LiDestri Foods Migrates to OCI, Finds Cost Savings and Stability

The Client

LiDestri Food and Drink is a premier private label and contract manufacturer of food and beverages, producing several million products per day from its headquarters in Rochester, New York and other locations across the United States. For more than 45 years, national brand and retail customers have relied on LiDestri to help them formulate and bring new product ideas to life, expand their production into new geographic areas, and to handle overflow and seasonal production rather than increasing internal capacity.

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>
> — Andrew Finkel
> Oracle Development Manager, LiDestri Foods

The Situation

For several years, LiDestri was utilizing financials, process manufacturing, supply chain, purchasing, warehouse management, inventory management, and order management E-Business Suite (EBS) modules in production, version 12.2, hosted in a private cloud. LiDestri were also running ASCP 12.2 on Oracle Database 19c, as well as SOA 11G on an older version of the database, in multiple environments. In 2022, LiDestri was notified that their private cloud was reaching the end of life, requiring an imminent move to either another private cloud or migrate to a public cloud platform.

According to Andrew Finkel, LiDestri's Oracle Development Manager, the impending closure of their private cloud was the primary catalyst for change, however, the company was hoping to address other concerns, including:

- The existing cloud environment did not offer a true Disaster Recovery (DR) solution. Backups were physically sent to an offsite location, and in the event of DR, the capacity would need to be found and all servers rebuilt.

- Their Mobile Web Applications (MWA) were unstable and needed frequent manual restarts.

- Data-heavy tasks such as year-end reports were taking longer and longer to generate.

The company preferred to do the project in a timely manner with minimal disruptions that wouldn't shut down their production. "We didn't have the stomach for a two-year project, or even a one-year project," Finkel said. They turned to Data Intensity for guidance in finding the best solution to these issues.

About Data Intensity

Data Intensity is an Oracle Strategic MSP partner delivering managed services for the complex lifecycle of Oracle-powered workloads. Offering a complete portfolio under one roof, we provide full-stack, technical, and functional application managed services on any cloud.

Additionally, we maximize and future-proof our clients' Oracle investments through effective license position assessments and cloud-independent migration services. Learn more at www.dataintensity.com.

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The Decision

After mutually agreeing with LiDestri that a 'lift-and-shift' approach of migrating E-Business Suite in its existing state to the cloud was the preferred route, Data Intensity began the engagement with a Total Cost of Transformation Assessment (TCOT). This proprietary tool analyzes a client's workloads, environments, and needs in order to provide an end-to-end perspective of the costs, licensing requirements, insights, architecture needs, and implementation length of a migration to identify the optimal public cloud solution.

Finkel praised the TCOT Discovery. "We talked about our needs and walked through processes in a way we hadn't done since moving to our private cloud years before. We discussed what managed support and Disaster Recovery could look like, and how Data Intensity would support us. It was reassuring to know Data Intensity was considering the project from all sides."

Through the TCOT, Data Intensity provided LiDestri with costs and architecture for both OCI and Azure public clouds, though the benefits of OCI were hard for Finkel and his team to ignore.

The TCOT revealed that migration to OCI offered LiDestri far more effective use of their existing Oracle licenses, a complete Disaster Recovery solution, and crucially, a quick timeline: the entire project could be completed from initial planning to cutover in less than six months.

"The TCOT was very technical and detailed, but packaged in a way that was presentable to our decision-makers," Finkel said. "Senior leadership could easily see the scope of OCI and the benefits of migrating to OCI, making it an easy decision."

The Implementation

Data Intensity created a robust project plan that would allow for the cutover to occur over a long holiday weekend that wouldn't affect LiDestri's production. The lift-and-shift nature of the project meant the focus was primarily on middleware, SOA, and integration testing. Leading up to the cutover week, the team implemented a patch and code freeze, database refresh, and mock cutover – all without incident. Critical key users were available over the cutover weekend for functionality testing.

On the Monday morning following the holiday break, users logged into the same systems with the same credentials and had their typical EBS experience, essentially unaware of the major infrastructure change. "From the user standpoint, the only difference was in the superior performance on OCI," Finkel said. "In general, there was minimal impact, given how large a lift-and-shift we pulled off."

During the planning and implementation, Data Intensity's Licensing Management experts completed a thorough review of LiDestri's licensing situation. Happily, the lower CPU requirements on OCI enabled LiDestri to use existing licenses for DR, eliminating potential additional spend. The team also identified and removed accidentally utilized features of the Oracle Database and middleware programs during migration and were able to verify compliance following the migration.

The Benefits

- **Significant Cost Savings.** From the start, LiDestri realized nearly 25 percent reduction in infrastructure costs from right-sizing their environment by reviewing workload requirements and allocating the right resources.

- **Performance.** LiDestri's Finance team didn't fully appreciate the performance improvements until the first end-of-quarter close following the implementation. "Our internal team raised concerns that the system wasn't working properly, and told us something was wrong with the system, since their reports were completing 50% to 80% faster than expected. In fact, nothing at all was wrong— our EBS was simply functioning much better on OCI than on the old hardware we'd been using," said Finkel.

- **Mobile Web App Stability.** LiDestri's team saw an immediate reduction in issues related to their MWA infrastructure. "This was a benefit we didn't anticipate," said Finkel. "I can't recall the last time we had to manually restart the MWA or dispatcher service."

- **Licensing & Software Asset Management.** Following the cutover, Data Intensity completed a verification of LiDestri's license situation of their EBS environment, and completed ongoing evaluations to ensure compliance through Software Asset Management (SAM) services. "Leveraging Data Intensity as our SAM provider has been a great partnership. Their team is easy to work with, and their expertise surrounding all things Oracle has been a great reassurance."

- **Disaster Recovery.** Finkel is proud the company's previous offsite backup model has been replaced by a true DR solution. "Knock on wood—we've not had to fall back to the DR since we've been live. We conducted a DR smoke test early on after being on OCI, just to make sure it's functioning as intended. It is, but we've not had any outages on the OCI platform and haven't needed it."

- **Tools.** While LiDestri has Data Intensity on its side for managed services and support, Finkel enjoys being able to look at the OCI usage, reports and dashboards. "There are a lot of tools we didn't have on our private cloud— a lot of bells and whistles we're not even using yet. The tools and transparency are excellent."

The Future

Since the migration to OCI, LiDestri has grown even more impressed with the growing capabilities of OCI and is looking forward to the new features and offerings coming to the OCI platform. As they look to migrate their business-driven analytics, they're evaluating the Oracle Integration Cloud offering on OCI as a possible replacement for their middle-tier and B2B solution. "We're eager to watch the evolution of OCI," Finkel said.

The team at LiDestri is just as enthusiastic about their partnership with Data Intensity. "Throughout our 10+ year relationship with Data Intensity, we have seen continual success, as well as expertise in all areas of support," said Finkel. "Even during the migration to OCI, they never skipped a beat and their support never wavered. We're very much looking forward to the future with Data Intensity."