

# Kansas State University Migrates PeopleSoft Production HR System to AWS in Under 48 Hours

## Client Overview

Kansas State University (K-State), a public research university located in Manhattan, Kansas, is home to 24,000 students and 4,500 faculty and staff. K-State opened in 1863 as the nation's first operational land grant university and was the first public institution of higher learning in the state of Kansas. For more than 150 years, K-State has taught agriculture, science, military science, and engineering to any interested student, as well as sought to better the lives of others through research and service.

On May 22, 2018, a three-alarm fire broke out on the roof of K-State's Hale Library that resulted in extensive water and smoke damage. K-State's datacenter, located in the basement of Hale Library, was significantly impacted by the event. After the fire was extinguished, all power was shut off and remained off for months; however, when the library building's backup generator was turned on a week later, K-State quickly began restoring vital communications and connectivity.

## Challenges

K-State had only a few days to meet an upcoming deadline that required the PeopleSoft HR system to be operational for payroll processing and transmission to the State of Kansas. Faced with the daunting task of recovering multiple systems and resolving the impact to infrastructure components, K-State engaged Sierra-Cedar to assist with recovery efforts. Several architecture, infrastructure, security, and PeopleSoft application- and database-specific aspects also had to be addressed within a short timeframe, as per industry-leading practices.

## Solutions

Sierra-Cedar worked with K-State staff over the Memorial Day weekend to migrate K-State's Production HR system to AWS. Sierra-Cedar built the recovery plan by mapping available backup resources, target architecture, and automation. Sierra-Cedar used proprietary automation tools to help with password encryption and PeopleSoft domain customizations. The team also employed AWS tools, Oracle's PeopleSoft Deployment Package Kit, and security-leading practices such as managing ingress and egress rules for security groups, encrypted OS volumes, and IAM groups and policies.

## Key Project Highlights

- Migrated PeopleSoft HR Production environment to AWS
- Established security-aware architecture
- Helped improve batch processing and OLTP performance



## From the Client

*Sierra-Cedar was instrumental in assisting K-State with restoring our production HR System and migrating the system to AWS, allowing us to meet our immediate payroll deadline. They have also assisted us in staging other ERP systems for DR/BC capability in the future."*

**Gary L. Pratt**

Chief Information Officer  
Kansas State University

## Organization Overview

Industry: Higher Education  
Location: Manhattan, KS

## Products & Services

Amazon Web Services  
PeopleSoft HCM



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