

Modernizing Academic Institutions using Oracle Cloud

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Abstract

Educational Institutions are fast transforming themselves in the way they operate and serve by shifting more towards digital medium. With steady increase in applicants and student enrolments every year, colleges and universities are gearing themselves to provide the best courses possible, while managing the campus to provide safe and welcoming environment to the students to study and grow. The changing expectations from the students and the demand for new niche skills has forced the educational institutions to use technology and modern applications to help them evolve. In addition to the educating the students, the schools also need to manage ensure the proper functioning of various departments, such as their financials, student and staff management, marketing, and administrative tasks. These challenges can be taken care by leveraging the academic solutions provided by Oracle Cloud, in various areas, such as Campus Management, Student Management, etc., which can be an optimal solution for all the academic needs. With the industry leading cloud solutions and digital tools, it not only provides an out of the box solution but allows a personalized solution that best suits the academia.

Keywords : Oracle Cloud, Oracle Student Management, Modernizing Educational Institutions, Digitalizing Academic Institutions, Oracle Digital Assistant, Oracle Cloud Campus Solutions.

Introduction

“ School is a building which has four walls with tomorrow inside.” - Lon Watters

A Quality education is a key ingredient for the bright and successful future of the individual and society as a whole and it is the utmost responsibility of educational institutions to provide an opportunity for the students to learn and be prepared for the future. In the market today, almost every new job demands a college degree or higher with the necessary skill set to be eligible to apply. It is the core responsibility of every school not only to educate their students, but to hone their own capabilities to provide courses and options available to their students so that they can be future proof. Hence it is paramount that both the students and the universities focus on these areas and not be bogged down by other needs such as administrations, campus management, etc. Even for the areas related to learning, the schools and the students need to have an easy and hassle-free way for planning and managing their course selection, funds disbursements, admissions, etc., which can only be achieved using a robust, secure and time tested ERP, that is both easy to use and scalable for future enhancement. Oracle Cloud is one such solution that can check almost all boxes of the schools' and students' needs. This can be a one-stop shop for the educational institutions running the operations smoothly. With the industry leading cloud infra, along with a tom of development tools and APIs for extensibility, Oracle Cloud is a future proof solution that the schools can opt for .

Why Upgrade Educational Institutions

Modernization of any industry is an essential and a continuous one. This allows every institution to leverage the latest technologies and opportunities to scale up their operations and the services. Educational institution are no

exception. With changing market demand and the expectations from these students and faculties, it is important that every education institution upgrade their systems periodically so that they can keep up with the market and remain competitive not within the country but internationally relevant. These modern technologies come with a variety of abilities that the educational institutions can use to fix some of the lingering problems and provide outstanding services to their students. Following are some of the demands and the expectations of the new age that every academia is needs to satisfy to be more effective –

There is a growing demand to provide transparent and real time access to all the facilities available in the universities for both students and faculties. This comes in particularly handy in situations where it requires a quick and timely resolution. At times, a delay in taking addition or fixing a problem might prove to be extremely costly. There is also and need to provide transparency at every stage of student's life cycle starting from admission all the way to graduation. By providing this ability it allows them to review the direction they are taking and take corrective actions if needed it also allows them to select courses that are future proof and relevant to the market. From a faculty standpoint come on providing these facilities would allow them to gauge the students and the resources available and best connect them to provide the best education to their students.

Providing a personalized study path has been a challenge as well as growing demand in the modern days. The ability for student two select their own courses in their own timeframe means a lot for these students to balance they are on campus and off campus activities. This also provides them to focus on other areas to improve both their knowledge and their financial capabilities such as part time jobs or take specialized courses elsewhere to extend their capabilities. Also gone are the days when students and faculties were expected to come on campus for pretty much everything related to their education. With modern technologies that ease and need for every institution to provide educational services in various channels such as, on campus, online come on apps and many more. These can only be possible if the institutions can adopt an ERP or cloud solution that is able to provide such services seamlessly and efficiently.

From the institution's standpoint there are several requirements for modernizing themselves. Firstly, keeping them soup up to date with the modern technologies would enable them to be competitive not within the country, but amongst various top-notch universities in the world. With growing demand for graduated students in all walks of the job market, it is essential that these universities provide exceptional education to their students leveraging the cutting-edge technologies available. This puts them in a situation to look for a solution that is both suited for seamlessly running their operations, as well as to expand the capabilities in providing modern courses to their students.

For faculties, they need access to the latest research and development archives as well as the modern tools. This is to both hone their skills and perform research and other innovations Thereby putting the university on the map and enabling students get a taste of what the future is going to be. There should also be a seamless access to HR department and funds so that they can avoid unwanted delays or whoops to get these facilities or responses. It is also important that the faculties have access to their students' repositories as well as their capabilities so that they can identify the best possible candidate to assist them in their research and other activities. This is a key requirement for a professor or other departments to sponsor the student for their academic growth.

Oracle Solutions for Educational Institutions

To meet the demands faced by the educational institutions and beyond, Oracle solutions are one of the best that is available in the market to get those needs. Oracle ERP is a solution that has been in the market for decades and has been time tested and proved for his robustness and scalability. Oracle cloud ERP carries over best features available in the on-prem Oracle ERP's solution coupled with the modern AI and machine learning capabilities can be one stop solution for achieving operational excellence and have a future proof IT solution. This provides a

comprehensive and a complete solution that can be applied in every department within the education institutions and can cater the needs of everyone from students to faculties to administrative Staffs and investors.

At the basic level, both Oracle ERP and Oracle cloud solutions can assist the academic institutions in their day-to-day activities. The functionalities can range anywhere from procure to pay to record to report, and anything in between. These modules in Oracle can help the institutions not only to manage their internal operations effectively but to seamlessly integrate with external applications and systems to interact an interface real time and batch data for enabling any data-driven analytics decisions. By leveraging oracles cloud solutions such as cloud infra (IaaS), the burden to maintain their service with regular patching and maintenance and other activities can be taken away from the schools thereby letting them focus on more important matters. With the plethora of development tools and industry leading APIs, Oracle provides unmatched scalability and extensibility for providing new and better and customized solutions that are best fit for the hosts.

In addition to the above-mentioned operational modules there are specialized solutions targeted for educational institutions to help both students and the institutions such as-

Oracle Student Management solution helps institutions to manage various students' needs such as admissions, applications, core selection, financials and other needs that the students might have it also helps students to manage their finances such as checking their balances come up payment histories, due dates and credits available so that they can better manage their finances and take cautious steps in the due course of their college life.

Student Financial Aid, which helps the students to easily apply, and avail aids provided by the government and other sponsors. Oracle Student Financial Planning cloud service (SFP) automates the entire process from start to end thereby allowing the students to easily have access to these facilities. There are provisions to configure real-time checklists and alerts that can guide the students in applying and verifying if they meet the requirements and finally receiving the aid by enrolling into these programs. This module helps in every step of the financial aid process from requesting documents electronic document submissions verification, etc. It also helps in different situations such as enrollment or withdrawn and even in terms of discontinuation or finally the graduation. Using this facility, they can also configure how the funds are to be dispersed and any credit balance disbursement for the students along with timely notifications and acceptance confirmation to have a complete picture and a closed cycle so that every party involved is aware of the entire process.

Oracle Learning Management (OLM) is designed to support any educational needs and modes within the institution this helps to easily manage the learning programs provided by these institutions streamlined them, and properly allocate the necessary resources to best serve its students. This is a centralized solution that can monitor and maintain both in person and online classes, track students' progress and the course by itself assess the outcome which can be a valuable information for guiding the educational institutions for their future endeavors. This is also acting as an effective tool for the students and the professors to interact and thereby creating an effective learning environment.

Oracle Cloud CX, is a customer experience platform, which is a suite of various applications focused on providing next level customer experience. Providing a panoramic view of everything that the customer needs to be aware of this solution can act as a self-service endpoint for both students and third-party vendors to have access to the air data and its current status. The ability to seamlessly run the operations depend upon their relationship with the stakeholders, which includes the windows, investors, or anyone who would contribute for the betterment of the institution. Providing a holistic view off the institution's operations would give them a sense of comfort and an idea of the direction that the institution is taking. Every possible module such as sales marketing research publications and call for new papers can be provided in one single outlet that can be a gateway to anyone who is interested.

Using CX, the colleges can provide customized and user centric solutions that would be best fit for an individual or a group.

Oracle Digital Assistant is a PaaS solution, which lets the educational institutions to extend, and build deploy customized solutions, and deploy them in the infrastructure of their choosing. Allows them to use the power of AI and machine learning to perform data analytics and derive necessary information for taking data driven decisions. It can also be used in various interactive applications such as chatbot conversations, natural language processing and other needs. With technology being readily available to higher number of users and the need to revolutionize the mode of education from on campus to online and remote courses Oracle digital assistant can be a way for these institutions to design and offer courses for students who are interested in different geographies.

Oracle HCM is a HR solution used for managing their employee activities. It is designed to provide a complete solution in various stages starting from initiating a job opening all the way to retirement. You would think Oracle HCM the administration can manage the entire life cycle of its employees, capture performance, provide ratings, assign trainings and other development activities, and track them to its closure. It can also be used to gather the requirements or grievances from its employees, prioritize them and take corrective actions to make sure the employee satisfaction is at its best. They can also be used to track the everyday activities such as attendance, contribution, employee expenses and many more. It can also be a medium for supporting their staff for a professional truth by providing pointers and guidance to achieve their professional and personal goals. It also provides an ability to interact efficiently amongst each other and with the administrative staff thereby providing a transparent and a frictionless communication so that the matter of discussion are not lost in translation or time.

There are several benefits for an educational institution to adopt Oracle cloud as their solution provider. Oracle undoubtedly is one of the best ERP in the market which provides a complete and comprehensive solution for any needs of any institution. Since it offers products in various parts of technology landscape such as infra, database, application and many more, either on-prem, or on cloud. This can be a one stop shop for any administrative or operational needs of an educational institution. Unlike other industries, academia has a unique operational practice and the solution that it chooses needs to be a best fit for their activities. In addition to their basic needs, they should also be compliant with state and federal requirements in terms of data security, funds management and any other legal and moral requirements. Data security is yet another need for these institutions, especially the ones conducting advanced research, to secure the data to avoid any leaks of their findings and issues. With cyber-attacks becoming more common and the need for online education ever increasing, it is imperative that the universities maintain a balance to provide services to those who need it at the same time, making sure the security is not compromised in any way. Oracle's multiple layers of security, which comes packaged as well as the scalability feature that it provides for the implementers to design and implement their own encryption and security features, makes it a great benefit to the universities to either leverage the package solution or define their own to secure their products, making Oracle a rounded solution that can satisfy every need of an educational institution.

Conclusion

Oracle Education Cloud service is a comprehensive solution that is best suited for any educational institution that intends to modernize itself. With its wide range of modules and features focused on each group and area within the institutions, it can be a formidable ally in the institutions' digital journey. Coupled with AI and Oracle Machine Learning (ML) features, the schools can now seamlessly take care of their administrative activities while focusing on providing niche skills to their students. While the modern demands have forced the institutions to modernize themselves, with Oracle Cloud's help, this can be a positive transformation, where the cloud solution can effectively streamline their operations. Also, leveraging AI and ML, the universities can easily gather and scrutinize the data gathered and make educated decisions about the future. However, these cutting-edge features are

in its infancy and there is an enormous potential to grow and with the innovative technologies and specializations coming fore, the ability to identify, adapt, and incorporate these into their educational scope is key to their success.

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