"Each new situation requires a new architecture"

Jean Nouvel

Technical Architecture

Since spring 2016, the IT team on the project have been reviewing the best technical architecture on which to implement the new SAP Order to Cash and JDA Warehouse Management systems.

We undertook a project last year to introduce the new SAP HANA architecture which went live in August. This has laid the foundation for a more efficient database for Order to Cash. It will effectively halve the database size, making it less expensive to maintain and quicker to run.

Paul Albeza is the SAP architecture lead on the project. The picture below shows him reviewing the Order to Cash system landscape with Todd Alder, the project's IT Delivery Director.

We have recently purchased a tool to perform SAP system refreshes to update the test systems with new functionality and data. This process normally takes five days to run by a third party, and costs several thousand pounds per refresh. The tool will now allow copies to be performed in house, taking no more than two days to run.

A 'development environment' for SAP Order to Cash was built at the end of last year. This will allow the project team to start building the new Eden solution once the process design has been signed off.

Across the systems, we are also building more than one hundred 'virtual machines'. These are software-based computers that allow a large number of separate IT systems to be held on a single physical machine.

Order to Cash Processes

A series of process design documents for the Order to Cash system were produced during December.

The documents detail the future state business processes and cover a range of subject areas, including Order Processing, Invoicing and Inventory Management.

The finance directors and publishing change partners within the group are reviewing the documents. They have also discussed the proposed design with the Business Process Owners during a programme of playback sessions which will continue in January.

The processes will be signed off by the project steering committee at the end of January.

Construction News

The installation of concrete foundations completed at the end of last year and we are now in a position to start the first building work above ground.

During January, steel uprights will be erected that will form the framework of the new warehouse. A waterproof shell will be built around the frame by the end of February that will then allow internal construction work to take place.

Meet the Project Team

Nick Smith

Business Process Owner, Operations

Nick has worked at Bookpoint for more than twenty years, and has been Operations Manager for the last ten years. He is working with the JDA Warehouse Management system, construction and automation teams to deliver the best possible operational practices for the new warehouse.

Paul Albeza

SAP Architecture Lead

Paul is a technical expert on SAP and has worked on numerous system integrations. He joined Hachette last year and has previously worked as a senior manager at Accenture and as a consultant for KPMG.

Where's Eden?

Since the project started, members of the team have spotted its name in a number of unlikely places.

For example, we have found a leading supplier of water coolers bearing the name Eden.

Please send any pictures of 'Eden' in an unusual location to the project team at peter.quartley@hachette.co.uk.

The best entries will be featured in the next issue!

Coming Soon

The design for the TGW automated picking system is nearing completion and we will share details of the proposed solution in future issues.