



The Role of the OpenEdge Platform in Modern Transportation and Logistics

Table of Contents

- 1. Inside the Systems That Keep Goods Moving: Transportation and Logistics / 4
- 2. Logistics Systems Are Built Around Real Operations / 5
- 3. The Value the OpenEdge Platform Brings to Transportation and Logistics / 6
- 4. How an OpenEdge Foundation Benefits Logistics Operations / 8
 - 4.1 Stability That Supports Change / 9
 - 4.2 Real Operational Impact: DB Schenker / 9
- 5. Visibility, Data and the Next Generation of Logistics / 11
 - Turning Operational Data into AI-Driven Action / 11
- 6. Supporting the Systems Behind the Supply Chain / 13
 - 6.1 What the OpenEdge Platform Means Overall to Transportation and Logistics / 14
- 7. Next Steps / 15

Transportation and logistics depend on movement. Goods move between suppliers, warehouses, distribution centers, carriers and customers—and the information supporting those movements must travel just as reliably. A delay, system outage or inaccurate piece of operational data can affect far more than a single transaction. It can disrupt schedules, create bottlenecks and make it harder to meet customer commitments.

Behind these operations are applications responsible for coordinating enormous volumes of data and business activity. Transportation management, warehousing, freight, order processing, inventory, reporting and other logistics processes depend on systems that need to remain available as operations continue around the clock.

The [Progress® OpenEdge® platform](#) provides a foundation for business-critical applications that can support these environments while evolving alongside them. This paper explores the role the OpenEdge platform can play within transportation and logistics, why maintaining the reliability of core operational systems matters and how organizations can modernize their environments while preserving the applications and operational knowledge their businesses depend on.



Inside the Systems That Keep Goods Moving: Transportation and Logistics

Transportation and logistics bring together a network of interconnected activities. A shipment may move from a supplier to a warehouse, across multiple modes of transportation and through several facilities before reaching its destination. Throughout that journey, different systems and teams need access to accurate information about where goods are, where they are going and what needs to happen next.

That makes the technology behind logistics operations critical to execution. Applications can support everything from shipment and warehouse management to scheduling, inventory, reporting and customer service. Information generated in one part of the operation can influence decisions elsewhere, meaning systems cannot function as isolated pieces of technology.

The importance of these systems becomes particularly clear at scale. [DB Schenker](#), for example, supports transportation logistics across 140 countries and works with customers across land, sea, air and warehouse operations. With such a large customer base, keeping its software environment running efficiently is essential to supporting the business. In an industry defined by movement, applications that track it, including those developed with the Progress OpenEdge platform, need to maintain continuity.



Logistics Systems Are Built Around Real Operations

Transportation and logistics applications must evolve alongside the organizations that use them. Routes change, distribution networks expand, new facilities come online and customer requirements become more complex. Businesses adopt new transportation models, enter new markets and integrate with additional partners and technologies.

Warehouse operations illustrate how deeply technology can be integrated into real-world processes. Decisions about where inventory is stored, how frequently it is replenished, how orders are picked and how employees move through a facility can all affect operational efficiency. Modern warehouse management systems can help organizations coordinate these activities using approaches such as dynamic cycle counting, zone planning, demand-based replenishment and product slotting. You can learn more about these approaches in our blog post, [“Eight 3PL Warehouse Optimization Best Practices.”](#)

These processes can become highly specific to an organization’s operations. For example, replenishment strategies may determine when inventory moves from bulk storage to picking locations, while slotting strategies can account for pick volumes, travel time and product characteristics. Warehouse systems can also incorporate rules for cycle counting and managing discrepancies without interrupting normal operations.

As applications respond to these requirements, they accumulate business logic that reflects how an organization operates. Processes for handling shipments, managing exceptions, coordinating warehouses, generating reports and supporting customers become embedded within the systems responsible for day-to-day execution.

That operational knowledge has value. Replacing a mature application is therefore about more than moving data from one environment to another. Organizations also need to account for the processes, integrations and business logic that have been refined through years of real-world use.

This is what makes modernization so crucial. Fortunately, modernization does not have to mean starting over. Organizations can build upon the infrastructure and capabilities of their proven applications while preserving the operational foundation that supports their business.

The OpenEdge platform is well-suited to this approach because organizations can continue evolving applications and their supporting environments without treating every technology change as a reason to rebuild systems that already work.

The Value the OpenEdge Platform Brings to Transportation and Logistics

The OpenEdge platform helps transportation and logistics organizations support continuous transaction processing alongside the users, integrations, reporting and distributed workloads their operations require.

It provides an integrated application development and data management foundation for these business-critical systems. As requirements evolve, organizations can modernize and extend their applications while preserving the established business logic and data that support daily operations.

In the warehouse, these requirements become even more visible. Warehouse Management Systems (WMS) can coordinate inventory optimization, order fulfillment and labor management while increasingly connecting people and processes with automated equipment. As explored in the Progress white paper [Transforming the Supply Chain](#), OpenEdge partner Principal Logistics Technologies, an Aptean company, created ProWMS enterprise-grade warehouse management software for 3PL, distribution, wholesale, manufacturing and retail warehouse operators.

Dale Farm, a dairy cooperative with eight operating sites and sales in 45 countries, demonstrates how warehouse management technology built on the OpenEdge platform can improve operational efficiency while managing complex, high-volume environments. By using ProWMS, Dale Farm achieved a 28% uplift in operative pick rates while supporting an environment where thousands of items move through its warehouses each day.

Warehouse optimization also depends on visibility. Real-time operational data gathered through technologies such as voice systems, barcode scanning and RFID can give teams insight into pick status and picker performance. Dynamic cycle counting can help maintain inventory accuracy without stopping operations, while zone planning, replenishment strategies and slotting can help organizations manage how inventory and employees move through a facility.

That need for visibility extends beyond warehouse workflows to the technology infrastructure supporting them. More customers, shipments, facilities, transactions and data can create additional demands on the underlying environment. Organizations need to understand how their systems are performing, identify bottlenecks and prepare their infrastructure to support future workloads.

[DB Schenker](#) encountered these challenges while evaluating its own OpenEdge environment. Its existing solution was running on older server infrastructure and involved a complex setup with limited visibility into system health. The organization was also working to establish disaster recovery processes while seeking a simpler way to manage its databases and to pursue cloud migration.

Together, these examples demonstrate the different layers that can support modern logistics. Applications and WMS technology help coordinate operational processes, while the underlying data and infrastructure need to remain reliable and manageable as the business grows.



How an OpenEdge Foundation Benefits Logistics Operations

With transportation and logistics operations so interconnected, a change in one part of the supply chain can create consequences elsewhere. Applications need to process the information that keeps those activities coordinated.

The value of the underlying platform goes beyond individual features. It comes from providing a dependable foundation for the applications, data and business logic that organizations rely on every day.

Over time, that foundation can become deeply connected to how the organization operates. Applications may contain years of logic governing transactions, customer requirements, workflows, integrations and exceptions. The database contains the operational information that those processes depend on.

The OpenEdge platform enables organizations to continue building on that investment. Instead of forcing businesses to choose between maintaining aging environments indefinitely and replacing mature applications completely, organizations can take a more incremental approach. Infrastructure can change. Applications can be modernized. Data can become accessible to new reporting and analytics environments. New integrations and application experiences can be introduced while the core operational foundation remains intact.

For transportation and logistics organizations, this approach can help reduce the disruption associated with modernization while providing a path for systems to continue evolving alongside the business.

Stability That Supports Change

Transportation and logistics rarely stand still, and neither do the technologies supporting the industry. Organizations are adopting cloud infrastructure, modernizing applications, increasing automation and finding new ways to use operational data. At the same time, the systems already supporting shipments, warehouses and customers must continue to perform.

DB Schenker is an example of how these priorities can coexist. The organization wanted to move several components into a more stable environment while managing numerous databases, servers and significant volumes of data. Working with [Progress Professional Services](#) and [Managed Database Administration \(MDBA\)](#), DB Schenker reviewed its environment and addressed visibility gaps before preparing servers for deployment in Microsoft Azure.

The [Progress® OpenEdge® Pro2™](#) solution was used to synchronize the cloud-based servers, while detailed capacity planning helped prepare the new environment for expected workloads. Rather than viewing modernization simply as moving existing technology from one location to another, the project provided an opportunity to evaluate the environment, understand its requirements and establish a more stable foundation.

For transportation and logistics organizations, incremental modernization can help balance technology change with the need to keep shipments, warehouses and other ongoing operations supported. Organizations can improve infrastructure and applications while minimizing disruption to the systems that underpin their day-to-day operations.

Real Operational Impact: DB Schenker

The value of modernization becomes clearest when infrastructure improvements translate into measurable operational results.

Following its migration to Microsoft Azure, DB Schenker successfully moved 23 databases and more than 5 TB of data. The project encompassed 20 servers as well as database servers, REST application servers and supporting machines.

The organization subsequently saw improvements in batch processing and report generation, while database backup time dropped by 75%, saving about 4.5 hours per backup. DB Schenker could also generate detailed reports without experiencing performance issues, providing the team with better insight into its systems.

DB Schenker also experienced a 42% to 50% reduction in database latch wait times and daily time-outs, reducing the daily total from between 260,000 and 300,000 before migration to around 150,000 after migration.

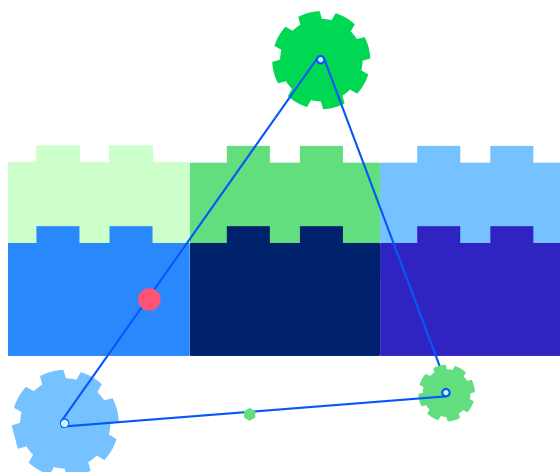
The increased visibility into system data and bottlenecks was particularly important to DB Schenker. As Piotr Świerczyński, Head of Global Infrastructure Systems, explained:



“We see the data and where we are in the systems, especially where the bottlenecks are. In doing so, we are looking through the data, how we are working with it and how it looks after migration, which is very important to me.”

Piotr Świerczyński,
Head of Global Infrastructure Systems

For a global logistics organization, these improvements matter because database administration and infrastructure performance ultimately support the applications the business uses to operate. Faster backups, stronger visibility and a more stable environment give technical teams a stronger foundation from which to support the organization.



Visibility, Data and the Next Generation of Logistics

Modern logistics increasingly depends on the ability to turn operational data into useful information. Organizations need visibility into system performance, but they also need data for reporting, analytics, planning and other downstream use cases.

This creates a balancing act. Operational systems need to remain focused on the transactions and processes that keep the business moving, while organizations simultaneously want broader access to the information those systems contain.

OpenEdge capabilities extend the value of existing environments. Pro2, for example, can replicate OpenEdge data to a separate SQL environment, enabling organizations to make operational data available for reporting and other uses while maintaining the OpenEdge database as the transactional core. This approach can help organizations expand their use of data without requiring every analytical workload to compete with day-to-day operational processing. Pro2 supports near real-time replication to Microsoft SQL Server, Oracle or another OpenEdge database while leaving transactional database resources available for normal operations.

Turning Operational Data into AI-Driven Action

AI is also expanding what warehouse and supply chain applications can do with operational data. AI-enabled WMS capabilities can analyze historical data, market trends and consumer behavior to support demand forecasting and inventory optimization. They can also use complex datasets to support order fulfillment, including identifying efficient picking routes and helping organizations respond to changing demand.

Within warehouse operations, AI can also support dynamic slotting, where storage locations are assigned based on factors such as product characteristics, demand and order frequency. More broadly, AI can process operational information to identify patterns and continuously improve workflows as systems learn from historical performance.

Robotics represents another area where logistics operations are evolving. Goods-to-Person approaches use robots to bring inventory directly to workers, reducing the amount of walking required, while swarm robotics enables multiple robots to collaborate on complex tasks. These activities can be controlled through WMS technology responsible for inventory optimization, fulfillment and labor management.

AI can further extend automation across robotics, conveyors, lift trucks and automated storage and retrieval systems. As these technologies become more capable of adapting to changing variables and larger volumes of data, organizations could see improvements in pick accuracy, order fulfillment and material throughput. AI can also support predictive maintenance by using real-time and historical information to identify potential equipment failures.

These capabilities make access to reliable operational data increasingly important. Supply chain applications can contain information about inventory, orders, transactions and historical activity that provides valuable context for analytics and AI. The goal is not simply to add AI to an application, but to connect new capabilities with trusted operational data and business logic.

The [Progress® OpenEdge® MCP Server](#) can provide AI applications with access to OpenEdge data and business logic, bridging established operational environments and emerging AI workflows. For development teams, the [OpenEdge AI Assistant](#) can provide platform-aware assistance as developers maintain and modernize ABL applications.

These technologies represent an extension of the same modernization strategy. Organizations can keep trusted operational systems at the center while expanding what developers and businesses can do with the applications and data already in place.

Supporting the Systems Behind the Supply Chain

Modernization is not solely a product decision. Complex database and infrastructure environments require expertise to assess performance, plan migrations, prepare for growth and maintain operational continuity.

DB Schenker's experience demonstrates the role that Progress Professional Services and Managed Database Administration can play in that process. The organization used MDBA support for numerous databases and servers while Progress worked with its team to address system blind spots and prepare the environment for migration.

The result was not simply a cloud migration. DB Schenker gained an environment with improved reporting, faster backup processes and better visibility into system behavior. The organization still values both MDBA and the reporting and support it received from Progress Professional Services following the project.

Modernization also extends to the processes surrounding warehouse technology. As warehouse environments incorporate handheld devices, voice technology, machinery, robotics and increasingly sophisticated software, employees need to understand the systems and processes they use. Principal Logistics Technologies identifies continuous staff training, alongside practices such as analytics, automation and inventory optimization, as an important component of warehouse operations.

For logistics organizations evaluating their own environments, this highlights an important part of modernization planning. Understanding the current system, its workloads and its operational requirements should come before deciding how it needs to change.

What the OpenEdge Platform Means Overall to Transportation and Logistics

Transportation and logistics depend on coordination. Goods, vehicles, facilities, partners, customers and information must remain connected as operations unfold across locations and transportation networks.

As a result, the applications supporting those processes should combine reliability with adaptability. They need to keep existing operations running while allowing organizations to respond to new business requirements, infrastructure models and technologies.

The OpenEdge platform provides a foundation that organizations can continue to build on. Existing application logic and operational data can remain at the center of the environment while organizations modernize infrastructure, improve access to data and introduce new application capabilities over time.

Looking forward, warehouse automation, robotics, analytics and AI are creating additional opportunities for transportation and logistics organizations. AI-enhanced WMS technology can help organizations work with increasing operational complexity, while emerging capabilities can support areas such as forecasting, inventory optimization, fulfillment and automation.

For transportation and logistics organizations, the challenge is to introduce those capabilities without compromising the reliability of the systems already responsible for moving goods, managing inventory and supporting customers. The opportunity is to make trusted systems a launch point for change—using their operational data and business logic to adopt new capabilities as logistics evolves.

Next Steps

If your transportation or logistics organization relies on OpenEdge applications, you can modernize without replacing the systems that support your operations. Start by understanding where those systems provide value, where the environment can be improved and how new capabilities can be introduced while protecting operational continuity.

To learn how Progress can help:

- Read the [DB Schenker customer story](#) to learn how the global logistics provider worked with Progress Professional Services to migrate 23 databases and more than 5 TB of data while improving database management and performance.
- Read the [Transforming the Supply Chain white paper](#) to explore how warehouse management systems powered by the OpenEdge platform can use AI and robotics to support automation, inventory management and fulfillment.
- Discover [Eight 3PL Warehouse Optimization Best Practices](#) for practical approaches to analytics, inventory management, automation, replenishment and warehouse operations.
- Explore [OpenEdge Professional Services](#) and [Managed Database Administration](#) to learn how Progress can help assess, manage and modernize business-critical OpenEdge environments.
- Learn how [OpenEdge Pro2](#), the [OpenEdge AI Assistant](#) and [OpenEdge MCP Server](#) can help you extend OpenEdge data and applications into reporting, analytics and AI use cases.



Learn more about the Progress OpenEdge platform

About Progress Software

Progress Software (Nasdaq: PRGS) provides the context and control organizations need to reliably extract value from AI—context drawn from an organization's data, content and workflows, and control over the security, governance and cost of their AI initiatives. Learn how hundreds of thousands of businesses, powering the work of tens of millions of professionals worldwide, realize value from trusted, enterprise-ready AI at www.progress.com.

© 2026 Progress Software Corporation and/or its subsidiaries or affiliates.
All rights reserved. Rev 2026/11 | 1218707194137394

 /progresssw
 /progresssw
 /progresssw
 /progress-software
 /progress_sw_