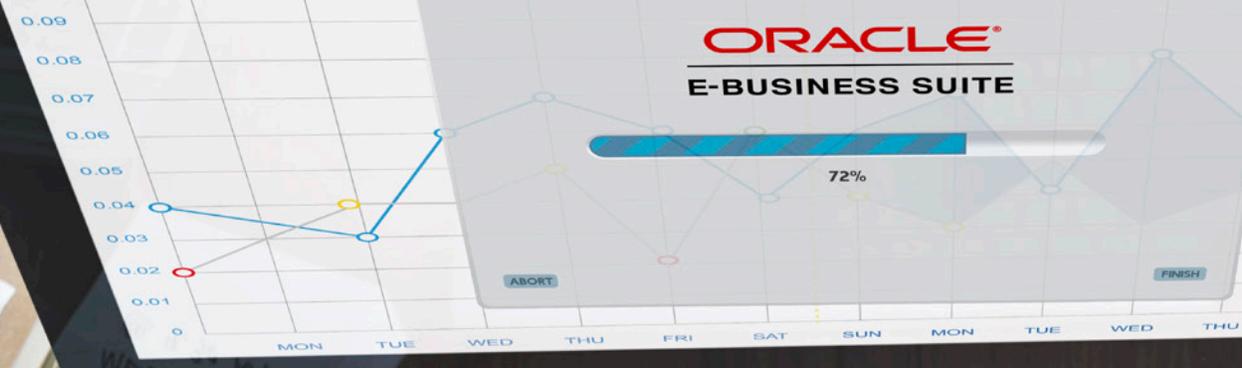


ORACLE®
E-BUSINESS SUITE



5 MISTAKES TO AVOID

WHEN PLANNING
YOUR ORACLE
EBS 12.2 UPGRADE

AXIA
Consulting®

MAKE THE MOST OUT OF YOUR INVESTMENT

BY AVOIDING THESE COMMON PITFALLS

MISTAKE #1:

Assuming Oracle is going to extend the deadline...again

Oracle offers three support stages for EBS releases: Premier, Extended, and Sustaining.

Premier support for Release 12.1 is scheduled to end in December of 2021. Because Oracle has extended this date several times already, it may be tempting to count on them doing so again, but that would be a mistake.

It is unlikely that they will extend the deadline again. To date, Oracle has provided 12 years of Premier support for this release, which is well beyond their contractual obligation and longer than any previous version has ever been supported. Ultimately, it's better to assume the date will not be extended to make sure your organization is prepared.

For Release 12.2, the good news is that with the recent Continuous Innovation program, Premier support will be offered through at least year 2031, and Oracle continues to re-evaluate and potentially extend that end date on an annual basis. You can count on having Premier support on Release 12.2 for many years to come.

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MISTAKE #2:

Assuming your current architecture is optimal, including how you are licensed

You may currently be operating with Oracle's legacy architecture, but Release 12.2 typically needs more disk space. In fact, when upgrading to 12.2, your database size could increase by as much as 20%, you will likely need to upgrade your database, and you may need to update your Operating System. The best and most reliable way to understand your future sizing requirements is to perform a test upgrade and then assess the results.

However, don't assume updating and resizing your current architecture is your best and only reasonable option, because better performance at lower cost could be possible.

While hardware and related architecture costs have generally gone down in recent years, your associated database license costs with Oracle may not have. By understanding your current environment relative to Release 12.2 requirements, and alternative options

available, you may find lower licensing options associated with modern architectures that deliver better performance. The savings on licenses alone could more than offset the cost of switching.

This is where it makes sense to bring in seasoned experts, like AXIA Consulting to help you perform a holistic, technical architecture assessment, in advance of your 12.2 upgrade.

Not only can we uncover savings opportunities through licensing, we can also identify the potential to improve system performance, and discover and mitigate unknown risks related to Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery. We can even help you explore alternative hosting options including traditional third-party options, and flexible Cloud platform solutions for EBS.

MISTAKE #3:

Waiting until project kick-off to work on custom code remediation

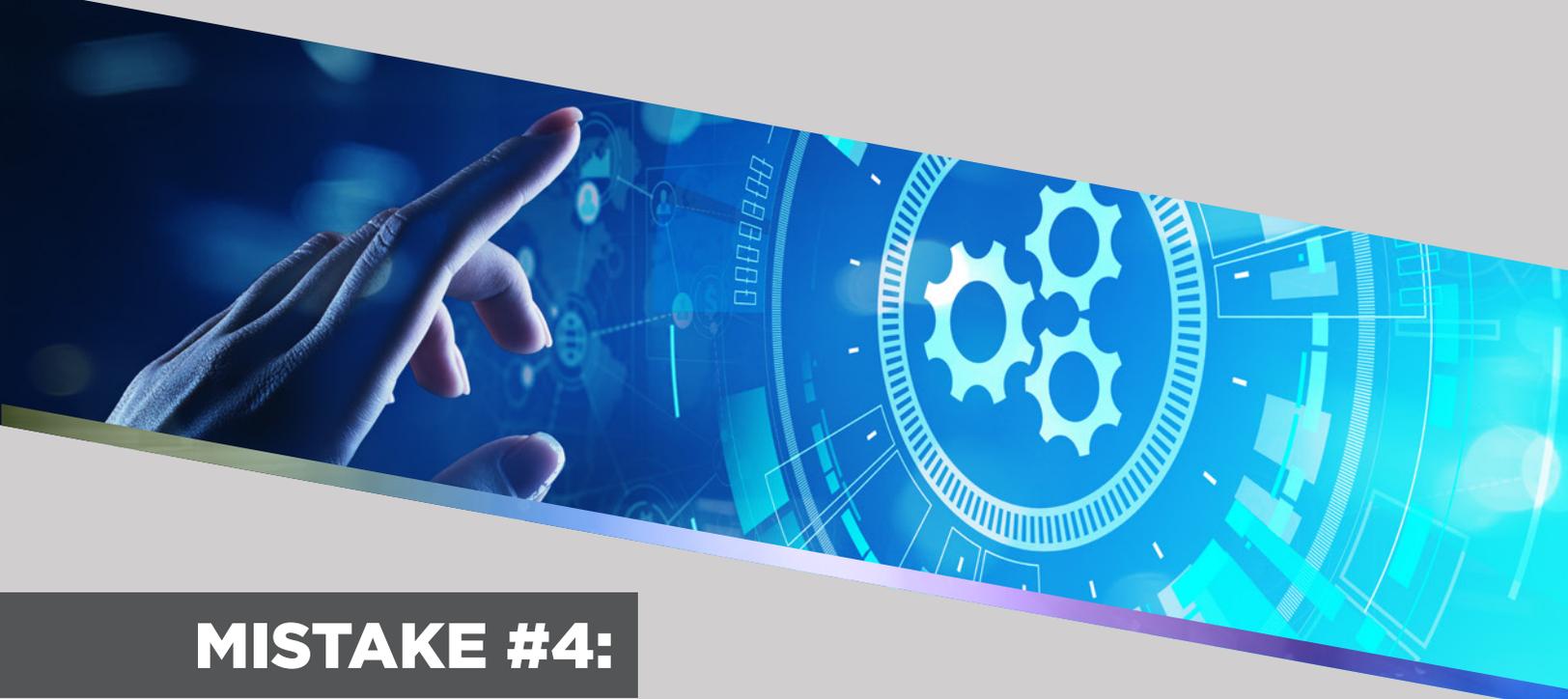
If you are like most EBS customers, you have a collection of customizations in your EBS environment to support interfaces and other custom extensions, and some of your custom code may require modifications for compliance with 12.2. However, you don't need to wait until standing up your first 12.2 environment to get started on your custom code remediation. Oracle provides a collection of Compliance Checker scripts and Readiness Reports you can use to identify and address 12.2 compatibility issues in your code. Many of these corrections can be applied and tested in your 12.1 environment ahead of time.

As you work through this process, it's a good idea to do some housekeeping and make sure you can identify the custom objects that exist in your environment. Some may no longer be needed, but if they are, you will need to determine whether these objects require 12.2 remediation or not.

As your partner, AXIA Consulting can help walk you through this three-stage process:

- **Identify** - Know what you have and how it fits into your overall technology and process strategy. Using AXIA Consulting proprietary custom code identifiers, or sniffers, our experts can provide scripts specifically designed to identify custom code in your environment. Unlike the Oracle scripts that help identify what needs to be changed, our scripts help you identify all custom code in your environment. Whether you need to validate the list you already maintain, or rebuild your inventory from scratch it's important to make sure these objects are discovered and accounted for. Even if you don't have documentation for what you currently have, we can provide the diagnostic tools that will find the necessary information and create a report for you.
- **Rationalize** - Take the opportunity to confirm you still need what you have. Rationalize your custom code and identify opportunities to adopt newly released standard functionality as an alternative.
- **Retire** - Get rid of what you no longer need because when it comes to custom code, less is more. We can help you execute plans to smoothly and retire what is obsolete.





MISTAKE #4:

Missing the opportunity to drive process improvement within EBS

EBS Upgrade projects are often tactical in nature, primarily driven by de-support dates. But there are also strategic pitfalls to be aware of as you plan your upgrade. We encourage all of our clients to view this project as an opportunity for adding strategic value rather than as a maintenance cost. Upgrades should provide an opportunity to evaluate and potentially introduce new functionality that could boost productivity and efficiency.

Here are four things to consider that may drive far more value during your upgrade at little to no additional cost:

- **Feature Enhancements** – Oracle routinely updates and publishes Release Content Documents, or RCDs, to document new and changed features. However, with such frequent updating, RCDs will number somewhere in the mid-hundreds to over a thousand pages of documentation. With our practical knowledge, we are able to help you quickly assess from amongst thousands of pages of documentation, and pinpoint the features that may be of most value to you based on your processes and needs.
- **Shelfware Features** – Upgrades present ideal opportunities to leverage system testing cycles to introduce other improvements along the way that may have been available to you for years, but never enabled.
- **Enterprise Command Centers** – Introduced in 12.2, these are available at no additional license cost, but do require additional technical installation and functional configuration. AXIA Consulting can help you install and explore this new functionality, and we highly recommend doing so as one of the most significant new features available to you. Command Centers are generally the most commonly adopted new feature with the 12.2 release.

When planning your upgrade, don't make the mistake of missing the perfect opportunity to build process improvements into your upgrade.

MISTAKE #5:

Investing without a Strategy or Plan

And finally, think of your Oracle investment like owning a home. There comes a point where every homeowner must decide whether to maintain their current home, invest in major home improvements (like a kitchen or bathroom remodel), or move to a new, more modern structure that better meets your needs.

As the homeowner, you make those decisions based not only on what's happening today, but also on your long-term vision for the property, how much money you have to invest, and your plans for the future.

In the same way, you'll need to evaluate your Oracle experience based on your current experience, your budget, and your future needs and direction, including your potential journey to the Cloud

Before you invest in your 12.2 upgrade, take time to evaluate your Enterprise Applications roadmap and how it relates to your overall corporate strategies. Your industry, position in the marketplace, growth rate, acquisition or divestiture plans, current applications portfolio, even your internal skillsets and workforce planning initiatives are all key considerations. EBS may be the perfect solution short-, mid-, or even long-term to meet your needs, but the best time to evaluate your options is now, before upgrading without a strategic plan. If you don't have a long-term Oracle strategy, now is the time to put those wheels in motion. Consider the following:

- **Does Oracle EBS generally meet your needs now and in the future?**
- **Are you effectively leveraging Oracle EBS to take advantage of all relevant features?**
- **Would a Hybrid Cloud strategy be applicable?**
- **Should you consider moving to Oracle Cloud now, and spare the expense of the upgrade?**



TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP WITH AXIA CONSULTING

AXIA CONSULTING CAN HELP YOU NAVIGATE THE UPGRADE PROCESS AND YOUR LONG-TERM BUSINESS STRATEGY IN SEVERAL WAYS

- ✓ **Plan for your upgrade**
 - Understand and target your opportunities to leverage 12.2
 - Confirm your project scope
 - Get started early
- ✓ **Conduct a technical assessment**
 - Realize optimal performance
 - Reduce licensing costs
 - Expose and mitigate risks
- ✓ **Develop your strategy**
 - Assess your needs in order to align with corporate strategies
 - Identify your options
 - Establish or reset your roadmap

Ready to Get Started?

Don't make the mistake of launching your Oracle upgrade without a plan – or even worse, banking on a deadline extension that never comes. While it takes an average of 4 – 5 months to complete an upgrade once you get started, it's important to plan your strategy, get budget approval, and you'll need to take the time to evaluate any process improvements you may want to include.

In addition, if you're considering a transition to the Cloud, this is a great time to evaluate if that change would make sense as well.

At AXIA, our team members have an average of 20 years of experience working with ERPs, and we've supported many clients with multiple iterations of Oracle upgrades.

When you're ready to plan your 12.2 upgrade, we've got your back. We'll help you upgrade with minimal risk and maximum benefit, no matter how complex your environment, so you can make the most of your investment.



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www.axiaconsulting.net

About the Author

Jon Riley is an experienced Managing Director and Practice Lead for AXIA with over 25 years of industry experience and 22 years of professional consulting experience. He has served as the project manager and/or subject matter expert for many Oracle implementations and has deep expertise in the full project implementation lifecycle. Jon is the co-founder and president of the Ohio Valley Oracle Application User Group and is chairman of the Geo/SIG Committee for the International Oracle Application User Group.



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Project Planning & Management
Change Management

Serving as your partner, AXIA takes the time to understand your business and help you determine the right solution for your organization.

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