



The Secrets of a Successful Migration Strategy That Helped Metro Retail Stores Group Inc Migrate to Cloud in the Middle of a Pandemic

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We had to have this technology upgrade for hardware systems. So before doing that we were looking for alternatives other than moving to on-premises again. We approached specific vendors, we were impressed by the technology solutions by Aspire. They offered a safer migration approach compared to other vendors, we believe that this is a testament to the solid expertise (sic).



Sir Rex Jun Cabanilla,
CTO,
Metro Retail Group Inc.

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*attention.
always.*



Solution:

- *Deployed Oracle Retail Applications and Oracle E-business Suite on AWS*
- *Cross migration of nine databases from AIX to LINUX-XTTS*
- *Lift and shift approach for WINDOWS to LINUX shift*

About the Customer

Metro Retail Stores Group Inc is a leading operator of department stores and hypermarkets in the Visayas region of the Philippines. It is consistently expanding and its business comprises multiple store modules such as department stores, supermarkets, and hypermarkets. In 2019, Metro was awarded 'Retailer of the Year' at the Outstanding Filipino Retailer (OFR) Awards.





Metro's cloud transition story

As their on-premise licenses were on the verge of expiry, Metro Retail Group saw an opportunity to move to the cloud. Before migration, they had to pay for a 5-yr sizing only to use 10% of their on-premise data centers in the first year. Migrating to a cloud-based data center became an absolute necessity in order to realise far-reaching business returns. Eventually, Metro switched from on-premises and started running their workloads on Amazon AWS.

Despite the transition to the AWS cloud, there was still some room for improvement. As part of their transition, they had chosen 23 tightly-coupled applications which predominantly covered Oracle Retail, custom applications, third-party applications that had to be migrated to AWS along with the modules of Oracle Finance applications.

Subsequent migration to a newer framework and deployment architecture had to be cloud-agnostic. Despite this level of planning though, performance issues associated with the on-premises data center arose. Hence, Metro became keen to rise above their issues of scalability, size, security, and inflexibility and partnered with Aspire to simplify their workloads on AWS



This is a large scale implementation project and like any large scale implementation project it wasn't without its own challenges, but what made us overcome these challenges are the transparency and close cooperation between the Metro and Aspire teams. I commend Aspire leadership for nurturing and leading a competent and approachable team.

- Rex Jun Cabanilla





Aspire's Solution

Aspire Systems offered a suite of technical solutions that delivered significant cost savings without compromising efficiency and performance. Aspire developed a roadmap of consistent milestones for Oracle E-business Suite and updated Oracle EBS, with time and consistency. To ensure an error-free migration to the AWS cloud, Aspire checked through three environments (SIT, UAT, and Dry Run) before migrating to PROD in AWS. Our solution helped the Metro to

- Migrate operating system and EBS applications to AWS system
- Manage the traffic-related spikes
- Ensure upgrades in the database, and WebLogic to maintain requirements for future upgrades
- Implement ASM file system, which optimized the storage
- performance on AWS



"We have this sense of comforting assurance that complex transformation projects can be realized even in the midst of the pandemic," said Sir Rex Jun Cabanilla.

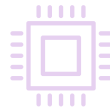
Aspire provided the perfect balance between technology and efficiency, allowing the client to scale up or down as & when needed. In terms of financial targets, Metro Retail Groups Inc. achieved massive reductions in IT spend just after months of go-live. "So we would not attain this goal if we did not achieve operational stability at the earliest time and we attribute this to Aspire's careful planning and execution of the project across major business segments."

- Sir Rex Jun Cabanilla





Technology Snapshot



- » OS Re-Platformed from AIX 7.1 to OEL 6.7
- » Database upgraded from 11gR2.0.x to 11gR2.0.4
- » WebLogic upgraded from 10.3.x to 10.3.6
- » Oracle Retail applications deployed: (RMS, ReIM, RPM, RESA, SIM, RIB, RWMS, REIM, Allocation, BI Pub, ORCO, RDE) and Oracle E-Business Suite on AWS.
- » Non-Oracle Applications deployed: (ALLUCARD, EDI, INTACTIX and UC4) on AWS



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