



University of Groningen

Case Study

The University of Groningen chooses to migrate from on-premises Oracle BI environment to secure and flexible cloud platform.

"A cloud migration to Oracle Analytics Cloud completely unburdens us as a customer in the field of technical application management and software upgrades. This concerns the availability of applications for example, but also privacy and security, two very important issues for the University", says Floris Krabbe, BI Teamlead at the University of Groningen (RUG).

From on-premises to the cloud

Broadpin is an IT-consultancy company that offers maximum support in the field of IT infrastructure to their end-clients. This also applies to the RUG. The RUG was looking for a solution to migrate the on-premises BI tools for reporting and dashboards to a cloud variant.

"We were already using Oracle's services and it was time for us to take out new licenses. We wanted to make the move over to the cloud due to management reasons, but also for privacy reasons and better security. The main goal was to implement the latest version of the Oracle software. Staying up-to-date was often very difficult because it required specific knowledge and experience. This brought with it possible security risks. A cloud migration to Oracle Analytics Cloud ensures that software upgrades are automated from Oracle. Also, in case of technical problems you no longer need to have that knowledge inhouse and you can fall back on Oracle and Broadpin," says Floris Krabbe, Teamlead of the BI team of the RUG.

"This link ensures that users have access to the applications in the Cloud."

"We sat down with all parties to discuss the entire process. For example, the architecture: what is the current situation and where does the RUG want to go? But also: what does a transition entail? A migration requires risky work that can result in downtime, so we discussed at length how we could achieve the smoothest transition," says Mark Verhorst, account manager at Broadpin.

Low costs via SURF

Broadpin is the only partner in the Netherlands that can provide cloud services from Oracle through SURF. The migration to the Oracle Cloud via SURF brings the RUG many advantages, such as low costs. Mark Verhorst: "SURF was set up to provide IT services cheaply for universities and colleges. Most universities have a campus licence and can make use of a bring-your-own-licence. That means they can do a migration to a cloud environment for very low cost." "By using Oracle Lift, we can keep those initial migration costs low. From Broadpin, we provide support to keep it going in the right direction. Also, ongoing costs stay low because the license that the university purchased can be reused in the cloud."



Oracle Lift team

The implementation was done by Oracle Lift, a team that helps migrate the workload to the Oracle cloud. This came with some challenges. Floris: "One of the challenges was the link between the different identity stores. This link ensures that users have access to the applications in the cloud. Here it is vital privacy and security must be guaranteed at all times. Making the connection between the cloud environment and the local software was a difficult task, partly because we run very specific software."

"From the Oracle Lift team, tremendous effort was made. The team is in a later time zone but showed great commitment by being available even right up until the end of the evening to help us."

Future-proof cloud environment

This choice has benefited the RUG greatly. Floris: "We now have a reporting environment in the cloud with new features such as graphical representations, new functions and improvements to existing functionalities. We have not yet rolled it out widely in the organization, so we do not yet have feedback from the end user. But it looks extremely promising."

"One of the motivations for universities to move to the cloud is security as cybercrime has picked up tremendously. A platform like Oracle Cloud has numerous built-in security solutions. That means that products are delivered with a lot of security measures as standard. In addition, you have tooling at your disposal that you don't have as standard on-premises. That's why securing your environment on such a cloud platform is much more accessible," says Mark Verhorst.

"Oracle gave support in all possible ways, so I am very pleased with that."

Joint forces

The entire process was supported by Broadpin and the implementation was done by the Oracle Lift team. Floris Krabbe looks back on a hardworking cooperation.

"The contact with Oracle was very pleasant. Oracle gave support in all possible ways, so I am very happy about that." He would like to give other educational institutions the following. "I think it is valuable to also speak with other parties who have gone through or will go through the same process. That gives you insight into what such a migration looks like and where/how you can gain from this. It's valuable to see how other parties do it."



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