


IAITAM ACE 2025


ITAM - Another Brick In The Wall

Oracle Database Licensing Demystified

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1



MELISSA CORTALE
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- Leading Oracle License Expert – A frequent speaker on Oracle licensing at industry conferences and trade shows across the country and globe such as IATAM ACE Conferences.
- Ms. Cortale has been working with Oracle licensing for 15 years, starting out as a Technology Sales Manager in the NY metro region where she won numerous top sales awards at Oracle.
- Noticing a gap in the market for Oracle License knowledge, Ms. Cortale joined the world of Software Asset Management in 2013 with a focus to help clients find savings, reduce risk, and optimize investments with Oracle.
- Negotiated 400+ Oracle transactions and saved over \$100 million dollars for clients across the country and globe in the commercial and government sectors.




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2

Why care about the Oracle Database?




The Oracle Database is EXPENSIVE!





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3



Named User Definition


Named User Plus / Named User is defined as an individual authorized by you to use the programs which are installed on a single server or multiple servers, regardless of whether the individual is actively using the programs at any given time.


If non-human operated devices and human-operated devices are sending data to or receiving data from the Oracle Database, then all non-human operated devices and all human operated devices need to be licensed.

- If non-human operated devices such as sensors are sending data to or receiving data from the Oracle Database, then all devices need to be licensed.
- If human-operated devices such as bar code scanners are sending data to or receiving data from the Oracle Database, then all humans operating these devices need to be licensed.

If multiplexing hardware or software (e.g., a TP monitor or a web server product) is used, this number must be measured at the multiplexing front end.


Automated batching of data from computer to computer is permitted





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10



Calculating Named Users

Named User Minimums are calculated by multiplying the number of Oracle Processors by the minimum amount of Named Users for that particular product (Database Minimum = 25 NUP).


❖ Note: You must license whichever is greater: Actual Number of Users OR the Named User Minimums.


Example: Calculate the Minimum Named Users Plus required for 4 Oracle Processors of Database EE. (25 NUP Minimum per Processor for Database)

Answer:
Oracle Processors = 4
Named User Minimum = Oracle Processors * Named User Minimums for DBEE
Named Users Minimum = 4 * 25 = 100 NUP

This server can be licensed via the following options


- A. 4 Oracle Processors
- B. 100 Named User Plus - Minimum
- C. The actual amount of users accessing the DB (if greater than 100)





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11




Example: Named User Calculations


Example : Calculate the Minimum Named Users Plus required for 10 Oracle Processors of Oracle RAC (25 NUP Minimum per Processor for Database)

Answer:
Oracle Processors = 10
Named User Minimum = Oracle Processors * Named User Minimums for RAC
Named Users Minimum = 10 * 25 = 250 NUP

This server can be licensed via the following options

- A. 10 Oracle Processors
- B. 250 Named User Plus - Minimum
- C. Actual amount of users accessing the DB (if higher than 250)





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12

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Database Options - Strategies

- Database Administrators should closely monitor their Oracle database usage to ensure they are only using the features and functionality in which they have licenses.
- This monitoring should become part of standard DBA process and any new DBA's coming into the organization should be aware of license constraints.
- Database Administrators should look into disabling management packs in which they know they do not have entitlements to further prevent inadvertent usage.
- Each organization should perform an annual check of their Oracle Database Options usage either internally or bringing in an external firm to do a 3rd party compliance check. The cost of doing this check often outweighs the potential costs of getting hit with a compliance bill from Oracle.



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16



Data Recovery Licensing


Types of Database Recovery:

- Backup**
 - RMAN used to copy physical database structures, such as control files, redo logs, and data files.
 - Can be stored on server, storage, disk drive, or tape.
 - No additional licensing necessary.
- Fallover (<10 days/year)**
 - Nodes arranged in a cluster and share one disk array (SAN or NAS), one common resource pool.
 - Production acts as primary node, when fails, surviving node acts as primary node.
 - Software: Oracle FailSafe, Veritas, HP Service Guard, Linux Heartbeat.
 - Oracle permits to run software on unlicensed spare to up to 10 separate days in a calendar year. Not 240 hours, 2 hours Tuesday, 3 hours on Wednesday = 2 days. If exceeds 10 days, must license spare.
 - Only one fallover node per cluster at no charge, additional nodes need license.




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17




Data Recovery Licensing (cont'd)

- Standby**
 - One or more copies of primary database maintained on standby servers.
 - As primary database is modified, logs are shipped to standby database(s).
 - If primary database fails, standby becomes activated.
 - Software: Oracle DataGuard, Custom Scripts.
 - Both primary and standby database must be fully licensed with the same metric and same database options.
- Remote Mirroring**
 - Mirroring of storage unit or shared disk arrays.
 - The Oracle data files, executables, binaries are replicated to mirrored storage unit.
 - Examples: EMC SRDF, Veritas Volume Replicator
 - Both primary and remote mirrored databases must be fully licensed with the same metric and options.
- Testing**
 - For testing physical copies of backups, your license includes the right to run the program on an unlicensed server (including a server in a cloud environment) for up to 4 four times, not exceeding 2 days per testing, in any given calendar year.
 - This does **NOT** cover any other data recovery method - such as remote mirroring - where the Oracle program binary files are copied or synchronized.



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18




Oracle's Partitioning Policy


Oracle considers two types of Partitioning:

- Soft Partitioning:** Segments the operating system using OS resource managers.
 Examples include: Solaris 9 Resource Containers, AIX Workload Manager, HP Process Resource Manager, Affinity Management, Oracle VM, and **VMware**.
- Hard Partitioning:** Physically segments a server, by taking a single large server and separating it into distinct smaller systems. Each separated system acts as a physically independent, self-contained server, typically with its own CPUs, operating system, etc.
 Examples include: Physical Domains (also known as PDomains, Dynamic Domains, or Dynamic System Domains), Solaris Zones (also known as Solaris Containers, capped Zones/Containers only), LPARs, Micro-Partitions (capped partitions only).

Important Note: Soft partitioning (including features/functionality of any technologies listed as examples above) is not permitted as a means to determine or limit the number of software licenses required for any given server.

Only the technologies listed in Oracle's Partitioning Policy document are recognized as hard partitioned, no other technology or configuration qualify.





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19



Virtualization - Challenges

Challenge:

- When Oracle Programs are installed on **VMware clusters**, Oracle considers this a form of **soft partitioning** which results in extremely high processor counts and associated licensing costs. Oracle's stance will be to require licenses for an entire VMware farm regardless of how many Oracle virtual servers are actually running.
- Oracle sales teams enforce inconsistent policies when it comes to Oracle running on non-Oracle virtualization software which confuses customers and leaves open areas of risk.
- Many IT shops use VMware extensively and want to run Oracle software on VMware the same as they do for all of their other software and applications.
- Unfortunately, Oracle **MUST** be deployed and handled differently on VMware than any other software or application due to its licensing policies.








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20





Virtualization - Strategies


❖ There is no one size fits all.

Some approaches to virtualization and Oracle are as follows:

- Install the Oracle Programs on standalone physical servers without any virtualization technology.
- Install the Oracle Programs on an Oracle approved virtualization technology such as Oracle VM (OVM) or IBM LPARs and abide by conditions outlined in the Oracle policy documents.
- Install the Oracle Programs on an approved cloud vendor (i.e. AWS, Azure, Oracle Cloud Infrastructure - OCI).
- Migrate off Oracle as platform.










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21




Common Oracle Database Licensing Missteps

- Not licensing testing and development
- Not licensing Disaster Recovery according to Oracle policies
- Not adhering to Oracle's license core factor calculations and Named User policies
- Not following Oracle's Partitioning and Virtualization Policies
- Using Oracle Database Options without paying for the licenses
- Making Architecture changes (like moving to Cloud), without considering Oracle licenses






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25



QUESTIONS?

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26



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27
