

Financial technology firm nails one-hour window to migrate 12 Oracle databases

Following acquisition, new division implements SharePlex® and completes a 12- to 20-hour Oracle migration in just one hour.

Quest®

CUSTOMER PROFILE

Company	Financial Technology Firm
Industry	Finance
Country	USA
Employees	5,000- 20,000

BUSINESS NEED

As part of an acquisition, the firm had a tight timeframe for migrating physical databases to virtual databases, changing operating systems and moving to infrastructure thousands of miles away.

SOLUTION

By using SharePlex® to replicate their databases for an Oracle migration, the firm successfully met important acquisition deadlines and avoided increasing financial penalties. It continues using SharePlex to replicate application databases internally and migrate new applications to the cloud.

BENEFITS

- Provides safe, complete replication of multiple terabytes of data and applications
- Cuts cloud migration time to a fraction of usual duration
- Delivers on promises of fast, trouble-free replication despite infrastructure differences between companies

SOLUTIONS AT A GLANCE

- [SharePlex database replication](#)



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Vice President of Database Administration, fintech firm

In a tough initiation to its new parent company, the recently acquired financial technology (fintech) firm had to replicate its entire IT infrastructure from scratch in a new data center. Financial penalties were at stake and downtime was not an option.

“It was a high-stress situation,” says the incoming VP of database administration. “In fact, the whole acquisition was stressful. None of us had ever done that before. Moving out of our old data center to the new one across the country and rebuilding it from scratch was a huge project for us.”

The parent company is a global, publicly traded leader in fintech. As a result of the acquisition, the VP became responsible for enterprise-wide database administration. He and his principal database administrator, jointly responsible for all the Oracle systems, led the database piece of the migration project.

Their database team had to migrate the physical databases to virtual (mostly Oracle running on VMware on Cisco hardware), convert from one operating system to another and move to a data center thousands of miles away to support a mission-critical hosting application.

SMALL WINDOW, INCREASING FINANCIAL PENALTIES AND NO ROOM FOR DOWNTIME

“We evaluated SharePlex and Oracle GoldenGate and decided that SharePlex had more of the features and functions we needed,” says the VP. “One of our architects had been on us for months to use SharePlex and he performed a successful proof of concept. When we saw that we’d be able to use it for more than just migrating the dozen databases in our hosting application, we decided to procure it.”

This migration project, like most, contained several moving parts, most of them stressful:

- The main stress factor was the small maintenance windows available for performing the migration. Within two four-hour windows, the team had to move not only the databases but also the web tier and the app tier needed to stand the environment up in the new data center.

- It was not an option to incur downtime or run multiple environments. “We had more than 4 terabytes to move, about half of which was just two databases,” says the DBA. “Without replication it probably would have taken between 12 and 20 hours to move just the databases. The business managers might have agreed to give us 12 hours of downtime, but only in separate windows with six weeks’ notice. It would have been necessary to maintain two environments for quite a while.”
- “The biggest impact would have been the increasing financial penalties for not hitting certain deadlines in the acquisition agreement,” says the VP. “The penalties would have escalated with time, so we had to migrate within very tight windows.”

To add complexity, once the team had prepared for the migration and begun replication with SharePlex, the maintenance windows were pushed out. So the DBA had to maintain the environment for nearly a month longer than anticipated, with SharePlex replicating production workloads and running compare-and-repair to keep the instances in sync.

“WE GAVE OURSELVES AN HOUR, AND IT TOOK EXACTLY THAT.”

Even with the proof of concept, everyone realized that the high-stakes migration would be the first time the company had used SharePlex in production. The firm conducted months of planning and preparation, including collaboration with Quest’s Professional Services.

“We worked with one technician from Quest Professional Services to set up the environment initially,” says the DBA.

“Without replication it probably would have taken between 12 and 20 hours to move just the databases.”

Principal DBA, fintech firm

PRODUCTS & SERVICES

SOFTWARE

[SharePlex](#)

SERVICES

[Professional Services](#)

“That went very well. There was a handoff midway through the project to another tech who hadn’t been involved from the beginning, but it still went very well considering what we were up against. The technicians had to coordinate with people at both the old data center and the new one.”

When the time to kick off the migration process finally came, the VP and DBA were pleased with their decision to use SharePlex.

“We gave ourselves an hour to migrate those 12 databases, and it took exactly that,” says the DBA. “Once it was set up, SharePlex worked very well—as advertised—and we were all pleasantly surprised. In spite of infrastructure and network differences between us and our new parent company, SharePlex performed very well.”

“There were no surprises from my perspective,” says the VP. “I’d been worried because the databases are mission-critical, so if anything had gone south with those, we’d have been in a world of hurt. But the migration went smoothly. I’d recommend SharePlex.”

MORE USES FOR SHAREPLEX

The database team has started migrating to the cloud — mostly new applications. They are also figuring out the role of database administrators as their responsibilities shift from working in the physical plane to working in the logical plane of the cloud. Knowing that they bought a

versatile product, the team also plans to use SharePlex to migrate databases to the cloud, which is a step beyond their original migration project.

“We have used SharePlex for a change history system recently,” says the DBA. “Now we’re working on a major Oracle Streams conversion using SharePlex for a small, internal reference database that we broadcast to multiple targets. Since the migration, we’ve come to rely on SharePlex mainly for replication of application data.”

“It’s more than just a one-solution product,” summarizes the VP. “It’s versatile. Everything that we were told about features and capabilities, SharePlex delivered.”

“I mean, an hour to migrate a dozen good-sized databases is just unbelievable to me.”

ABOUT QUEST SOFTWARE

Quest helps our customers reduce tedious administration tasks so they can focus on the innovation necessary for their businesses to grow. Quest® solutions are scalable, affordable and simple to use, and they deliver unmatched efficiency and productivity. Combined with Quest’s invitation to the global community to be a part of its innovation, as well as our firm commitment to ensuring customer satisfaction, Quest will continue to accelerate the delivery of the most comprehensive solutions for Azure cloud management, SaaS, security, workforce mobility and data-driven insight.

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Vice President of Database Administration, fintech firm

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