



For the Complete Technology & Database Professional

THE EMPOWERED DATABASE: 2016 ENTERPRISE PLATFORM DECISIONS SURVEY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Today's successful organizations are data-driven. Many enterprises are building, maintaining, and accessing databases that scale well beyond the terabyte range. In fact, many have total data assets that now measure in the petabytes. But it's not just the size of databases that is expanding. The increasing complexity of database environments 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.

We seek connected businesses, exchanging information on-demand with partners and customers, as well as employees. However, all this data needs to be managed, processed, and stored. Many IT departments are mired in day-to-day, mundane tasks, such as coding, provisioning, monitoring, and backup. To deliver a competitive edge to the business, they need the time and resources to focus on forward-looking initiatives.

In June 2016, Unisphere Research fielded a study among the members of the Independent Oracle Users Group to examine the key challenges, priorities, and solutions being adopted by Oracle Database sites. This study, sponsored by Dell EMC and VMware, follows up on a similar survey conducted in 2014. A total of 224 qualified responses were collected. Respondents came from organizations of all sizes and across various industries. A demographic overview is available at the end of the report.

The survey found that virtualization, particularly the use of VMware vSphere, is widespread and its growth is accelerating. In addition, many organizations are now beginning to automate many of their key data management processes. Private cloud deployments are gaining a stronger hold among data environments at this time, while public cloud services are beginning to make inroads. The results of this 2016 survey are summarized on the following pages.

Highlights of the survey include the following findings:

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

- Increasing database licensing and support costs, or the belief that these costs will increase, is holding back data managers from expanding their database assets to keep up with business growth.
- While traditional modes of data storage dominate, there's a rising class of solutions that promise greater speed, capacity, and access. One in four enterprises now maintain software-defined data centers (SDDCs), revolutionizing the way infrastructures are built and maintained.
- A sizable portion of organizations are laying the groundwork for automation through an SDDC approach. A high degree of automation is now being applied across key data management processes.
- Virtualization with VMware vSphere is now a major component in critical Oracle Database management functions in 70% of companies. Virtualization is now being adopted at the same pace in production environments as it is in non-production settings. Cost savings and consolidation are the top benefits now being seen by organizations implementing virtualization. Paradoxically, these are also seen as challenges in moving to more virtualized settings.
- Virtualization keeps expanding. A majority of enterprises expect their use of VMware vSphere to accelerate.
- Private cloud is being employed within 20% of data environments, while public cloud services are just starting to make inroads. Security, performance, and data protection are the most significant concerns holding companies back from engaging in more robust migrations to cloud data environments.