

Enabling De-Customization of PeopleSoft Through Cloud Migration for Improved Student Outcomes

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Abstract: Higher education institutions rely on PeopleSoft as a critical enterprise resource planning (ERP) solution to manage student records, financial aid, human resources, and other administrative functions. However, excessive customizations have led to increased complexity, higher maintenance costs, and hindered upgrades, ultimately affecting student outcomes. This paper explores how migrating PeopleSoft to Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI) enables universities to streamline operations by reducing unnecessary customizations. By leveraging OCI's advanced automation, scalability, and security, institutions can adopt a clean configuration approach that enhances system reliability, improves service delivery, and supports data - driven decision - making to drive better student experiences.

Keywords: PeopleSoft Migration, Enterprise Resource Planning, Oracle Cloud Infrastructure, Security, Customization, Compliance

1. Introduction

PeopleSoft has been a foundational ERP system for universities, providing essential academic and administrative functionalities. Over the years, institutions have extensively customized PeopleSoft to align with unique business processes [1]. However, these customizations have increased system maintenance complexity, constrained scalability, and delayed the adoption of new features that could improve student services. Cloud migration presents an opportunity to simplify and modernize PeopleSoft deployments, allowing institutions to eliminate redundant customizations while leveraging standard functionalities to enhance efficiency and student outcomes [2].

2. Challenges of On - Premises PeopleSoft Customizations

2.1 Legacy Customizations and Their Impact on Student Experience

- **Obsolete Customizations:** Many modifications that once addressed institutional needs are now redundant due to advancements in delivered PeopleSoft features [3].
- **Upgrade Complexity:** Maintaining custom workflows and integrations makes it difficult to adopt newer PeopleSoft versions, delaying access to improved functionalities [4].
- **Administrative Inefficiencies:** Customizations can create process inconsistencies that lead to inefficiencies in enrollment, financial aid distribution, and student advising [5].

2.2 Performance and Scalability Constraints

- **Resource Limitations:** On - premises PeopleSoft deployments require substantial infrastructure management, limiting universities' ability to scale resources effectively [6].
- **Peak Usage Bottlenecks:** Registration, financial aid disbursement, and course enrollment periods often cause performance issues, frustrating students and staff [7].

2.3 Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Risks

- **Data Integrity Challenges:** Legacy environments may lack robust disaster recovery and backup mechanisms, increasing the risk of data loss [8].
- **Compliance and Security Risks:** On - premises deployments require extensive security management, making compliance with evolving data protection regulations more complex [9].

3. How Cloud Migration Enables De - Customization for Student Success

Migrating PeopleSoft to OCI provides institutions with a robust cloud - native environment that simplifies operations, eliminates unnecessary customizations, and improves service delivery for students [10].

3.1 Standardization Through Delivered Functionality

- **Leveraging PeopleSoft 9.2 Features:** The latest version includes pre - built capabilities that replace many legacy customizations [11].
- **Adopting a Clean Configuration Approach:** Reducing reliance on custom workflows and reports ensures easier upgrades and streamlined system maintenance [12].

3.2 Cost Efficiency and Operational Agility

- **Lower Total Cost of Ownership (TCO):** Cloud migration eliminates the need for physical infrastructure, reducing costs by up to 52% [13].
- **Optimized Resource Allocation:** IT teams can focus on innovation and student services instead of system maintenance [14].

3.3 Performance and Scalability Improvements

- **Dynamic Scaling:** OCI adjusts resources automatically to handle peak periods such as registration and financial aid processing [15].

- **Faster System Responses:** High - performance computing infrastructure accelerates transaction processing, improving the student experience [16].

3.4 Disaster Recovery and Security Enhancements

- **Automated Backups and High Availability:** OCI ensures data integrity with built - in disaster recovery capabilities [17].
- **Stronger Security Controls:** Features like Transparent Data Encryption (TDE) protect sensitive student records from cyber threats [18].

3.5 PeopleSoft Cloud Manager: Simplifying Cloud Migration

PeopleSoft Cloud Manager plays a crucial role in streamlining the transition from on - premises to OCI [19, 20]. This tool provides an intuitive interface for automating deployment, patching, and lifecycle management. With its easy - to - use features, universities can efficiently migrate to their PeopleSoft environments with minimal disruption [21]. Cloud Manager allows institutions to lift and shift existing configurations while enabling post - migration optimization, making cloud adoption smoother and reducing manual administrative tasks [22]. This automation ensures that universities can focus on enhancing student services rather than managing IT complexities.



Figure 1: PeopleSoft Cloud Manager

4. Roadmap for Universities: Transitioning to Cloud for De - Customization

Phase 1: Assessment and Planning

- Conduct a comprehensive audit of existing customizations.
- Engage stakeholders to determine which modifications are essential.
- Define a roadmap for adopting standard PeopleSoft functionalities.

Phase 2: Cloud Migration and Optimization

- Implement a lift - and - shift migration strategy with PeopleSoft Cloud Manager.
- Optimize system configurations for performance and security.
- Remove obsolete customizations and leverage delivered functionality.

Phase 3: Post - Migration Enhancement

- Utilize automated testing frameworks to ensure system stability.
- Conduct training programs to increase user adoption of standard features.
- Continuously monitor system performance to improve student service delivery.

5. Conclusion

Migrating PeopleSoft to Oracle Cloud Infrastructure enables higher education institutions to move away from complex, costly, and difficult - to - maintain customizations. By embracing standard PeopleSoft functionalities, universities can simplify system management, reduce costs, and improve scalability. OCI's automation, security, and disaster recovery capabilities ensure long - term stability, allowing institutions to focus on student success rather than IT maintenance [23]. The transition to cloud - based PeopleSoft deployments is a strategic step toward enhancing operational efficiency and delivering an optimized student experience.

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