



Inside ERP: Powered by the Progress OpenEdge Platform

The Role of ERP in Modern Business

Enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems are among the most important business applications an organization operates. They connect inventory, procurement, manufacturing, finance, warehousing, distribution and customer service into a single operational environment that helps business run efficiently. Whether an organization manufactures products, distributes goods, manages construction projects or delivers community services, the ERP system often serves as the central source of operational information.

As organizations grow, their ERP systems grow with them. New products, new locations, changing customer expectations and evolving regulatory requirements all introduce new processes and workflows. Over time, these systems become far more than software. They capture how the organization purchases materials, manages inventory, fulfills orders, serves customers and measures business performance.

For many organizations, these mission-critical ERP systems are built on the [Progress® OpenEdge® platform](#), combining mature application development with a high-performance relational database to support the business logic, operational data and performance behind ERP applications. Because it also integrates with modern technologies, the OpenEdge platform enables ERP providers to continue evolving their applications while preserving the operational knowledge that customers have built over many years.

This paper explores the role the OpenEdge platform plays within ERP environments, why ERP providers continue to build on it and how organizations across multiple industries are using it to modernize, extend and fortify the systems that keep their businesses running.

Inside ERP: The System That Runs the Business

ERP systems matter because they are essential to the whole business. When an order is placed, inventory must be available. When inventory changes, purchasing and fulfillment are affected. When products are manufactured or shipped, financial records, supplier commitments and customer expectations all need to remain aligned. ERP systems bring these activities together, helping organizations operate from a single, consistent view of the business.

That role extends well beyond transaction processing. ERP systems become the operational foundation that supports planning, reporting and decision-making across the organization. Employees in finance, operations, customer service, procurement and executive leadership all rely on the same business data to understand performance, respond to changing conditions and serve customers effectively. As businesses grow, the ERP system often becomes the system of record for the organization's most important operational information.

ERP systems are often built on OpenEdge technology, which allows for easy integration with other technologies or can be a standalone application. The platform includes both the application logic and an extremely fast, stable database.

Across industries, the OpenEdge platform supports both software vendors that develop commercial ERP solutions and the organizations that rely on those applications every day. Whether supporting a manufacturer coordinating production, a distributor managing inventory across multiple locations or a nonprofit delivering services to the community, the platform helps provide the stable foundation organizations depend on.

ERP Systems Are Built Over Time

ERP systems are never truly finished—they evolve continuously as organizations introduce new products, expand into new markets, adopt new business models and respond to changing customer expectations. Each enhancement reflects a real operational need, whether that is supporting a new warehouse process, integrating with another system, improving reporting or addressing industry-specific requirements.

As these changes accumulate, the ERP system becomes more than a collection of features. It becomes a representation of how the organization operates in terms of embedding its business rules, pricing models, approval processes, compliance requirements and customer-specific workflows. Much of this knowledge has been refined over years of real-world use and represents a significant business investment.

This is why replacing ERP systems is rarely as simple as migrating data from one platform to another. Organizations must also preserve the operational knowledge and business logic that make their ERP systems valuable. For many providers, modernization is therefore most successful when it extends proven systems, rather than replacing them.

[CGI](#), a global IT and business consulting company, demonstrates this approach through its Profio360 ERP solution for the construction and manufacturing industries. Originally built on the OpenEdge platform more than three decades ago, Profio360 was modernized through a two-year initiative that introduced a modern user experience while productizing its API layer to make ERP data more accessible for analytics, business intelligence and reporting. CGI's customer research also found that 85 percent of respondents planned to prioritize investments in data and predictive analytics, reinforcing the importance of modernizing around trusted operational data, rather than rebuilding existing systems.

[Apero Solutions](#), a Canadian software company specializing in ERP solutions for wholesale distributors and manufacturers, followed a similar path. Rather than replacing its application, Apero modernized Latitude ERP by introducing a browser-based user experience and moving business logic toward a service-oriented architecture. This approach allowed the company to deliver a more

modern experience while continuing to build on the OpenEdge foundation its customers already trusted.

These examples reflect a broader pattern across the ERPs. Organizations are increasingly choosing to modernize the systems they already depend on instead of replacing them, allowing them to preserve years of operational knowledge while adopting new technologies that support future growth.

The Value the Platform Brings to the ERP Industry

ERP providers operate in industries where reliability is not optional. Customers expect their ERP systems to manage business-critical processes accurately every day while continuing to evolve alongside changing operational requirements. As organizations grow, they need platforms that can support new functionality, integrate with additional technologies and scale to larger workloads without disrupting existing business processes.

The OpenEdge platform helps ERP providers meet these expectations by providing a stable foundation for application development, data management and long-term modernization. Rather than forcing providers to rebuild mature applications as technology changes, the platform allows them to extend existing solutions while preserving the business logic and operational knowledge customers already depend on. This approach reduces risk for both software vendors and the organizations using their ERP systems.

The diversity of OpenEdge-powered ERP solutions demonstrates this flexibility. [Bluebee Software](#), an ERP provider serving midsize manufacturing and distribution companies, has continued evolving its OpenEdge-based application for more than two decades. During that time, Bluebee introduced modern web user experiences using the [Progress® Kendo UI®](#) library of UI components for building modern web applications, expanded business intelligence capabilities and continued response to changing customer needs while preserving the application's underlying architecture and business logic.

The platform also supports organizations operating at significant scale. [Proginov](#), a French ERP software provider, delivers OpenEdge-powered ERP solutions to more than 1,300 enterprises across industries including distribution,

construction, transportation and healthcare. Supporting more than 15,000 production databases, Proginov continues to modernize its applications while benefiting from ongoing OpenEdge performance improvements, demonstrating how the platform can support both long-term growth and continuous innovation.

These organizations operate in different industries and serve different markets, yet they share a common need. They require a platform that allows them to enhance their ERP solutions without sacrificing the stability, security and performance their customers expect. That combination of continuity and adaptability is one of the reasons the OpenEdge platform has remained a trusted cornerstone of ERP development for decades.

Why the OpenEdge Platform Is the Backbone of ERP

The value of an ERP system extends far beyond the features users interact with every day. Behind each screen are years of business rules, workflows and operational processes that reflect how an organization actually functions. Everything from pricing and inventory allocation to financial controls and customer-specific requirements can become embedded within the application over time.

Because this business logic represents years of operational experience, ERP providers need a platform that allows them to continue building on those investments rather than starting over. The OpenEdge relational database provides that foundation by supporting the stability required for day-to-day operations while enabling providers to introduce new capabilities as customer expectations evolve. The platform's combination of application development, database technology, integration capabilities and long-term compatibility allows organizations to modernize with confidence, instead of undertaking costly and disruptive replacement projects.

This approach benefits both ERP vendors and the businesses that rely on their applications. Providers can continue innovating while maintaining compatibility with existing customer environments, and customers gain access to modern capabilities without losing the operational knowledge built into their systems.

As organizations continue investing in cloud technologies, integrations, analytics and AI, preserving that operational foundation becomes increasingly important.

This is why the OpenEdge platform remains the backbone of many organizations' ERP strategy—because it supports today's operational requirements while garnering the flexibility and continued trust to evolve.

Stability That Supports Change

Technology is always evolving, but requisite operational demands remain constant—from modern web experiences, cloud deployment options, application integrations and stronger security to faster reporting and AI capabilities. At the same time, the efficacy of the systems responsible for processing orders, managing inventory, supporting financial operations and serving customers is critical.

The OpenEdge platform helps ERP providers balance these competing priorities. Rather than replacing applications that already support critical business processes, providers can modernize around the existing business logic while introducing new capabilities that improve the user experience and extend the value of the application.

Several referenced customers have followed this approach, and together these examples demonstrate that modernization can strengthen ERP applications without requiring organizations to abandon the systems they already trust.

Capabilities such as the [Progress® OpenEdge® Application Server \(PAS for OpenEdge\)](#) further support this approach by enabling modern application architectures while preserving existing OpenEdge business logic. Instead of treating modernization as a one-time replacement project, organizations can continue evolving their ERP systems in a controlled and incremental way.

Real Operational Impact

The previous examples illustrate how ERP providers continue to modernize and grow on the platform. And the impact of those investments is best seen in the organizations using these solutions every day. Across industries, OpenEdge-powered ERP systems help improve operational efficiency, increase visibility into business data and support better business outcomes.

One example is [My Office Apps](#), whose OpenEdge-powered [Kechie ERP platform](#) supports inventory, procurement, logistics, finance and order management. At [Meals on Wheels San Francisco](#), the solution improved warehouse and inventory management as the organization prepared to support the delivery of up to 30,000 meals each day. As a representative at the organization explained, “Knowing exactly what we have on hand and where it is at any given moment is a huge time saver for our staff.” That visibility allows Meals on Wheels to respond more effectively as daily meal volumes fluctuate while continuing to underscore its mission.

The same OpenEdge-powered platform also supports [New Life Centers](#), a nonprofit organization serving communities throughout Chicago. Kechie ERP helped them manage donations, inventory and distribution across 200+ partner organizations, helping essential goods reach the people who need them.

The OpenEdge platform also helps organizations unlock more value from their data. [ABC Supply](#), one of North America’s largest wholesale distributors of roofing and building products, implemented [OpenEdge Pro2](#) to replicate ERP data in near real time for reporting and analytics. Instead of relying on day-old data, teams gained access to more current data for dashboards, accounting verification and data science initiatives, improving decision-making across the business.

Similarly, [Turtle & Hughes](#), a distributor of electrical and industrial products, used [OpenEdge Pro2](#) to replicate ERP data into a separate reporting environment such as SQL. This enabled business intelligence, customer-facing reporting and application integrations while reducing the taxing demand they put on production systems, allowing reporting workloads to grow without affecting the overall day-to-day operations.

Although operating in different industries, these organizations demonstrate the same principle. The OpenEdge platform helps ERP providers and their customers build systems that continue delivering value long after the original application has been deployed and allow for ERP systems to evolve alongside the organizations they serve.

Extending OpenEdge Capabilities

Extending the value of their ERP environments without disrupting production systems is a critical goal. The experiences of both ABC Supply and Turtle & Hughes demonstrate how this approach can improve reporting and decision-making without increasing demands on operational workloads.

As organizations explore AI, trusted operational data becomes even more important. ERP systems contain information about customers, inventory, suppliers, transactions, deliveries and financial activity that provide essential business context for AI applications. The [OpenEdge MCP Server](#) helps make this data securely available to AI applications, allowing organizations to connect AI to trusted OpenEdge business logic and operational data. For developers, the [OpenEdge AI Assistant](#) further accelerates modernization by providing OpenEdge-aware coding assistance, explanations and development support directly within the development workflow.

Together, these capabilities allow organizations to build on the ERP systems they already trust while preparing them for new reporting, analytics and AI use cases.



What the OpenEdge Platform Means Overall to the ERP Industry

ERP systems are expected to be reliable, secure and adaptable and must support today's operational requirements while businesses evolve, technologies change and customer expectations increase.

The OpenEdge platform helps organizations meet those expectations by providing a stable foundation for ERP applications that can be modernized over time rather than replaced. Across manufacturing, distribution, construction, healthcare, nonprofit services and many other industries, the OpenEdge platform supports ERP providers as they continue enhancing their applications while preserving the business logic and operational knowledge their customers depend on every day.

For people who are new to an organization that uses the platform, this is perhaps the most important takeaway—it's often the technology behind the ERP system, rather than the application users see on their screen. It powers the application logic, manages the operational data and provides the reliability, security and scalability that help organizations keep their businesses running.

That is why the OpenEdge platform continues to play an important role in the ERP industry—to preserve years of operational knowledge, modernize with confidence and prepare systems for the next generation in the age of AI.

Next Steps

If your organization relies on an OpenEdge-powered ERP solution, the opportunity is not to replace what already works. It is to understand, modernize and extend the value of the systems already in place.

Consider these next steps:

- Explore [OpenEdge ERP customer success stories](#) to see how organizations across various industries are modernizing their ERP solutions
- Learn how [OpenEdge Application Modernization Services](#) can help extend and modernize existing ERP applications
- Discover how both the [OpenEdge AI Assistant](#) and [MCP Server](#) help organizations prepare their ERP environments for AI-driven development and business workflows



Learn more about the Progress OpenEdge platform

About Progress Software

Progress Software (Nasdaq: PRGS) empowers organizations to achieve transformational success in the face of disruptive change. Our software enables our customers to develop, deploy and manage responsible AI-powered applications and personalized digital experiences with agility and ease. Businesses of all sizes get a trusted provider in Progress, with the products, expertise and vision they need to turn AI disruption into a competitive advantage. Millions of developers and technologists at hundreds of thousands of organizations depend on Progress every day. Learn more at www.progress.com

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