



Managed Services for Oracle's Cloud Applications

“The Cloud changes everything”: such statements are commonplace today, and this is a good summary of the impact of Cloud Applications – any applications, not just Oracle's. Cloud can deliver a paradigm shift that brings many positive changes. The same is true for application support.

But while Cloud Applications change organisations' support requirements, they don't remove the need for such a service. While some support needs, e.g. hosting, are gone Cloud brings new requirements and unique challenges. To address these Claremont introduced our Managed Services for Oracle Cloud Applications.

Background, Requirements and Challenges

Over the past 20 years many organisations modernised their back-office systems. They moved to integrated platforms, e.g. ERP, that enabled the redefinition of business processes. Cloud delivery now offers organisations a new generation of applications that addresses some of the previous generation's challenges. These include: inflexible licensing models; specialist technical skills for systems hosting and support; limited support for mobile devices; and outdated user interfaces.

Claremont Managed Services

Claremont's Managed Services practice already delivers something unusual: a combination of better services and lower costs unmatched by alternative providers. That's one reason why many organisations choose Claremont Managed Services (80% of customers switch from other providers).

Our dedicated team of the very best Oracle functional and technical support consultants share a passion for support delivery. We give them the time, space and freedom to deliver excellent support to our customers. Backed with effective ITIL V3 processes and state-of-the-art infrastructure, they deliver faster fixes, better quality solutions, are genuinely proactive and strive for continuous improvement. Most of all, we work in partnership with customers to ensure our support enables their Oracle systems to deliver their business requirements.

“The new cloud-based system is outstanding and supports our IT Strategy. Claremont has set us up for future growth and better business. We are seeing the benefits already.”

Alan Dennison
Head of Systems Operations & Development, RiverStone

How is an organisation's traditional I.T. support model affected by Cloud applications? That's best understood by looking at what changes Cloud Applications bring to support:

• Gone

The obvious, fundamental change is that hosting & technology support is no longer required. Specialist technical skills, e.g. a DBA, are no longer required. This is great news because these are the skills many organisations struggled most to fulfil.

• Changed

Although the application changes, there is still a need for application support: a team supporting users' day-to-day system usage, answering questions, fixing issues and able to make configuration changes. The nature of customisations also changes, e.g. how they are built and hosted, but they must still be supported.

• New

Oracle's software as a service delivery means they determine the cycle of upgrades and patching. This will almost certainly be more frequent than customers previously managed, which brings significant new benefits but also challenges. Those changes and associated systems testing must be managed such that new versions don't adversely impact the business.

Managed Services for Oracle Cloud Applications

Claremont's Managed Services for Oracle Cloud Applications addresses the support challenges our customers face in the new world. This remains a fixed price support service delivered within a professional Service Management framework. Old school rigour and processes are no less required in the new world and these are built-in to our services.

Our Cloud support is flexible and customers can pick the services they require, ensuring a perfect fit with their needs:

- **Application Support:** The application has changed, but business-as-usual support is still required to fix incidents and problems and answer users' questions.
- **Customisations Support:** A Cloud system should have far fewer customisations than with traditional ERP or HCM. However, some customisations may be unavoidable and these are often business critical, e.g. interfaces. Claremont supports all customisations, fixing issues and making changes to prevent their reoccurrence.
- **Change, Release and Test Management:** A benefit of Cloud Applications is that upgrades are included in the subscription; gone are the days of out-of-date systems. But this introduces challenges as well as opportunities. Claremont's support ensures customers understand what changes are introduced by upgrades and patching. New functionality can be adopted where this brings benefit and Claremont will manage the associated analysis, implementation and training. We also help customers target regression testing at the areas affected by updates, minimising test effort and business disruption.
- **Strategic Roadmap:** Cloud Applications are evolving rapidly with Oracle delivering frequent enhancements. Claremont ensures customers understand Oracle's roadmap and how to take advantage of future Cloud opportunities.

- **Pod (environment) and SR Management:** We act as your interface with Oracle Support. Managing pods and progressing Service Requests (SRs) with Oracle.

Benefits

- **Commercial Certainty:** Our fixed price Managed Services gives customers long term certainty and aligns perfectly with Oracle's Cloud Opex model.
- **Operational Certainty:** Each customer's Managed Service fits their unique needs and, combined with their in-house capabilities, customers benefit from comprehensive operational support. Peace of mind that the system is supported.
- **Flexible In-house Support:** Customers choose how much support to deliver in-house. Will a full 2nd line in-house function be retained, with Claremont supporting that team, or is the business's strategy to minimise in-house application support and outsource this to third parties? Claremont's approach supports such choices.
- **Avoid Change-related Issues:** Cloud Applications' update cycle can cause business disruption if not managed properly. Claremont can take responsibility for this management and ensure customers enjoy the benefits of change without unexpected issues.
- **Maximise Return on Investment:** Implementing a new system should be the start of a process, but the challenge of ERP implementations meant many organisations were relieved to complete such projects and the system was subsequently little developed. Such an approach is a missed opportunity with Cloud and Claremont helps customers benefit from Oracle's cycle of changes and improvements.

Next Steps

We would love to speak to you about your support requirements for Oracle Cloud Applications. With some knowledge of your systems – current or planned, business and requirements we can shape a Cloud Managed Service for your needs. Please contact us to discuss support with our Cloud Managed Service experts.

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