Vertex Increases ERP Project Velocity
Streamlines DevOps to improve security and customer satisfaction

Background
Vertex, Inc. is the leading provider of comprehensive, integrated tax technology solutions for corporations worldwide. Through partnerships with leading ERP software providers, Vertex provides a unified TaxPerformance Management platform that combines all the data, tax applications, and analytics needed to manage income, transaction, and other critical tax activities on a global scale.

Challenge
As a global provider of corporate tax solutions, Vertex must maintain an agile back office in order to quickly respond to changing business requirements. Yet the company faced a major challenge updating its ERP systems. Due to the time to create and reset large ERP datasets, Vertex was facing pressure keeping up with steadily increasing internal demands for new features and enhancements.

- Each refresh of an ERP environment took up to 16 hours of manual effort. As a result, Vertex had to limit how frequently they refreshed their environments, which impacted test quality.
- Due to the difficulty of reversing patches, tests would often be run against an inconsistent version of the application, increasing the risk of errors in production. In cases where a test failed, restoring back-ups could take an extended period of time, causing further project delays.
- Project teams were running low on infrastructure capacity, making it difficult to support additional environments and ongoing projects.

Vertex needed a solution that would not only help their IT teams respond faster to changing business requirements, but also enable the company to put more development cycles into its key commercial products, such as Vertex® Indirect Tax O Series® and Vertex® Enterprise.
Solution

Today, Vertex uses Delphix to manage and automatically provision data into its non-production ERP environments. Developers can now access the latest production data on-demand, enabling them to test and release higher-quality code.

Beyond creating production-like datasets for testing, Delphix has also automated the process of backing up and restoring non-production environments, helping development teams work more effectively. For example, development teams can now rewind to any point in time and access snapshots from up to two weeks ago in just minutes.

Results

The implementation of Delphix took just a few weeks and began delivering results immediately thereafter. Partnering with Delphix has allowed Vertex to better support internal users of its ERP software by increasing project velocity, quality, and throughput.

» Vertex reduced the time to provision an entire ERP environment to just 30 minutes.

» With Delphix, Vertex is provisioning three ERP environments in the space of one. That means they can run more databases on the same server without any major impact on performance, enhancing the company’s ability to scale out environments as needed.

» Delphix has far exceeded Vertex’s requirements as a backup solution. The company can now keep track of changes down to the minute by non-disruptively syncing with production, which was not possible before due to limited batch job windows.

Vertex is now looking to expand its usage of Delphix beyond its ERP systems. The company is considering using Delphix to create self-service containers to support internal product development, mask sensitive data that is migrated from a customer site to an internal data center for production support, and virtualize sales demo environments operating in the cloud.

Key Outputs

- Reduced Project Backlog
- Eliminated 15/16 Hours Per Environment Refresh
- Reduced Non-Production Storage by 70%

“We increased the velocity of our internal testing cycles—not only how quickly they went, but also the number we could complete in a defined period of time. As a result, we can introduce new capabilities to our business much faster than we were able to before.”

Chris Kohl, Chief Information Officer Vertex, Inc.