

An Overview of Oracle Support for the Linux Operating System

By Darrick Addison

Editor's Note: Should you run your Oracle environment on a Linux platform? Regular ORAtips contributor, Darrick Addison, answers that question with: "Oracle on Linux allows customers to consolidate on standards-based software stacks running on lower cost hardware, reducing IT costs." In short Oracle and Linux are good business partners, and together make good sense for your enterprise, development, and business needs.

Overview

Oracle Corporation is fully committed to supporting the Linux operating system. In fact, Oracle was the first commercial database available on Linux. By supporting Linux with Oracle's industry leading products, Oracle is enabling customers to deploy enterprise-class solutions on the lowest cost hardware and operating system infrastructure. Oracle believes that Linux is more attractive today than it ever was, as customers are looking for open, cost-effective solutions.

Introduction

Over the past few years Oracle and its customers have learned a tremendous amount about running Oracle on Linux for enterprise class deployments.

Combining this knowledge with the opportunity to drastically reduce IT infrastructure costs has provided the catalyst for Oracle to move to the next step, which is to provide Oracle customers with seamless and complete technical support for the Linux operating system in addition to support for the Oracle stack.

Oracle's delivery of a complete solution including direct technical support of the operating system is critical to their customer's success. With technical contributions to enhance Linux, with code-level support of the key Linux operating systems, and with strategic partnerships, Oracle is offering an unbreakable Linux platform for customers to safely deploy Linux in a mission critical environment.

Oracle is offering an unbreakable Linux platform.

Advantages of Oracle on Linux

Many of Oracle's customers deploy Linux in their mission-critical environments. Why?

- Oracle on Linux allows customers to consolidate on standards-based software stacks running on lower cost hardware, reducing IT costs.

- Oracle offers seamless support for the entire software stack on Linux, including the operating system.
- All Oracle products are available on Linux, and multiple industry-leading benchmarks demonstrate world-record performance and scalability with Oracle running on Linux.
- Oracle makes technical contributions to enhance the Linux kernel.
- Lastly, Oracle on Linux offers an opportunity to modernize and automate the customer's data center, while at the same time lowering IT costs.

Key Oracle Products Available for Linux

All key Oracle products including Oracle Database 10g with Real Application Clusters (RAC), Oracle Application Server 10g, Oracle Collaboration Suite, Oracle Developer Suite 10g, and Oracle E-Business Suite (EBS) are available for Linux.

Additionally, Oracle Database 10g options are available on Linux. Oracle Database on Linux is the same product as on Windows, UNIX, and any other platform on which Oracle Database is available. Oracle has been working with strategic partners such as Red Hat and Novell to make further enhancements to the Linux kernel to support enterprise class functionality and enable the Linux operating system to effectively run mission critical applications.

Linux Distributions Supported by Oracle

Oracle does not want to support fragmentation in the Linux operating system market. There are an indeterminate number of Linux distributions in the market.

Customers have consistently asked for stability, better performance, and reliability of the Linux platform as well as enterprise-class support. Oracle cannot be effective in servicing customers if they attempt to support a large number of different Linux distributions.

The following distributions are certified and supported by Oracle:

- Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS
- ES SUSE LINUX Enterprise Server
- Asianux 1.0

The products supported by Oracle, as part of Asianux, include:

- Red Flag DC 4.1; AME Info URL: www.ameinfo.com/52260.html
- Miracle Linux 3.0 Asianux Inside

Oracle provides unbreakable support in APAC.

Oracle and UnitedLinux

Oracle will continue to provide customer support for UnitedLinux 1.0, throughout its life cycle, on all the existing Oracle products that are already supported on UnitedLinux. The products supported by Oracle, as part of UnitedLinux, include:

- Conectiva Linux Enterprise Edition powered by UnitedLinux
- SUSE LINUX Enterprise Server 8 powered by UnitedLinux

- TurboLinux Enterprise Server 8 powered by UnitedLinux

The following Oracle products are certified with UnitedLinux 1.0:

- Oracle9i Database (9.2.0.4)
- Oracle Collaboration Suite (9.0.4.1)
- Oracle Application Server 10g (9.0.4)
- E-Business Suite 11.5.9
- Oracle Developer Suite 10g
- SUSE LINUX Enterprise Server 8.

Oracle does not have its own distribution of Linux. Oracle has determined that collaborating with partners such as Red Hat and Novell is the best way to create a stable and supportable enterprise class Linux distribution. Oracle is committed to working with the Linux community to enhance the Linux kernel. The company works with the partners and the Linux community to add new functionality to the kernel that is important to run mission-critical applications.

Oracle does not want to support fragmentation in the Linux operating system market.

Oracle Enhancements and Linux Technology

Oracle works with the key Linux distributors to test and optimize the OS to effectively handle mission critical applications. For example, Oracle has collaborated with Red Hat and Novell to create a core set of enhancements in the areas of performance, reliability, clustering, and manageability in order to enable Linux to support Oracle customers' enterprise-class deployments.

These efforts have been integrated into Red Hat's enterprise distribution called Red Hat Enterprise Linux, as well as into Novell's SUSE LINUX Enterprise Server. Oracle believes that their work with Red Hat and Novell to enhance the Linux kernel benefits all Linux distributions. In addition, Oracle is actively supporting the Linux open source community by contributing source code for products like Oracle Cluster File System, to drive development of the Linux operating system.

Oracle and Linux: Misconceptions

Linux is a free operating system and hence people expect Oracle on Linux to also be free as well. However, this is not necessarily the case. If you need something that is free of charge, consider the following options:

- A free trial version of Oracle for Linux (the commercial version) can be downloaded from the Oracle Technology Network (OTN) Web site. Please go to www.technet.oracle.com for details.
- Download Oracle Express Edition (XE). XE is a freebie, downloadable version of the Oracle database server that can be used on single processor machines. It can only manage up to 4 GB of data and 1 GB of memory.

Oracle Technical Support

Oracle provides direct support to its customers for Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS/ES, Novell's SUSE LINUX Enterprise Server (SLES), UnitedLinux, and Asianux.

Oracle, working closely with Red Hat, Novell, Red Flag, and Miracle Linux, is providing support for the entire software stack including the operating system. As a result, Oracle customers who have deployed on the Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS/ES, SUSE Linux Enterprise Server, or UnitedLinux, are seeing improved response and faster resolution for critical issues. A single support organization ensures the highest level of support and availability to joint Oracle and Linux customers.

Any customer running Oracle products on Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS/ES, SUSE SLES, UnitedLinux, or Asianux should turn to Oracle for support if they have an issue that prevents the smooth operation of their Oracle implementation. Oracle will diagnose the issue and work with the OS partner for those cases where the operating system is suspected of causing the issue. For those issues of a critical nature (P1), Oracle will provide a fix to the customer regardless of the source of the issue: Oracle product, Red Hat, SUSE UnitedLinux, or Asianux product.

For additional support issues, Oracle will collaborate with the OS partner so the customer issue can be resolved jointly. In order to receive support from Oracle for Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS/ES, the Oracle customer must maintain Standard or Premium support contracts with Red Hat. In order to receive support from Oracle for Novell or UnitedLinux operating system, the Oracle customer must maintain a support contract with Novell or with one of the other two UnitedLinux founding

member companies (Conectiva and TurboLinux).

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Linux Development on Oracle

With Oracle8i, Oracle was the first database to support Linux. In 2003, Linux Journal voted Oracle9i Database as the best database on Linux in the Editor's Choice Award. The journal noted that developers "can't ignore Oracle's sheer performance." The same enterprise class Oracle products with proven track records are available for Linux. Oracle con-

tinues to attract Linux developers with database technology innovations that are highly available, with scalable clustering technology. To date, more than 1.4 million copies of Oracle products for Linux have been downloaded from the Oracle Technology Network. Why would developers not develop their applications using Oracle software? Developers can download Oracle and Linux software from Oracle's Linux Developer Center.

Oracle Corporation Uses Linux


In an effort to streamline and lower the cost of their operations, Oracle Corporation has deployed Linux in various ways to make their infrastructure more efficient and less expensive. Oracle's internal IT organization has analyzed and found that Linux based systems are one of the most cost effective ways to reduce costs for IT infrastructure. Oracle has a large number of Linux based pilots and operational systems in use today. In fact, all of Oracle's recently deployed and new outsourcing business runs on Linux. The company runs their Application Demo Systems and Technology Demo Systems, which consist of several hundred servers, on Linux.

These systems are utilized by Oracle's worldwide sales organization to provide Oracle E-Business Suite and Oracle Database with RAC demonstrations to their customers and prospects. In addition, several of Oracle's Global IT systems are now running on Linux. In October 2003, over 5,000 Oracle developers migrated over to use Linux as the platform on which to build their Oracle E-Business Suite product.

Conclusion

Oracle Corporation is fully committed to supporting and enabling Linux in enterprise data centers. Oracle solutions on Linux enable customers to benefit from high per-

formance, complete reliability, and data security realized on proprietary platforms, but at a fraction of the cost. Only Oracle makes Linux unbreakable by providing support for the Linux OS, making technical contributions to the Linux kernel, and forging strategic partnerships, thereby enabling customers to deploy their mission-critical transactional and decision support applications on low-cost Linux servers.

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