

# Federal Desktop Core Configuration Statement of Direction

*October 2008*

# Federal Desktop Core Configuration (FDCC)

## Statement of Direction

### **WHAT IS FDCC?**

FDCC stands for Federal Desktop Core Configuration. The FDCC specifies mandatory configuration requirements for the Microsoft Windows XP Pro and Windows Vista operating systems when used on US Government desktop systems. It also specifies mandatory configuration requirements for Microsoft Internet Explorer 7 when used on these operating systems.

The US Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which manages the budget for US Federal Government agencies, issued the FDCC. OMB is enforcing FDCC compliance by mandating Federal procurement guidelines covering applications that run on XP Pro or Vista systems.

The FDCC also requires that Federal agencies certify ongoing FDCC compliance of their desktop systems using tools that support the Secure Content Automation Protocol (SCAP) defined by the US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Specifically, Federal agencies must ensure that installing third-party vendor software (such as Oracle's products) on Federal desktop systems doesn't cause those desktops to become non-compliant with the FDCC.

Official memos on the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) mandate include:

- March 22, 2007, OMB M-07-11  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/memoranda/fy2007/m07-11.pdf>
- June 1, 2007, OMB M-07-18  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/memoranda/fy2007/m07-18.pdf>
- July 31, MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICERS  
[http://www.cio.gov/documents/FDCC\\_memo.pdf](http://www.cio.gov/documents/FDCC_memo.pdf)

Federal Desktop Core Configuration (FDCC):  
<http://fdcc.nist.gov/>

## **ORACLE INTERPRETATION OF “DESKTOP”**

Despite repeated inquiries by multiple information technology industry associations and Oracle specifically, OMB has not yet fully clarified their definition of “desktop.” In absence of clearer guidance, Oracle has advised OMB that Oracle will interpret “desktop” as follows for purposes of certifying product compliance with FDCC (note that Oracle believes our interpretation to be within the spirit of intent as specified in relevant memoranda):

- “Desktop” refers to client-only software for enterprise applications and not server components of applications.
- “Desktop” also does not cover a case in which server software is installed on a desktop for development, testing, demonstration, or evaluation purposes.
- “Desktop” also does not include administrative interfaces. That is, the use of a browser to access administrative software (e.g., systems management software) is similarly not within scope since that is not something that a systems administrator, who is not a “typical end user,” would use. The fact that a system administrator is using a browser interface is incidental, because command line tools can also be used and in fact typically are used. Therefore, Oracle believes “desktop” is not intended to cover privileged user interfaces.

In agreeing to go forward with testing, Oracle notes that if there are actual product changes required to support FDCC compliance, e.g., to the client side of an application, such as a plug-in to a browser, we cannot commit to specific timelines for making those product changes. Typically, our customers’ expectations are that there will be no configuration changes to our products in anything other than a major product release cycle, which may occur only every two to three years. Changing product configurations in a minor release or patch set – even with the laudable goal of supporting more hardened Federal desktops – may break customer customizations and modifications of Oracle software and is thus unsuitable for a “patch.”

## **ORACLE’S STATEMENT OF DIRECTION ON FDCC**

Oracle has begun testing of non-administrative clients for FDCC compliance. A recent example of our effort to meet the FDCC needs of our Federal customers is Oracle E-Business Suite Release 11i (11.5.10.CU2) certifying compliance with:

- FDCC Windows Vista Enterprise clients running Sun Java Runtime Environment (JRE) 1.6.0\_03
- FDCC Windows XP SP2 clients running Oracle JInitiator 1.3.1.29

## **Reference**

- E-Business Suite Release 11i Certification with US Federal Desktop Core Configuration (Metalink Note 552724.1)  
<https://metalink.oracle.com/metalink/plsql/showdoc?db=NOT&id=552724.1>

Oracle will continue testing all non-administrative new clients for FDCC compliance.



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