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"Using the K5 portal, we can construct an Oracle environment with a single click, optimize the tasks involved in cloud migration, and set up a database in around two hours."

Keiji Fujimoto
Assistant Manager, Information Systems Division
Business Process Re-engineering Department
Kaneka

Kaneka has transitioned its Oracle Database to the cloud using specialist tools and expertise provided by the open and secure FUJITSU Enterprise Cloud Service K5.

At a glance
Country: Japan
Industry: Manufacturing
Founded: 1949
Website: kaneka.co.jp

Challenge
As part of its ongoing digital transformation, Kaneka wanted to migrate multiple core business functions to the cloud. However, migrating its Oracle Database in a secure and seamless way proved to be challenging.

Solution
Kaneka turned to long-term partner Fujitsu, which provides the FUJITSU Enterprise Cloud Service K5, a high-quality cloud service based on open source technology, and which offers the optimal environment for Oracle.

Benefit
- Enhanced in-house productivity after moving ICT infrastructure to the cloud

- Seamless and fast migration to K5 DB (Oracle) ensured no disruption to performance

- Single-click, self-service portal simplifies management and enables near-instant database provisioning

- Reduced burden on internal system operations team frees up time and resources

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Customer

Founded in 1949, Kaneka manufactures and markets various materials and products that meet the needs of everyday life. This includes everything from chemicals and functional plastics to foodstuffs, life science products, and electronics. It focuses on four sectors: Material Solutions, Quality of Life Solutions, Health Care Solutions, and Nutrition Solutions. This reflects Kaneka's objective of becoming a solution provider rather than simply a manufacturer. The company employs over 8,500 people and has annual profits of US$164m.

Products and Services

■ FUJITSU Enterprise Cloud Service K5

Transitioning to the cloud

As part of its journey to become a solutions provider, Kaneka has been reforming its ICT environment. Since 2010, the company has been migrating its in-house systems to Fujitsu's data center one by one as part of its contingency plan. At the same time, Kaneka began virtualizing its systems to consolidate them. In 2014, Kaneka also made the decision to shift its ICT infrastructure to the cloud. Apart from some on-premise environments, such as those used in factories, Kaneka is aiming to remodel its infrastructure into one that is cloud-based.

"In order to become a company that not only offers products, but which can also help customers with problem-solving, it was essential to have a framework in which we could use ICT in competitive ways," explains Tetsuro Yabuki, Head of Information Systems Division, Kaneka. "We thought if we could consolidate all the systems, which had previously been operated and maintained individually, in the cloud, we would be able to create a framework that could respond to changes in the business and greatly reduce costs, as well as the work involved in system operations."

To achieve this goal, Kaneka needed a cloud service that would become the standard system infrastructure across the board. Kaneka and its affiliated companies had been using Oracle Database for many of their systems, however, challenges associated with shifting its Oracle Database to the cloud began to surface.

Migrating an Oracle Database to the cloud is typically considered to be extremely challenging; the settings are complicated, there is a need for highly-skilled engineers, and even if the migration is successful, there is no guarantee that the system will respond as expected. Moreover, it is unclear whether the system will operate as it has in the past.

"In all honesty, we wanted to transfer our Oracle Database to the cloud as well," adds Yabuki. "But taking business continuity into mind, we couldn't take any unnecessary risks. That's why for the time being, we thought it would be better to exclude Oracle Database systems from our plans for cloud migration."

A flexible, open, secure cloud platform

Kaneka was then introduced to FUJITSU Enterprise Cloud Service K5, which promised to overcome the challenges of migrating Oracle to the cloud. A high-quality cloud service, it is based on open source technology, which provides an optimal environment, not only for existing systems such as enterprise systems, but also for systems such as AI and IoT that now play a key role in new projects.

"One of the services provided by K5 is the K5 DB (Oracle), a Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS) that allows all Oracle Database functions to be used in the cloud," says Keiji Fujimoto, Assistant Manager, Kaneka. "Using the K5 portal, we can construct an Oracle environment with a single click, optimize the tasks involved in cloud migration, and set up a database in around two hours, whereas it took several days with the previous database."

The first stage of migration took just three months to complete and ensured the system would be in a usable condition. The system's responses and user-experience have been successfully maintained and are no different to when the system was on-premise.

The standard tools and commands that were compatible with Oracle Database operations, such as Oracle Enterprise Manager and SQL*Plus, were available to assist in data importation. Furthermore, the information was encrypted so that there were no security-related issues, a factor crucial for cloud migration.

Co-creating a lean, efficient performance

Kaneka has been able to greatly reduce the workload on system administrators by outsourcing the operations, maintenance, and monitoring of the Oracle Database operation to Fujitsu.

"We can leave all the tasks that require specialist knowledge to Fujitsu, meaning we no longer need a particular team to take care of managing our Oracle Database," comments Yabuki. "This has also lead to the standardization of tasks in the Information System Department."

As a result, Kaneka has been able to establish a framework where it is easier to use ICT in competitive ways. One by one, Kaneka will continue to migrate its many existing, in-house Oracle Database systems to FUJITSU Enterprise Cloud Service K5 DB (Oracle). Currently, stages two and three of the migration project are already underway.

"We think K5 DB (Oracle) is an extremely beneficial service to many companies using Oracle Database. That's why we'll proactively help Fujitsu in improving and reinforcing the service by giving them feedback about our user experience," concludes Yabuki. "As a preliminary K5 user, that's our responsibility and we believe that developing this service together will inevitably be an advantage to our company. We expect to continue moving forward together with Fujitsu as good partners."

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