


*Oracle & Linux: What's the
deal?*



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What is Linux?



- UNIX-like operating system
- Runs on many hardware configurations
 - Intel and clone CPUs
 - PowerPC CPUs
 - DEC (or is it Compaq) Alpha CPUs
 - and a host of others.
- First released in 1991 by its author, Linus Torvalds at the University of Helsinki.

Who makes it?



- Well, a whole lot of people
- Distributions
 - Red Hat
 - Caldera
 - SUSE
 - etc.

Why is it so popular?



- Portable
- Open source code
- Anti-Microsoft
- Virtually free OS cost

Why do WE care?



- Low hardware cost
- Low OS cost
- Database work is transferable
- Internet pilot box
 - Apache Server
 - Oracle Application Server

Why do DBAs care?



- Pilot new database versions
- Pilot database configuration changes
- Pilot schema changes

Why do developers care?

- Portable database (home, remote)
- Supports network
- Private database “without the DBA”
- Pilot schema changes
- Pilot new applications

Why does Larry care?

- Well...

Industry support

- Professional support options (Red Hat)
- PC resellers (Dell, HP)
- Hardware manufacturers (Adaptec)

Is it ready?

- Oracle released 8.0.5.0.0 at OOW '98.
- It wouldn't install (oops)
- Oracle released 8.0.5.1.0 via Oracle Technet
- It works (mostly)!

Is it really ready?

- Linux is bulletproof(?)
- O8.0.5.1.0 works!
- OAS is available now
- Market forces
- Hits a big nitch
- Buggy
- Major features missing
- Flaky installer
- Doc won't install
- Instructions are wrong

Conclusions



- Linux is worth careful consideration
- Oracle's product is weak, but getting better
- Oracle on Linux fits a number of needs
- Requires rethinking support issues
- Needs careful implementation guidelines to be successful