsheet to find the issue.

“When you need to do uploads, Oracle can be quite difficult, especially if you want your accountants to do the uploads,” says Pehr. “Even the tech team and the Oracle consultants we had on the project were struggling.”

More4apps: A Solution that Far Outperforms Oracle Tools

After the failed experiments with ADFdi and FBDI, Pehr turned to the internet to find a solution for data loading in Oracle Fusion Cloud. His research led him to the More4apps [ERP Cloud Toolbox Finance Module](#), which met all of EF's requirements.



For starters, with More4apps, data loading occurs in a single spreadsheet, so users don't have to manage or navigate multiple sheets. More4apps' software is easy to learn and use, with accountants able to edit and upload data directly from Excel – a tool they're already familiar with. With the Finance Module, EF has the flexibility and features to upload all the customer and invoicing data they need. Additionally, users can download past invoices as a template for populating and uploading new invoices. Finally, the More4apps software features advanced in-sheet data validation and intuitive error messaging that tells users exactly what went wrong.

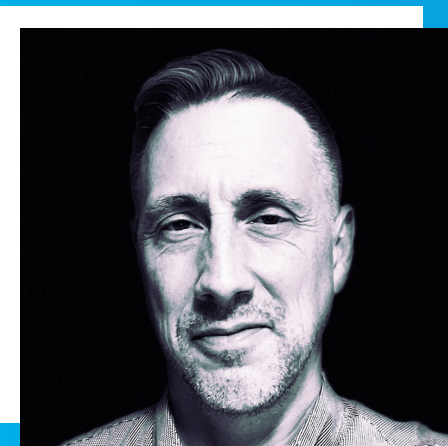
The Results: Fast, Accurate Data Loading in a User-Friendly Tool

Working with More4apps and an Oracle consultant, EF implemented their new data-loading solution in a matter of months. Much of that time was spent configuring Oracle to accommodate VAT laws in various countries. The More4apps installation and setup, on the other hand, was simple.

“Launching the More4apps part was very straightforward. I’m very impressed with how easy that was,” he says. “There’s good material provided for the launch and implementation. For us, it was very quick to make the connection and start using it.”

After remote training, the EF accounting teams rapidly learned how to use the More4apps ERP Cloud Toolbox Finance Module. They continue to leverage the software regularly to upload invoice data accurately and efficiently. The entire team is thankful to have a fast, effective, and user-friendly solution, rather than doing manual data entry or struggling with FBDI or ADFdi. Those alternatives would have significantly slowed down the team and increased inaccuracies.

“More4apps was a bit of a lifesaver for me in a very stressful moment of the implementation,” Pehr Karlsson says. “The fact that we have this solution that’s working and easy to use is really great for us.”



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