

ORACLE

Turning crisis into opportunity

Three real world examples of using the
cloud to go further, faster, first



As the COVID-19 pandemic spread in early 2020, it fundamentally disrupted every aspect of life, and global markets were no exception. This change – in some cases forever – prompted companies in every industry to re-examine their work culture, business models, and technology investments.

Faced with doing business remotely while keeping up with customer demand, this crisis brought out new qualities in many companies, who have found ways to not only survive, but thrive. Twenty-four percent of CEOs say that after the pandemic, their businesses will focus more on digitizing core operations and processes.¹ Their goals are to go further, move faster, and be first. And the cloud has been key in that transformation.

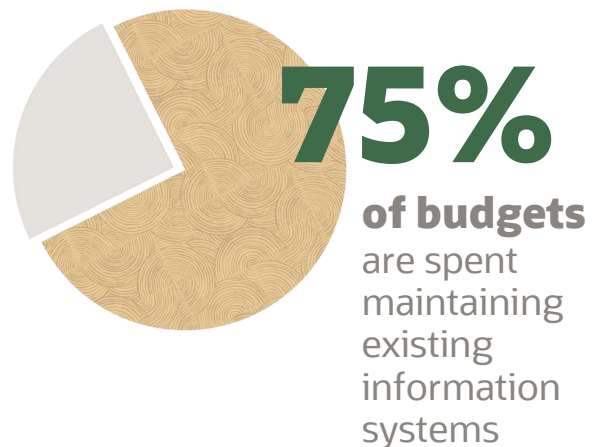
The ability to quickly move to the cloud while maintaining continuity can drive a greater value across a business, to deliver agility, scalability, performance, and security. One of the biggest drivers of cloud adoption comes from the integration and advancement of automated systems. This is why a next-generation cloud that features intelligent automation has been a gamechanger for IT.



Go further

Now more than ever, organizations are looking closely at extracting as much value from their data as possible to move the business forward. With cloud innovations in database and analytics, streamlining operational processes has never been easier or more necessary. As cloud services have the opportunity to relieve the workforce from monotony, it frees up more time and resources that can also be dedicated to strategic experimentation and creative initiatives. IT leaders can access new technologies that increase speed and add new ways to answer problems, all on an effective budget.

The cloud empowers businesses to disrupt and *go further* — delivering a capable platform that enables new forms of creativity and helps convert ideas to real value. In contrast, traditional data-management tools and procedures can inhibit innovation, so much so that a survey of IT firms found that they still spend 75% of their budgets maintaining their existing information systems.²



Blue Shield of California is a health insurance plan with more than 4 million members, serving California’s commercial, individual, and government markets. The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic recession only heightened the importance of the company’s financial support to its members, and to the hospitals and other providers that deliver care.

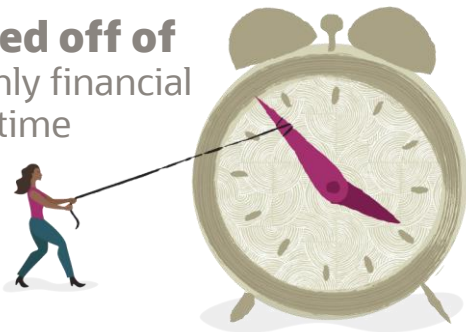
¹ [PWC CEO Panel Survey: How business can emerge stronger](#)

² [IDC Perspective: Oracles Autonomous Database: AI-Based Automation for Database Management and Operations](#)

Standardizing on Oracle Cloud better prepared Blue Shield of California to support a workforce that was suddenly working remotely, such as the finance team closing the books while working from home. The Oracle Cloud suite of applications also provides a single source of truth for operating data, which has helped Blue Shield of California's finance team become a vital partner in the company's response to COVID-19, and a strategic business partner evaluating and funding new innovations, acquisitions, and other growth initiatives.

40%

shaved off of
monthly financial
close time



Using Oracle Cloud ERP, Blue Shield of California shaved 40% off its monthly financial close time and reduced financial consolidation cycles by two business days, thanks to increased automation. Within two weeks of its staff moving to at-home working, the company did a virtual close of their book—a success that would have been hard to accomplish if they were not already in the cloud. And having accurate data sooner helps decision makers, especially in times of major change.

\$500,000

savings in costs



In addition to a faster close, Blue Shield of California saved about \$500,000 in costs through automation and created a platform for future productivity and innovation gains using machine learning and artificial intelligence. With Oracle Cloud ERP and HCM on a single data model, Blue Shield of California has “one source of truth” for scenario planning as it prepares for what's ahead.

Watch the full story:

[Blue Shield of California Stays Strong with Oracle Fusion Cloud ERP](#)

Move faster

The cloud is becoming so standard among businesses, that it's no longer about what companies can do with the cloud, but how fast and efficiently it can be done. As senior IT leaders think through their response to this crisis, their goal is to not only get through it, but to standardize their approach so that it becomes a sustainable solution for the long term. Centered on intelligent automation, the new generation of cloud helps businesses speed their operations and enable agile processes, so they can *move faster* and quickly adapt to the changing market.

When COVID-19 came to Mexico in early March, the governor of Querétaro, Francisco Dominguez, gave his administration one week to devise a plan that would help local health officials fight the pandemic and prevent contagion. At the time, Querétaro didn't have any COVID-19 cases, but the government saw what was going on in other countries, and knew it needed to immediately identify and treat infected residents.

There was no time to build a COVID-tracking system from scratch. A team at the state government's Center of Information and Analysis for Security of Querétaro (CIAS) looked at an existing public safety platform it had launched two years ago, which tens of thousands of Querétaro residents and criminal justice officials have used to report and analyze criminal activity in their communities.

Because the architecture was based on Java software development tools and an Oracle database running on Exadata, it could quickly be repurposed to help residents report their COVID-19 symptoms, too.

The platform, called COVAPP, was built by CIAS using an [Oracle Java SE Development Kit](#), and it now runs on [Exadata Cloud@Customer](#). With Oracle maintaining the system remotely, the state gets the flexibility and cost savings of a cloud-based system, while keeping the data and physical infrastructure in the state's data center.

Read the full story:

5 [Oracle BrandVoice in Forbes](#)



Be first

For organizations to adapt, grow, and innovate effectively during critical times, they must find ways to use technology to get a "first to market" competitive advantage. With a next-generation cloud driving advancement across an entire business, it's possible to disrupt entire industries.

As the new coronavirus continues its infectious rampage, extreme pressure is on drug-makers to quickly introduce new vaccines and treatments that can stop the spread of COVID-19.

Running computer-generated simulations that help discover those new drugs takes massive computing power. But with businesses still largely in the mode of working remotely, accessing such resources if they're in an on-premises data center is much harder. Plus, most on-premises servers aren't built for the kind of speed the COVID-19 crisis demands. It can take months to run some of the most processor-intensive jobs on those systems.



“Modeling billions of molecule combinations against the key proteins that COVID-19 needs to reproduce requires enormous calculations,” said computational chemist Andrew Jennings during a recent roundtable discussion hosted by Oracle, called [HPC in Healthcare](#). Jennings has worked with top pharmaceutical and biotech companies to research COVID-19 antibodies and small-molecule drugs. “Many big pharma companies don’t have the clusters they need to handle these workloads,” he said.

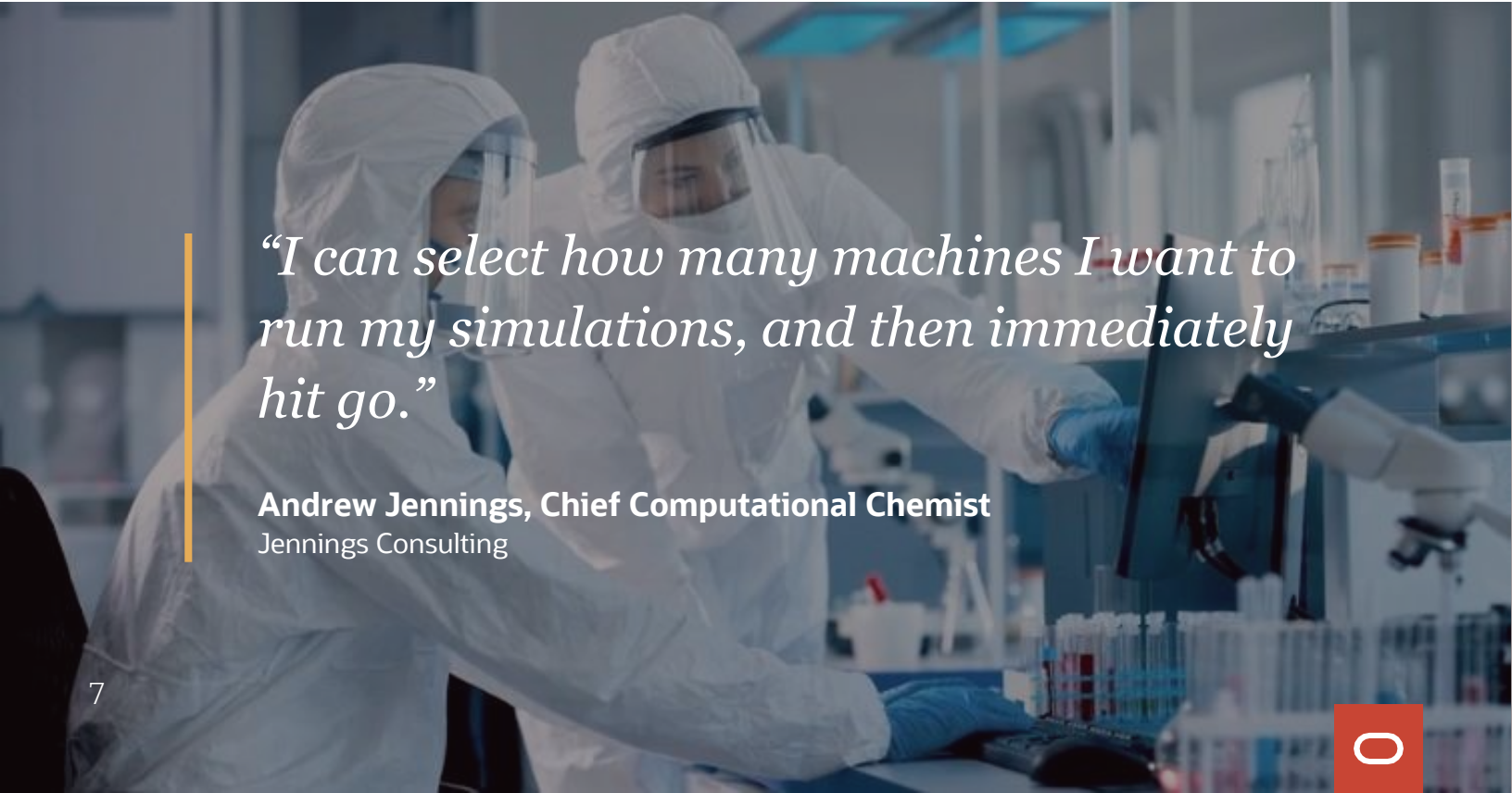
During the Zoom-based roundtable, Jennings told host Karan Batta, vice president of high-performance computing at Oracle, that he relies on the cloud-based

animation rendering platform GridMarkets. He started testing it in 2018 and is now completing his molecular simulations for COVID-19 in less than 24 hours. GridMarkets runs on Oracle Cloud Infrastructure.

One of the capabilities Jennings likes most about GridMarkets is he can access all the resources he needs from wherever he is working. “I can select how many machines I want to run my simulations, and then immediately hit go,” Jennings said. In a matter of seconds, GridMarkets configures the software and compute resources, and it encrypts the data. When the job is finished, the machine shuts down, so there are no lingering costs. “None of this ties up local resources, I don’t have to be sitting behind a company’s firewall, and I can do it from home on a laptop.”

Watch the full story:

[Oracle’s Karan Batta talks with GridMarkets about running drug discovery workloads on Oracle HPC Cloud](#)



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Andrew Jennings, Chief Computational Chemist
Jennings Consulting

That's the power of a next-generation cloud

During times of crisis, and also during relative calm, Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI) is a trusted partner that IT leaders can rely on. With tools to migrate Oracle on-premise apps, and non-Oracle workloads running on other vendors' platforms, OCI makes cloud computing easy and cost-effective.

The applications running on Oracle's cloud gain the benefits of autonomous services that span across workforce, systems, and decisions. For example:



Organizations with workforce shortages can leverage automation to improve productivity and reduce the number of people needed to generate an output. With machine learning, companies can speed up operations, while making them more efficient, more agile, and less dependent on human intervention.



Oracle Cloud's automated migration simplifies and streamlines every part of a business, so you can more quickly stand up new services in the cloud to keep customers satisfied.

Oracle's cloud provides the scalability and performance necessary to support the digital transformation initiatives you need to propel your business forward during times of change. With a next-generation cloud, your organization can experience new roads to innovation, so you can be the first to disrupt.

Designed for change.
Oracle Cloud.

Find out more

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about Oracle Cloud
Infrastructure

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