EPISODE 11: DISCOVER THE OPPORTUNITIES IN ORACLE CLOUD
AUDIO TRANSCRIPT

00:00:00 Chen: Hey, everyone. I am Chen from Accenture in the Philippines. Welcome to another episode of Pinays Talk Tech Podcast. The podcast for future forward Filipinas. I will be taking over as the host for Renee and hope you enjoy the next series of conversations that we have.

00:00:20 Chen: So let me introduce myself. I am Chen De Jesus. I'm a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Information Systems from De La Salle University. I've been with Accenture in the Philippines and in the IT industry for almost ten years now, currently working as a project manager. Join us as we have inspiring conversations with Pinays in Tech. From young innovators to industry leaders. This podcast will show you how Pinays in Tech are leading through change. This is Pinays Talk Tech Podcast.

00:00:53 VO: Brought to you by Accenture.

00:00:57 Chen: Oracle does not only build solutions, but also optimizes operations. Today, we will learn about the Oracle space and how it reshapes the future of businesses and tech. Let's welcome Paula Joya, an Oracle cloud consultant. She thrives for impact at scale.

00:01:17 Chen: Hi, Paula, welcome to the show. How are you doing so far?

00:01:20 Paula: Hi Chen, I'm doing great. It's nice to finally meet you. I have my coffee, my water and everything I need to get going through today.

00:01:29 Chen: That's good. This is a very interesting session, right? So can you share with our listeners what it is that you do in this field?

00:01:38 Paula: All right. I am Paula Joya, first and foremost. I am an Oracle Cloud consultant here at Accenture in the Philippines and I specialize in Human Capital Management or HCM, as we call it. So currently, I focus in human resource functions such as recruiting, onboarding and talent management areas of cloud system implementation. So Accenture has actually given me vast opportunities to work with clients globally, helping them achieve this move from their previous systems or a lack thereof of a system to Oracle Cloud by on a very high level, walking through a journey with them. So on the day to day, this goes from understanding their unique processes and requirements to translating them into

what the Oracle Cloud can do. I solution a lot of these issues through knowledge and expertise, build and develop the system continuously, and of course, help the clients navigate through this transformation as well.

00:02:52 Chen: Well, that's really interesting, especially for those of our listeners who's not that familiar with Oracle and what it does in the IT industry. So for those listening and are not familiar with the Intelligent Platform Services, or what we call IPS here in Accenture, can you tell us what it is about in simpler terms?

00:03:16 Paula: In this day and age, there are many powerful technologies or platforms like Oracle, SAP, Microsoft, Salesforce, and many others. So a company can leverage these platforms to drive more value for their business. Accenture helps clients achieve this value through what we call the IPS, as you've mentioned, or the Intelligent Platform Services. It brings in a combination of expertise and accelerators. So Accenture IPS actually has recently expanded its mission and is now called the Enterprise and Industry Technologies, or E & IT. But essentially, in this case, we can think of IPS as the bigger umbrella, and Oracle Cloud would be one of the offerings under that umbrella.

00:04:11 Chen: Yeah, that's right. So IPS, which is now E & IT, it's a big family of technologies and Oracle is one of them. So how long have you been working in the Tech or the Oracle space?

00:04:26 Paula: I'm approaching three years in the Oracle space. Coming from a non tech degree, a lot of things are very new to me, and the top of mind – Chen, would be the

never ending list of acronyms and buzzwords I did not know about. So just in a few questions you've asked me previously. You know, there's IPS-Intelligent Platform Services. There's HCM-Human Capital Management. There's also OCI, for example, Oracle Cloud Infrastructure. So I can definitely say this field is loaded with acronyms.

00:05:03 Chen: Super loaded. I totally agree with you.

00:05:05 Paula: Yeah. But on a more serious note, what I enjoy about this work is that it exposes me to a network of colleagues coming from different countries and even career background.

00:05:19 Chen: Yes, that's right. And that's good to hear. Right? Because it's really a diverse industry that we are part of. You mentioned that you were on your third year in the IT industry and that you came from a non-tech background. So what made you stay for this long in your career?

00:05:40 Paula: Three years, right? I don't consider my Oracle career long yet, but it's worth noting that I've grown to love being in Tech. Because as working in Technology is admittedly fast paced, the advantage for me is the continuous knowledge and improvements that I get. I, myself, didn't realize, fully realized, how much new info my brain could process. As things are ever updating in this space, there's truly something new to be learned every single day. Also, I consider myself a young innovator, so I'm glad to have great mentors, including such inspiring Filipinas to look up to here in Accenture.

00:06:25 Chen: My next question for you is, is this the career that you envisioned yourself in? And what got you to this track of tech?

00:06:36 Paula: I took industrial engineering back in college, and the tech part wasn't really the meat of what was emphasized back then, but the practical applications of effective and efficient systems are still very useful to me in my work now. I know I had one programming class and just one, and for that reason, I never envisioned myself in this field because I had a very limited view of what the careers were here. I probably did think that I had to be a hard core programmer to be in tech. But in college, I started realizing how extensive and important the role technology plays in today's society through my internships and projects. So I wanted to explore every single thing in college. I took every chance I got. And I noticed that in any internship or project that I would take, it would always end up being related to tech, whether it was a supply chain process that I optimized or HR repetitive tasks that I ended up automating for myself and even getting the opportunity to gather and map out requirements for the healthcare process in response to the outbreak of COVID. So all of those experiences led me to think, "Wow, technology is really that wide and that relevant in today's society." So at the near end of my college life, I took the leap of faith and applied to be a management trainee under the Accenture Innovation Leaders program. Probably submitted my resume in a career fair. And luckily, after the business cases, interviews, I finally got in.

00:08:25 Chen: Congratulations. That's really good, right? That you immersed yourself into different activities back in college.

So you really started that early to realize that, hey, tech really encompasses all the aspects of our society, and that's good.

00:08:44 Paula: Exactly.

00:08:45 Chen: So how is Accenture and Oracle related? Because I know for a fact that we have listeners who are confused because Accenture is one company and Oracle is another one. So how are they related?

00:08:59 Paula: So, as I mentioned earlier, Oracle is just one of the many intelligent platforms we are partnered with. Oracle specifically is one of the world's largest software companies. So, Accenture has a deep partnership with this company, with Oracle. We were the first to achieve the highest level status, global elite status in the Oracle partner network. And essentially, the Accenture IPS brings together three things to create value for our clients. First is the platform partnership with Oracle as I've mentioned. In addition to that, we have extensive industry knowledge and experience to complement that partnership. And last but not the least, we have advanced assets and differentiators here at Accenture to help transform the client's complex business at speed and at scale.

00:10:07 Chen: Right. So you mentioned earlier that Oracle really helps businesses. So how can the Oracle technology be applied or used in different industries so they can relate to it?

00:10:22 Paula: I want to start with what Oracle actually mentioned of themselves. So Oracle Cloud, as Oracle themselves put it on their website, is a comprehensive and fully integrated cloud application and infrastructure. So what this means, quite simply, for our listeners who are a little bit overwhelmed by that heavy statement, is that a company can have the Oracle Cloud System at their all in

listeners who are a little bit overwhelmed by that heavy statement, is that a company can have the Oracle Cloud System at their all in one, pay as you go, pay as needed app that they can use to do a wide range of their business functions and operations, such as those in human resource, for example, or finance, supply chain and so on.

00:11:08 Paula: So to make it more relatable, Chen, for example, in the Oracle HTM cloud offering, the human resource offering of Oracle Cloud. The most relatable use case I can think of is the employees perspective. So as an employee, I'm able to log into the system and I can do my day to day tasks and HR related transactions easily like accomplishing my onboarding task if I'm a new hire. I can also add an absence, maybe a vacation I'm planning for next month and get approval for that on the system as well. I can update my personal details, view my payslip, update my goals for the upcoming performance review, all in the same system. So of course, other than the employees perspective, there are a lot of different key players or people who do transactions in the system like the recruiter, the candidate for a job, the manager, the HR specialist, and so on. So that's actually just within the HR space.

00:12:20 Paula: And there's so much more expanding this concept into other functions and other personas like in procurement, in financials, in sales, in database administration and all those others. So you can imagine the wide extent of transactions that you can do in Oracle Cloud. And what's great about it is the security and how integrated each function is with each other in a single app that you can use.

00:12:50 Chen: Yes, you said it right. So it can be implemented in different industries, different applications. So I think, just to put it simpler, it works in the background, it enables the businesses to work and really implement their processes. Moving on, what are the different career paths that you take under Oracle?

00:13:16 Paula: There are plenty. Let me roll up my sleeves for this one, Chen. This is where my rotations come in. First, at the very start when clients come to us to Accenture looking to implement Oracle Cloud, we plan and solution what they need or what they request for. So if you're interested or highly knowledgeable in technology planning or solution architecture, maybe that's the role for you. Second, you can actually do the delivery of that project plan as a functional consultant. If you're geared like myself towards processes, or have been the end user of the platforms such as Oracle, or you're knowledgeable in a specific business function, all of which I've mentioned previously, this role confirms the requirements, facilitates design sessions, and a functional developer is usually a subject matter expert or another acronym, SME that we call it on Oracle capabilities and configuration.

00:14:27 Paula: Third, on the more technical side of things, you can be a technical consultant or developer. So if you love innovating through analytics and reporting, integration, data migration, or even technical skills like SQL, Java, maybe this is something for you as well. So those are just some of the many paths and opportunities you can take under Oracle. You can even be a combination of all these roles, like a techno functional person, whether you are a fresh grad, career shifter or decent Oracle practitioner,

if you're interested, definitely join us in Oracle IPS. But what's great about it is that you can take charge of your career, keep learning and create your own story to tell here at Accenture.

00:15:13 Chen: Yes, that's good to hear because, of course, in the Oracle space alone, you can experience a lot of roles already. So what more, if of course, the whole of technology and I know for a fact that if we will deep dive on all the aspects, the application, implementation of Oracle, oh, my gosh, it will take a lot of time. We won't have enough time to cover for it, right?

00:15:42 Paula: Yes, exactly.

00:15:44 Chen: Yes. So I'd like to go back to your statement earlier that you took up a non-IT course. I know a lot of our listeners, they might be college students right now who are also graduating. So what would you say is the fast formula for coding?

00:16:04 Paula: I don't believe there's an instant way to learning how to code--

00:16:07 Chen: Right. I agree.

00:16:10 Paula: But there are a lot, especially nowadays, there are a lot of training programs, and even here at Accenture, it's provided for us --the trainings. And the tip I can give from experience is to practice, practice, practice, and have patience with yourself. Even though I don't code every single day, some of the work that I do in the Oracle Cloud does entail writing formulas. And as you've mentioned, that term fast formulas, and this is from Oracle themselves again as well. I would need this to write formulas for automating eligibility rules, custom calculations and the like. So you can imagine what a challenge this is for me.

00:16:54 Paula: But luckily for me, there's this concept of Oracle fast formulas and from docs.oracle.com they've mentioned, and it's a simple way to put it is this formula uses English words and basic mathematical functions, and you can use information from your database in formulas without learning the database structure or a programming language. So, it still just needs a little familiarity and creative thinking. But take it from me, anyone can learn and make use of the innovations in coding. So being an Accenture helped me push through what I thought my limitations were. And I would recommend learning how to code even if you are not a programmer or you are not currently working in the tech industry, it will expand your capabilities and help you innovate and make your ideas come to life.

00:17:46 Chen: Yes, I agree. It's really a lot of practice, and Google will be your best friend and learning how to code, because I, myself, back then, I'm not really a programmer. I'm really scared to take on my role in the IT industry when I was starting back then. Since I don't know how to program, I'm not good at it. I know some of its aspects and theories. Programming itself, it's really scary for me. But when I joined Accenture, they really trained us. There's a lot of training and materials that we can utilize and optimize for us to really learn and improve our skills. I'm not going to say I am really a good programmer right now, but I learned and it's really good because that's going to be your starting point. So hear it from us. We don't know at first, but you'll definitely get the hang of it.

00:18:45 Paula: Yeah.

00:18:46 Chen: All right. Thank you so much for your time. Paula. I'm sure our listeners are inspired by your journey and more aware of this field.

So what do you want to say to our Filipino listeners who want to lead and be part of different fields of technology today?

00:19:02 Paula: You are most welcome, Chen, and I had a great time. And to all our Filipina future Tech leaders out there, I'd like to pass on a piece of advice that one of my mentors gave me early on as well. Never underestimate the value you bring. Most often, Filipinos battle with an internal struggle, whether it's from being a woman or being young or culturally, from general Filipino extreme humbleness, "Wala lang ito," or, "Maliit na bagay," "Small thing." But it is essential to remind ourselves not to downplay our contributions all the time. So, if there's one thing I'm reminding you of now, again, never underestimate the value you bring.

00:19:48 Chen: Yes, that's really important. I've learned that the hard way in this industry. So make sure that you know what you bring to the table because definitely, on a day to day basis, there is something that you can bring to the table. So thank you again, Paula. It's nice to hear from you. I know that there will be listeners who will be more interested. So thank you again for spending your afternoon with us.

00:20:15 Paula: Thank you, Chen.

00:20:17 Chen: What a great episode of Tech Talk today. Until the next episode, see you.

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the future, but this is, I think, such a great entry to what does it take to be part of developing the Metaverse? Because I really feel like whenever people think about Metaverse, it's, ooh, these, you know, very difficult technology and yet you are here, you are helping develop the Metaverse because I think you're right, the Metaverse is not gonna work if the experience inside is not great. So I love that this is our entry to understanding what it takes to make the Metaverse work.

[00:21:20] Marya: To those who want to explore careers related to the metaverse and tech is keep motivating and continue challenging yourself to explore and start or learn something new. In today's world of constantly changing skills, learning is essential, very essential. So you have to start somewhere. It's hard because it's new. You just have to keep doing it. That way it becomes easier, constantly practicing, constantly growing.

[00:21:46] Renee: I love that. Thank you so much, Marya, and I think that's words to live by for all our listeners. Thank you so much for joining us today.

[00:21:55] Marya: Again, thank you so much, Renee, and I really enjoyed our conversation.

[00:22:04] VO: Thank you for listening to Pinays Talk Tech Podcast brought to you by Accenture. Don't forget to hit subscribe on all major podcast platforms.