



Oracle on Linux

Announcement Q&A

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Originally, companies began to use Linux because it is freely available over the internet at no cost to anyone who want to use it either for personal or commercial purposes. However, despite the zero cost of the operating system, Linux continues to be an increasingly popular operating system because of its inherent strengths as a very good solid Unix operating system. Linux is being widely used as the platform for web servers, file servers, mail servers, names servers, and various other uses. In fact, Apache, which is the most popular web server in the industry (>50% market share) is deployed primarily on Linux operating on Intel Architecture platforms. In addition, reasons for why Linux is so popular can be seen from a recent Gartner Datapro survey. According to the survey, Linux rated highest among all commercial Unix operating systems and Windows NT on overall customer satisfaction, rating number one on interoperability, cost of ownership, price, flexibility, availability, and ease of management. Linux also tied for first for Java support with Solaris, and placed second on overall performance behind Digital Unix.

By now having the ability to use the Oracle products on the Linux operating system running on Intel Architecture platforms, companies can build and deploy the powerful Oracle database and applications solutions that offer a lower total cost solution compared to other operating system environments such as Solaris and other commercial Unix, as well as Windows NT. In addition, because Linux is already widely known to be a far more stable operating environment compared to Windows NT, this total solution allows companies to replace their database server platform based on Microsoft SQL Server on Windows NT with Oracle on Linux.

In sum, Oracle Applications on Linux offers enterprises a unique opportunity to deploy an internet-based solution on the operating system that powers the internet today.

Why did Oracle announce this now?

Oracle believes in giving customers CHOICE. By announcing plans to port Oracle⁸ and Oracle applications, Oracle has once again given customers the option of running their Oracle database and applications on Linux, a free Unix-like operating system, on their Intel-based systems instead of being restricted to Windows NT. Linux, which started off as a development project supported by the Internet community, has come of age and is currently the most widely deployed platforms among Internet Service Providers (ISPs) on the Internet. Oracle believes that Linux is ready to support enterprise-class applications such as the Oracle8 database and Oracle Applications to satisfy companies' mission-

Is Linux a stable OS?

According to a recent Datapro study, Linux commands the highest level of overall satisfaction that customers have with the various operating systems. Linux commanded the highest ratings on interoperability, cost of ownership, price, ease of management, flexibility, and availability. Linux tied with Solaris for Java Support, and placed second for product functionality and performance.

The strength of Linux comes from the tens of thousands of developers around the world who continually exercise the operating system for bugs, security holes, features, and functionality. This army of developers is unmatched by even the largest software company like Microsoft.

Who are the customers running Linux?

Linux is deployed primarily on Intel processor systems across various Internet Service Providers, enterprises and small businesses running their print servers and file servers. In addition, many individuals choose to run Linux on their own personal computers and laptops in lieu of Microsoft Windows95/98/NT.

Which applications are supported on Linux?

The most popular application on Linux is Apache. Apache is the web server that powers more than 50% of web sites on the world wide web. In addition, there are various other commercial applications that are sold on the Linux platform.

Who owns Linux?

Linux is not owned by any one individual or corporation. It is available to anyone who wants, and can be downloaded from the web. The product distributed under the GNU Public License agreement.

How is Linux supported?

There are many commercial Linux distributors who have built their business model on providing support services for customers of Linux.

When is the product going to become available?

The port of Oracle8 Server onLinux is expected to become available in the fourth quarter of 1998. Since this is the first time Oracle is being ported to Linux, the porting and development teams are working closely to ensure a successful rollout on the Linux platform.

Oracle Applications, Oracle Applications Server (which will also support the Apache web listener), and Oracle Developer are expected to follow shortly after the database release. These products are exactly the same products that are available on any other operating system platforms supported by Oracle.

What is the pricing structure?

The standard pricing structures apply to products on Linux as on any other platform. You can discuss your specific licensing needs with your sales representative or by calling 1-800-ORACLE-1.

Will Linux customers pay for Oracle products when the operating system is free?

Definitely. Enterprise customers who are deploying Linux in their businesses are not simply doing so because Linux is free. They are deploying Linux because it is a strong and stable platform. Therefore,

customers deciding to deploy Oracle on Linux will do so because they want to deploy the world's best database on an excellent operating system platform.

Which distribution of Linux will be certified with the Oracle products?

Oracle will certify its products against the core Linux kernel (v 2.0.34) and the glibc library. Therefore, Oracle products should operate on commercial Linux distributions that are based on this set of Linux software. The various commercial distributors of Linux will certify their distributions to our products, thus ensuring Oracle operability on their distributions of Linux.

What does it mean for Microsoft?

For the first time, Microsoft can no longer claim Windows NT as the sole low-cost platform for deploying database applications. Customers are freed from the limited capabilities and peculiarities of the Windows NT platform.

What does it mean for the future of Intel-based servers?

Oracle has made a commitment to provide the best database independent of the choice of the platform. Intel-based servers are no exception. Oracle will continue to enhance its database to be the best database on Windows NT. In addition, it will also continue enhancing the Linux port on the Intel servers.

How does it fit in with our database strategy?

One of the key elements of Oracle's database strategy is to provide a lower cost of ownership than any of its competition. Linux provides an excellent low-cost alternative operating system on the Intel platform. By providing a port to Linux, Oracle has significantly lowered the overall costs of ownership and made Oracle available on the most widely available platform.

What about Intel's 64-bit Merced platform?

Oracle is working closely with Intel to optimize Oracle8 for the 64-bit Intel Architecture (IA-64) Merced chip. Linux is currently running on the Alpha processor in 64-bit mode. Keeping its commitment to Intel and Linux, Oracle will support Oracle8 on Linux when it becomes available on Merced.

Is there a downloadable version? Can I join the beta program?

A 30-day trial download is planned upon general availability of Oracle8 on Linux. Since this is a port and not a new product release, there is no beta program that developers can sign up for.

What programs does Oracle offer for developers?

The Oracle Technology Network (technet.oracle.com) is set up to provide developers with information and software to allow them to develop upon Oracle products. By signing up as a member of OTN, developers have access to product information and documentation, technology libraries, support libraries, and the latest news on Oracle products. In addition, developers will have access to early release of product software through the Early Adopter Program.

How can I obtain Oracle products on Linux?

The products will be available with a trial license from the Oracle Store web site or can be downloaded from www.oracle.com. In addition, the Oracle CDs can be ordered from your sales representative or by calling 1-800-ORACLE-1.

If I am a Linux ISV / VAR / SI, how do I become an Oracle partner?

The Oracle Alliance program offers various forms of partnering opportunities. The first step to become an Oracle partner is to visit the Oracle Alliance Online web site alliance.oracle.com. There is a step-by-step procedure for you to sign up and determine the right kind of partnership depending on your unique needs and capabilities.



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