



Focus On: Oracle Enterprise Edition

Oracle.com is an information-rich resource that can sometimes become overcomplicated. Simple facts on Oracle Database Editions, for example, are occasionally swamped by promotional material around a number of interrelated products.

IT Director/Managers considering the purchase of Oracle will probably already be talking to Xynomix or a similar company for guidance on an Oracle purchase. However, a quick summary of the features and benefits of Oracle Enterprise Edition may prove useful as a basic guide.

Enterprise Edition:

- Licensed per user or processor
- Typically implemented on servers running **at least 4 CPUs**
- **No memory limits**
- Includes **RAC** clustering capabilities

Enterprise Edition is Oracle's high end product, incorporating High Availability, Security, Database Management and large capacity Warehousing as primary features.

High Availability is well catered for, with Oracle Data Guard and 'Flashback' [for automatic standby database refreshes], Incremental Backup and Recovery and advanced Tablespace Recovery, which allows for the segmentation of selected parts of the database. Indexes can also be administered without service downtime, and features like Block level media recovery can significantly expediate recovery from media corruption.

Security is catered for by features such as Database Vault [complete control of user access], transparent data encryption inside the database, network traffic encryption and strong authentication.

In terms of Database Management, built in Automatic Storage Management and Automatic Memory Management facilities alleviate the amount of administrative man power required. Other available and licensable tools include Tuning, Change Management and Diagnostics Packs.

The Synchronous Change Data Capture feature of Enterprise Edition unsurprisingly detects data changes. There are a number of other licensable options available that are designed to facilitate the effective management and function of large databases or data warehouses, including Oracle OLAP [performs OLAP functions], Data Mining tools and Oracle Partitioning [to assist in the management of large tables].

11g Enterprise Edition also incorporates the following features:

- **Real-Application Testing** – The ability to test changes with real workloads to reduce the stability and performance risks associated with change implementation.
- **Oracle Warehouse Builder** – Manage the integration of data.
- **In-Memory Database Cache** – Performance is increased by caching frequently used data in memory to speed up response time and throughput of user applications.
- **Total Recall** – For the long-term storage of historical data.
- **Active Data Guard** – Offloads resource-intensive activities and backups to a standby database and, perhaps more significantly, provides disaster protection.
- **Data Masking** – Replacement of sensitive data with anonymous data for testing.
- **Oracle Audit Vault** – Security audit trails collected to enable monitoring and compliance.
- **Partitioning** – Interval partitioning and partition advisor facilitate the automation and management of data [integral part of an Information Lifecycle Management strategy].
- **Advanced Compression** – A data growth management tool designed to reduce data volume and lower storage costs.