



Focus On: Oracle Database Lite

It has been suggested that Oracle Database Lite 10g sounds more like a calorie-counting breakfast cereal than a solution to network independent mobile access to enterprise data.

However, this particular database product extends the grid environment to mobile devices. It allows mobile workers to access data locally through the utilisation of a SQL-enabled client database and synchronises data when a network connection is available.

The Mobile Server middleware component can support scalable data synchronisation and centralised mobile resource management. It also allows for bi-directional data synchronization and easy centralised management, with tools to manage users, devices and applications remotely.

Both single-user and multi-user deployment configurations are supported, which allows for the adaptation of changing environments, and OAS load balancing features allow DBAs to scale Mobile Server deployment when Mobile Server is integrated with Oracle Application Server.

Sounding good so far: Uninhibited mobile access to enterprise data, scalable and bi-directional data synchronization functionality and administrative tools to manage users, devices and applications from a centralised point.

What components are required?

- Oracle Database Lite Client Stack for local access, and device management and data synchronisation clients that communicate with the Oracle Database Lite mobile Server. This is available on multiple platforms including various flavours of Symbian OS, Linux, Windows 32-bit and Windows Mobile.
- Oracle Database Lite Mobile Server is sandwiched between the Client and Database itself, allowing for data synchronisation. The Mobile Server's Mobile manager user interface can be used to perform device management, user provisioning, application lifecycle management, system management and performance optimization tasks.
- Oracle Database Lite Database stores the enterprise application data and mobile repository, which enables Oracle Database Lite functionality. The small SQL-enabled database is optimised for small devices such as handhelds and laptops.

The Oracle Database Lite technology stack is also rich in develop tools for quick, easy application development. The Oracle Database Lite Mobile Development Kit is a set of tools, APIs, tutorials and code samples that facilitate the acceleration of the development of mobile applications.

If it is mobile, is it safe?

Oracle Database Lite provides AES standard 128-bit strong encryption and protects mobile business information with encrypt/decrypt utilities. SSL based encryption protects data integrity while data is in transit between the device and the database.

How does Oracle Database Lite actually benefit organisations?

According to Oracle, Oracle Database Lite increases employee productivity, reduces operation costs and improves customer satisfaction. The secure and mobile nature of Oracle Database Lite allows organisations to improve sales force automation [field workers can access enterprise data store and applications remotely], data collection and customer relationship management. This can have an immediately positive effect on employee productivity, reduced operational costs and customer satisfaction.