Oracle Licensing - Summary on a Page | FOR CIOs

LIME SOFTWARE

Know your Oracle position before Oracle does.

Oracle licensing risk rarely arrives as a purchase. It builds quietly: a CPU added, an option switched on, a cluster expanded. Oracle can see it in an audit, so you should see it first.

Where CIOs get caught

1. **Hardware changes nobody mentions.** Extra CPUs added to improve performance change your licence count overnight.
2. **Options switched on, not bought.** Partitioning, Advanced Compression and others are licensed at database level, and can be enabled without anyone deciding to.
3. **VMware.** Oracle treats it as soft partitioning, so exposure can cover every host in a cluster.
4. **Java.** Installed everywhere, and employee-based subscription pricing is still in force.
5. **Cloud moves.** Bring your own licence works only on authorised clouds, and savings often fail to arrive.
6. **Support you cannot trim.** Only a whole CSI set can be cancelled, not individual products.

£450K
Council exposure after CPUs were added

US$2m
Uplift at a healthcare renewal, for options

22%
Typical annual support on the net licence fee

A real example

Our first client, a UK council in 2006, faced a £450K exposure after a Sun engineer added CPUs to improve performance, without telling them. The FD was asked to sit down before hearing it.

The fix was easy: the extra CPUs came out. Few Oracle issues are that simple today.

Ask your teams

1. What Oracle is installed or running, including dev, test and VMware?
2. Who can add CPUs or enable options, and who checks the licence impact first?
3. Where is Java installed, and who owns it?
4. Which contracts and ordering documents define what we own?

The devil is in the detail.

Support scripts can switch things on. Oracle Support may ask your DBA to run a script such as SQLTXPLAIN, which creates partitioned tables. The script notes a licence is required, and the tables are rarely dropped afterwards.

You can decline Oracle's scripts. A large healthcare client refused to let Oracle run scripts in production, and Oracle accepted it.

Oracle Licensing Health Check

An independent view of where you stand, before Oracle gives you theirs.

Questions email me:
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