EDB POSTGRES AI

With EDB, Alight modernizes its code base and finds a cloud native partner for the future

CUSTOMER:
ALIGHT

EDB customer since 2017

Steve Hamer
Manager, Database Services
Alight Solutions

CHALLENGE: Modernizing by migrating to the cloud

EDB SOLUTIONS: EDB Postgres Advanced Server (EPAS), EDB Postgres Distributed, and EDB Postgres Alconsequa.

RESULTS: By moving to a cloud-native platform with EDB as a reliable partner, Alight was able to save costs and modernize its database platform.

OVERVIEW

This digital business and human capital service provider was ready to modernize, and EDB made it happen.

Steve Hamer was looking for a way to migrate to a cloud native platform. What he got in the process was a hands-on partnership with EDB, and a cool $7 million savings on his IT spend.

As a Database Services Manager at Alight Solutions, Hamer is always looking ahead to the future. "Our company was starting to talk about moving to the cloud. But I'm a forward thinker. That's how I work. And so when the cloud discussions started, I came up with this idea: let's get off of Db2 and Oracle as we move to the cloud and save some money."

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> Manager, Database Services
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Hamer was already somewhat familiar with EDB at this point. "I had been a manager of my team for several years and we brought in EDB in a very small fashion to run some Postgres applications natively. That was our first experience with what EDB had to offer."

What sealed the deal for Hamer was making a personal connection with the EDB team. Hamer says "I was invited to an EDB event at Topgolf and you guys brought in your partners to talk about what they could do. And the personal experience that I received from that meeting is what really gave me the excitement to move forward with this." When you get people in a room together who are passionate about the same stuff, amazing things can happen.

Growing Pains: How Alight had to Evolve in Order to Modernize

In the process of moving to the cloud, Hamer was also looking to consolidate the database platforms that his team supports. "We had every flavor of every database in our data center," Hamer says. "We had to make several code changes in order to migrate." Another challenge they ran into was the out-of-date code base. Many of Alight's applications coming off of Db2 were 10+ years old. Hamer also notes Alight was lagging behind on the versions of WebSphere and JDBC drivers.

Alight used contractors from Platform 3 to rewrite the necessary code, an eight-month process in all. The data migration specialists at Platform 3 were able to identify some of the "hidden" issues Alight would need to address, such as getting a new JDBC driver, and upgrading certain applications. From there, each application was thoroughly evaluated and the migration journey was completely mapped out before the process began.

The Big Takeaways: Stay Current and Ffind a Good Partner

"When you're ten years behind on software and you have vulnerabilities everywhere, that's a challenge". Hamer emphasizes that the big learning from this experience was the importance of staying current.

Hamer also says it helps to be on a well-supported platform. He recounts a story of when EDB detected a vulnerability in one of its products and immediately reached out to give customers like Alight a heads-up that an issue had been identified and a fix was coming imminently. Hamer says that level of customer service makes a big difference in his book. "The big three would never have done that."

Alight's Future is in the Cloud

Going forward, Hamer says he plans to focus on making sure applications are cloud native, and that Alight's database services are meeting strict security guidelines and requirements. "I think security is the nature of the data that we have. It's HR data, it's PII. We need to secure the data. Now that we're in a public cloud, it's even more important."

What About that $7 Million Savings?

Hamer did some quick back-of-the-napkin math for us and had this to share: "Between the IBM software, IBM licenses, and the IBM hardware, it's a $7 million savings in 2025 because we have to renegotiate the master IBM contract in 2025 and we're going to be 100% off Db2."

Moving to a cloud native platform, finding a database partner you can rely on, and saving $7 million in the process? That sounds like the start of a beautiful partnership.

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About EDB Postgres AI
EDB Postgres AI is the first open, enterprise-grade sovereign data and AI platform, with a secure, compliant, and fully scalable environment, on premises and across clouds. Supported by a global partner network, EDB Postgres AI unifies transactional, analytical, and AI workloads, enabling organizations to operationalize their data and LLMs where, when, and how they need it.
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