Royal Cyber Technical White Paper

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Migration to WebSphere Commerce Aurora Starter Store

Minimize customization with Aurora Starter Store

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Executive Summary

This white paper is about the migration process of IBM WebSphere Commerce starter stores of lower version or feature pack to the latest IBM WebSphere Commerce V8 Aurora Starter store. This paper discusses the migration challenges and the importance of migration from the older version.

The Aurora starter store in V8 offers an extensive set of site-level, category-level, and product-level features and simplifies the responsive B2C or B2B direct web store implementation.

The intended audience for this paper is the WebSphere Commerce Consultants, and the entire discussion and suggestions illustrated herein are meant to assist them, as they participate in the migration process.

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1. WebSphere Commerce Aurora Starter Store

The Aurora starter store exhibits the latest in storefront features and models best practices in store development. The new starter store has removed the complexities and simplified the responsive B2C or B2B direct web store implementation. Significant reduction will be witnessed with the time-to-market by using the Aurora starter store as your development base.
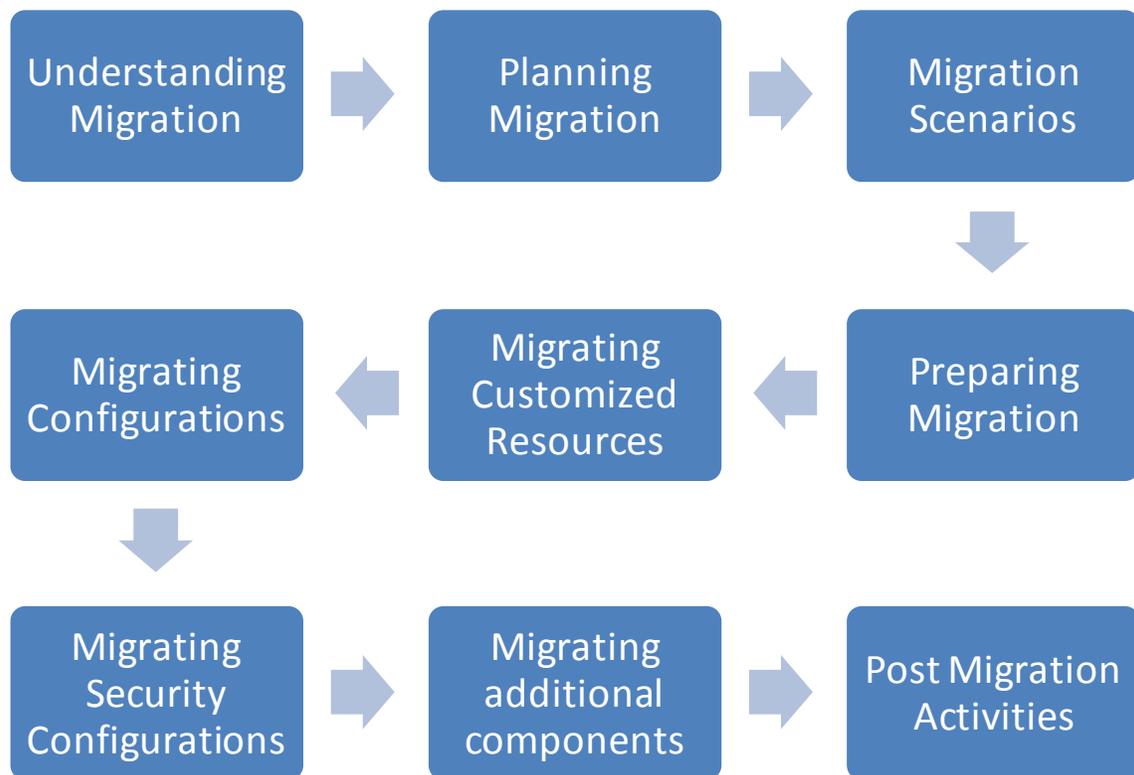
2. Why Migrate to Aurora Starter Store

There are many reasons to migrate to WebSphere Commerce 8 Aurora Starter Store. Most important of them being the below –

- End of support for old versions
- Aurora starter store demonstrates the latest technologies for store development with the below key abilities
  - Ability to define store functions as self-contained widgets
  - Ability to combine Ajax and Dojo widgets to build a store page layout
  - Easier styling and customization of the site
- The Aurora starter store offers an extensive set of site-level, category-level, and product-level features
  - Using site-level features, you can customize the look and feel of your storefront. Site level features can be seen from multiple pages in your store.
  - Category-level features help customers to browse categories, search the catalog, and filter product listings to find the right product.
  - Product-level features showcase details about a specific product in your store.
- The Aurora starter store offers a range of features that are specifically designed to meet the needs of B2B buyers and administrators. These features provide an impulsive storefront experience that improves catalog browsing, simplifies buyer administration tasks and supports efficient order preparation.
- Buyer centric marketing - A strategy that places the individual customer at the center of marketing design and delivery.

- Contract base prices - Contract-based pricing (for B2B direct only)

- Custom catalogs - Support for swatches for attributes, such as color and size.

- Cross and up-sell functionality

- Promotions

- Rich and interactive buyer experience

- Product fast finder

- Product filter base on price & brand

- Checkout process - Support for guest and registered checkout

- Search engine optimization

- Multi language support

3. WebSphere Commerce Migration Approach

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┌──────────────┐      ┌──────────────┐      ┌──────────────┐
│Understanding │ ───▶ │   Planning   │ ───▶ │  Migration   │
│  Migration   │      │  Migration   │      │  Scenarios   │
└──────────────┘      └──────────────┘      └──────────────┘
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┌──────────────┐      ┌──────────────┐      ┌──────────────┐
│  Migrating   │ ◀─── │  Migrating   │ ◀─── │  Preparing   │
│Configurations│      │  Customized  │      │  Migration   │
│              │      │  Resources   │      │              │
└──────────────┘      └──────────────┘      └──────────────┘
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┌──────────────┐      ┌──────────────┐      ┌──────────────┐
│  Migrating   │ ───▶ │  Migrating   │ ───▶ │Post Migration│
│   Security   │      │  additional  │      │  Activities  │
│Configurations│      │  components  │      │              │
└──────────────┘      └──────────────┘      └──────────────┘
```

1. Move your existing storefront asset store to the Aurora storefront asset store.

a. Publish the store archive that contains the Aurora storefront asset store. The store archive varies depending on your feature pack level:

- Publish the Aurora.sar store archive. In the store publish wizard, select "**Publish an asset store for use in the extended sites business model**".

b. Move all custom changes to the Aurora storefront asset store. The approach to this step depends on the amount of customization that is done to your original asset store. It could be easier to implement these changes again rather than migrate changes from your previous asset store.

c. Optional: To test, publish a new extended site store to see that it functions properly.

d. Change existing extended sites stores to point to the new Aurora storefront asset store by modifying the **STOREREL** table.

e. Populate your extended site stores with all the store functions that storefront asset store has. The store function settings are stored in the **EMSPOT** and **DMEMSPOTDEF** tables in rows in which the USAGETYPE value is either STOREFEATURE or STOREFILEREF.

   i. To get a list of all the store function entries in these two tables for your new storefront asset store, run these two SQL statements:

   ```
   select * from emspot where usagetype in ('STOREFEATURE','STOREFILEREF') and storeent_id=storeent_id;

   select * from dmemspotdef where emspot_id in (select emspot_id from emspot where usagetype in ('STOREFEATURE','STOREFILEREF') and storeent_id=storeent_id);
   ```

   ii. Create equivalent entries in the EMSPOT and DMEMSPOTDEF tables for your extended site stores. You must have all the same entries for extended site stores. Consider by using the Data Load utility to create the entries.

f. Change the access controls for each extended site store that is being moved over.

   . Log in to Organization Administration Console.

   i. Select the organization that owns the current extended site store you want to switch over, then click **Policy Subscription**.

   ii. Remove the old storefront asset store policy group.

        iii.   Add the new Aurora storefront asset store policy group.

        iv.   Click **OK**.

2. The Aurora starter store makes it necessary that the search solution features be properly configured to function. Therefore, you must set up a search, and build the search index.

4. WebSphere Commerce Migration Challenges

E-Commerce migration comes with its share of challenges, even for experienced teams.

This is your Technical Migration, i.e. the Physical move of Content and "Bits"
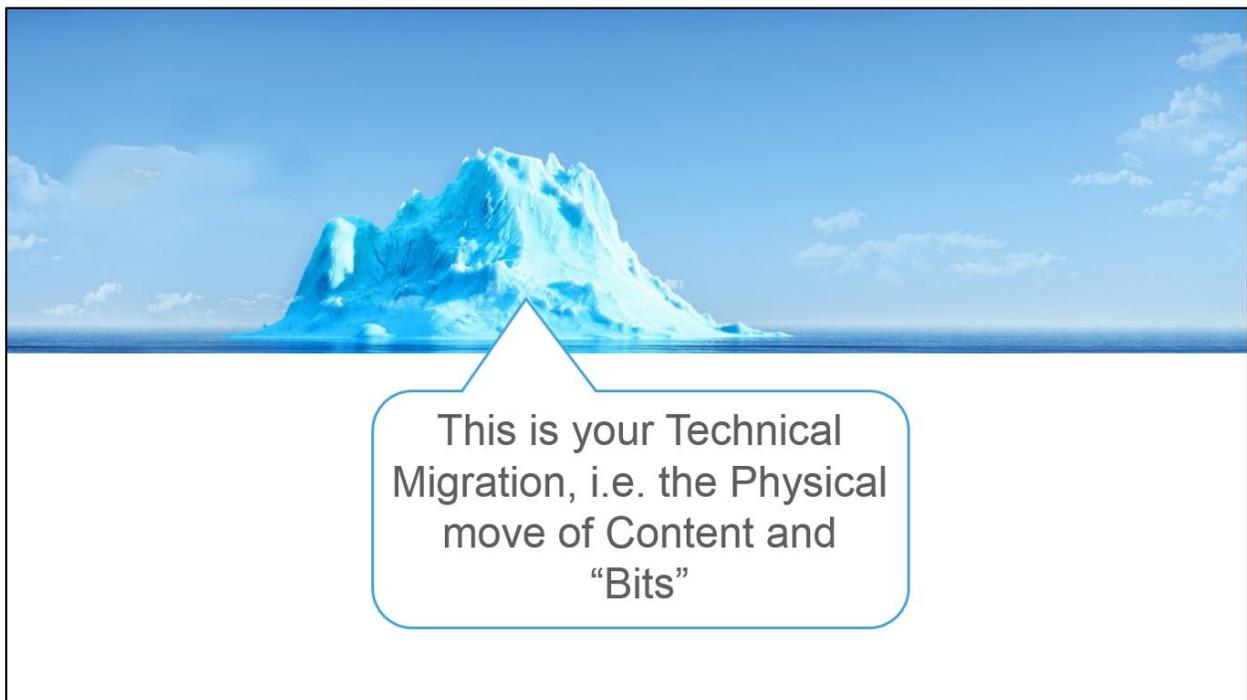
No matter how great and destructive your problems may seem now, remember, you've probably only seen the tip of them. **It is like an iceberg**, at first glance the surfaced iceberg looks rather small but underneath it's huge and overwhelming.

The move of content physically may look like a major challenge in migration and apparently, it makes sense but the bulk of migration activities include proper planning, Reorganization and transformation of your existing eCommerce environment.

This is the bulk of your Migration – the Planning, Reorganization, and Transformation of your existing Ecommerce Environment

Long term planning is one of the most important steps of a migration and it needs to happen before the project starts. It is critical to make sure that your server configuration is prepared to handle the new software and perform appropriate testing.

One of the biggest challenges for any team is the migration to a new hardware platform for the WebSphere Commerce software stack. There are various options available for hosting the WebSphere Commerce software such as

- IBM i platform
- Windows platform
- Linux/AIX platform

It is inevitable to face significant challenges when moving from the IBM i platform to the AIX platform. The team needs to migrate the software, the data, and the custom code from one hardware stack to a new hardware stack. This requires the synchronization of two web servers, two app servers and two databases which is not a small feat to achieve correctly and on time.

The hardware migration changes the maintenance processes for IBM WebSphere Commerce, and also need a different technical skillset for the team supporting the eCommerce site.

5. Conclusion

IBM WebSphere Commerce Aurora starter store demonstrates the latest technologies for store development and reduces time-to-market by using the Aurora starter store as your development base.

Royal Cyber has the foresight needed to see what the challenges are in IBM Watson Commerce (Formerly IBM WebSphere Commerce) migration. Our team has vast experience to see the big picture and act accordingly to avoid pitfalls that are not visible.