⟨IOUG⟩ ResearchWire

THE EMPOWERED DATABASE

2014 ENTERPRISE PLATFORM DECISIONS SURVEY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The increasing size and complexity of database environments today is straining IT resources at most organizations, reducing agility, and increasing the costs and challenges associated with maintaining the performance and availability of business-critical systems. To address these concerns, many IT departments are looking for ways to automate routine tasks and free up assets. The use of virtualization to help accomplish these goals is well known. Likewise, the adoption of cloud services is becoming more commonplace, especially private clouds.

In August 2014, Unisphere Research fielded a study among the members of the Independent Oracle Users Group (IOUG) to examine the current state of Oracle database sites, including the key issues, priorities and solutions being adopted by organizations. A total of 338 qualified responses were collected and analyzed. Respondents came from organizations of all sizes and across various industries. A demographic overview is available at the end of the report.

The key findings of the study include the following:

■ More than two thirds of organizations indicate that the number of Oracle databases they manage is expanding. The most pressing challenges they report facing as a result of this expansion are licensing costs, additional hardware and network costs, and additional administration costs and complexity.

■ Increasing performance, lowering costs and limiting downtime are the most important goals for organizations managing Oracle databases and mission-critical applications.

■ Automated alerts to improve monitoring and automated database restart to improve high availability are top priorities. The majority of organizations plan to use Oracle Enterprise Manager 12*c* or custom scripting to achieve these goals.

■ Agility is major issue. For more than 50% of organizations, it takes their IT department 30 days or more to respond to new initiatives or deploy new solutions. For a quarter of organizations, it takes 90 days or more.

■ The use of virtualization within Oracle database environments is increasing. Almost two-thirds of organizations report increases over the past year. Nearly half report that more than 50% of their IT infrastructure is virtualized.

■ The most common virtualization solutions are VMware vSphere, reported by 57% of organizations, followed by Oracle VM, reported by 9% of organizations, and AIX LPARs, reported by 8% of organizations.

■ The most common benefits organizations report as a result of using virtualization within their Oracle database environments are reduced costs, consolidation, and standardization of their infrastructure.

■ The number-one objection encountered to virtualizing mission-critical databases is increased licensing costs. However, 55% of respondents list cost reduction as the primary benefit of virtualizing their Oracle environments.

■ Support is no longer an issue. Over 60% of organizations say they have never been requested to reproduce a database issue in a physical environment, and the number of respondents reporting that that the issue was related to virtualization was less than 5%.

■ Nearly one-third of organizations are currently using or considering a public cloud service. Almost half are currently using or considering a private cloud. For more than 25% of organizations, usage of private-cloud services increased over the past year.

■ Cloud and virtualization are being seamlessly absorbed into the jobs of most database administrators, and in some cases, reducing traditional activities while expanding their roles.

On the following pages are the detailed results and analysis of this effort.