



Developing for the Future with Liferay DXP

How QAD completed an upgrade to Liferay DXP and migrated to the Google Cloud Platform at the same time

Summary

QAD is a leading provider of enterprise software and services designed for global manufacturing companies. A long-time Liferay customer, QAD recently upgraded to Liferay DXP and migrated to the Google Cloud Platform. Read more about how QAD initially leveraged Liferay to build an integrated platform connecting all their sites [here](https://www.qad.com). [qad.com](https://www.qad.com)

In Brief

INDUSTRY:

Technology

COUNTRY/REGION:

Global

USE CASE:

Upgrading to Liferay DXP, Migrating to the Cloud, Public Website



We're well-positioned both with Liferay and the Google Cloud Platform so that we can move into the future and meet the requirements that are coming.

Bob Ward, IT Engineer, QAD

Challenges

- Performing an upgrade and a migration to the Google Cloud Platform at the same time while juggling internal demands
- Refactoring and converting 100+ different plugins to work with the new Liferay DXP platform

Results



AN UPGRADED PLATFORM

A successful upgrade from Liferay 6.2 to Liferay DXP



FASTER DEVELOPMENT

10-15 new plugin updates developed each week



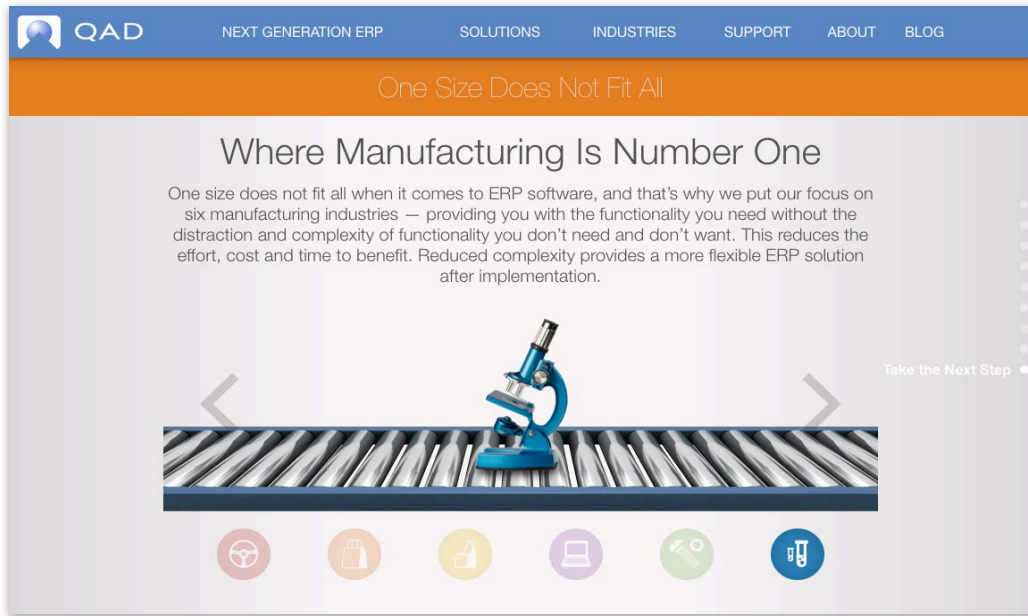
AN UPDATED WEBSITE

Revamped website built on Liferay DXP and translated into 15 languages



IMPROVED PERFORMANCE

A successful transition to the Google Cloud Platform



Making Changes to Prepare for the Future

As a leading provider of enterprise software and services designed for global manufacturing companies, QAD has been leveraging Liferay's platform to deliver both internal and external sites for several years.

After careful consideration, it became clear to QAD's IT team that, in order to continue moving their business into the future, they needed to implement major architectural and technological changes. So they decided to execute an upgrade to Liferay DXP and a migration to the Google Cloud Platform—at the same time.

Increasing Code Velocity By Upgrading to Liferay DXP

When QAD finalized the decision to upgrade to Liferay DXP from Liferay 6.2, they turned to Liferay Professional Services. Together, they came up with a plan that had a manageable amount of risk and took into account the fact that the upgrade and migration were happening in tandem.

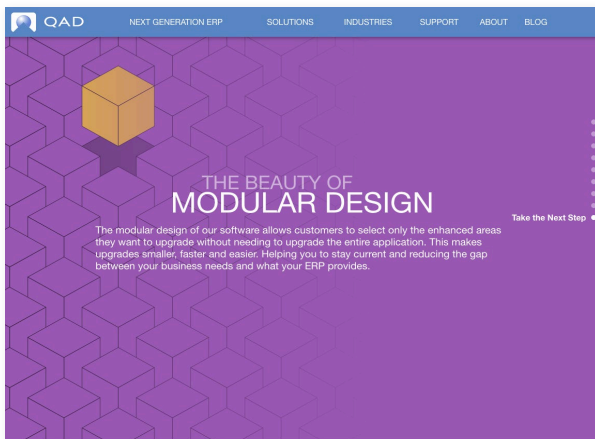
QAD's IT Engineer Bob Ward admitted accomplishing both at once was challenging, especially as the IT team still had to field internal requests. But, as Ward put it, with "a lot of blood, sweat, and talent," both the upgrade and migration were successful.

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It really took a concentrated and coordinated effort amongst the Liferay team and several different teams within QAD.

Bob Ward,
IT Engineer, QAD

As Liferay 6.2's end-of-life was approaching, QAD's IT team capitalized on the opportunity to upgrade, continuing to invest in the latest Liferay technologies to achieve increased code production and flexible development while giving their users the best experience.



To ensure a successful upgrade, QAD relied on the support of Liferay Global Services and resources like Liferay University. Liferay teams from Ireland and California, in particular, assisted in refactoring and converting approximately 100 different plugins and collaborated on important customizations, including an Ext plugin that enabled friendly-URL translations for 15 different languages on QAD’s customer-facing website.

Upgrading to Liferay DXP means QAD can now keep up with the fast pace of shifting development, allowing QAD to code and iterate faster. Developers have increased their velocity to 10–15 plugin updates and changes each week.

For the future, QAD hopes to extend Liferay DXP platform use to their business teams as well in order to help them realize their own goals.

Being on DXP will also make future upgrades more straightforward, taking up less time and fewer resources.

The Cloud as a More Reliable, Secure Host

QAD chose the Google Cloud Platform as their cloud solution, which involved changing operating systems, implementing the Google Cloud Load Balancer,

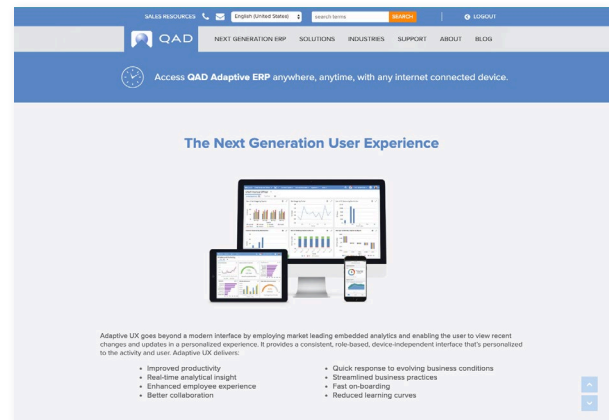
and updating their data storage and file system to a new Google host.

The shift involved a lot of cross-team collaboration and hard work, but the results have been promising. Using Linux as the new OS has made the patching process shorter and easier, and being in the cloud frees up the IT team from taking care of physical tasks to becoming more business-oriented. Developing in the cloud has been a factor in increasing code output as well.

Positioned for Success

Although there were challenges in upgrading and migrating at the same time, the benefits reaped in the present, and planted for the future, outweighed the challenges.

“Digital transformation is more than a buzzword,” Ward said. “Even though it’s really hard, you’re able to position yourself to go forward and do great things.”



For QAD, upgrading to Liferay DXP and migrating to the Google Cloud Platform were crucial cornerstones of their digital strategy, keeping them in step with the momentum of the technological world and getting them prepared for what’s next.

Want to know more about upgrading to Liferay DXP or Liferay’s own PaaS, Liferay DXP Cloud? Contact sales@liferay.com.