

PRODUCT FLASH

Oracle Announces Its Universal Online Archives Strategy: First Stop, Email

Vivian Tero

IN THIS PRODUCT FLASH

This IDC Flash evaluates Oracle's recently announced Universal Online Archive solution strategy.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

On April 14, Oracle launched its Universal Online Archive product. The solution is actively being sold and is available on the Oracle price list. This solution is based on Oracle Fusion Middleware, Oracle Enterprise Content Management, and the Oracle Database. The Universal Online Archive is intended to enable customers ingest, search, and manage massive scales of historical mixed content (structured, semi-structured, and unstructured data). Oracle Universal Online Archive 10G will include repository adapters to Oracle Secure Enterprise Search (SES), Oracle Universal Records Management (URM), and a generic archive interface. The Universal Online Archive has a base price of \$75,000 per processor and is based on named user pricing of \$20 per NUP. Customers must also have a license to the Oracle Database Enterprise Edition.

Oracle Universal Online Archive is a platform on which the vendor intends to release application and content specific archiving services. The initial archiving service is the Oracle Email Archive Service. This offering initially supports email and is offered as an option to the Oracle Universal Online Archive at a base price of \$40,000 per processor and a named user pricing of \$50 per NUP. Customers who purchase the Email Archive Service application should also have the Oracle Database Enterprise Edition and Universal Online Archive licensed and installed in their infrastructure.

The Oracle Email Archive Service supports Microsoft Exchange and Lotus Notes environments, and uses SMTP and journaling capture for other messaging systems. It supports distribution list expansion and enables partial, full, or attachment-only stubbing of messages. Customers can utilize the Oracle Email Archive Services' capabilities in search, active policy management, and retention in support of their compliant archiving objectives. The integration of Oracle Email Archive Service with URM and SES would allow the corporation to manage the message archive as part of a single content management environment. In this scenario, Oracle URM provides the centralized policy management and administration functions, including in-place retention. Oracle Universal Online Archive offers file versioning and the ability to map files into multiple folder hierarchies. The combination of URM and Universal Online Archive in the back-end facilitates single instance storage/deduplication, enforces corporate retention policies in-place, and supports search and legal discovery workflows. A key benefit of a centralized policy management and administration for the content management platform is the ability to eliminate redundant hardware and software. Also, in the event of a legal discovery, the Universal Online Archive platform would enable the corporation to realize more targeted collection of potentially responsive data.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

This solution offering is the next evolution of Oracle's strategy to position content management as the platform that would facilitate the unified management, retention, disposition, and access to structured and unstructured data. This strategy was signaled in June 2006, when the vendor offered Oracle Content DB and Oracle Records DB (previously only available through Oracle Collaboration Suite) as add-ons to its database products. Back then, IDC expected Oracle to invest in expanding its technical capabilities in the overall information infrastructure market and to eventually offer application- and content-specific solutions. The acquisition of Stellent and the introduction of Secure Enterprise Search (SES) were critical developments in this evolution. In the light of the attention corporations increasingly paid to their existing records management and message archiving practices, it was only a matter of time before Oracle would offer up its own content-specific archiving solution. Oracle's Universal Content Management, Universal Records Management, and SES were already being utilized and integrated with third-party archiving applications by several Oracle customers.

The Oracle Universal Online Archive and Email Archive Service products are well-suited for organizations that have existing deployments of Oracle Fusion Middleware (which includes Universal Records Management, Universal Content Management, Oracle Document Capture, Oracle Distributed Document Capture, and Information Rights Management) and Oracle's suite of enterprise applications, and are looking to unify the management, retention, and disposition of and access to its various data. These organizations typically face massive volumes of electronic messages and require high-performance search, ingestion, and retrieval. Oracle's grid-based architecture is architected to meet its customers' scalability, application performance, and failover and redundancy requirements.

Please contact the IDC Hotline at 800.343.4952, ext. 7988 (or +1.508.988.7988) or sales@idc.com for information on applying the price of this document toward the purchase of an IDC service or for information on additional copies or Web rights. Visit us on the Web at www.idc.com. To view a list of IDC offices worldwide, visit www.idc.com/offices.

Copyright 2008 IDC. Reproduction is forbidden unless authorized. All rights reserved.

Filing Information: April 2008, IDC #211899, Volume: 1, Tab: Vendors

Compliance Infrastructure: Product Flash

Going forward, Oracle's senior management indicated that future releases would support archiving services for multiple content types including file data in endpoints (desktops, servers, mobile devices), SharePoint, and enterprise applications (such as SAP, Oracle E- Business Suite, and ERP content). This strategy closely parallels current corporate compliant archiving intentions, which IDC noted in *Active Archiving: Retention, Preservation, and Reuse* (IDC #210315, February 2008). This IDC research also concludes that email and file data in endpoint archiving will remain near-term priorities among corporations. The study also concludes that email is the most popular archived content; but over time, these corporations would look to consolidate the management and disposition of their content archives beyond email.

The Oracle Universal Online Archive and Email Archive service addresses the pent-up demand in the vendor's install base. Also, there are competitive replacement opportunities. These will come from corporations that have intentions to upgrade their existing message archiving investments, deploy an enterprisewide records management practice, and enable unified compliant archiving of file data in endpoints, SharePoint content, and enterprise applications.