

# Oracle Real Application Clusters (RAC) Support on Third-Party Clouds

An Overview and Clarification – Revision 2/0118



## Why Oracle Cloud?

One of the key characteristics of cloud deployments is simplification. Based on this premise, many of Oracle's customers have moved or are considering moving into the cloud. The Oracle Cloud provides a rich choice of application suites as well as best-of-breed solutions as part of its strong Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) and Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS) offerings. In its Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) offering, the Oracle Cloud in addition enables independent software vendors and system integrators to showcase their services and applications<sup>1</sup>.

**The Oracle Cloud is currently the only cloud offering certified and supported to run Oracle Real Application Clusters (RAC) databases.**

## Oracle RAC Support on Third-Party Clouds

**Licensing as well as missing infrastructure support currently restricts support for Oracle RAC on Third-Party Clouds.**

The following two documents detail the licensing restriction:

1. "Licensing Oracle Software in the Cloud Computing Environment"<sup>2</sup>
2. "Oracle Programs" as referred to in the document mentioned above<sup>3</sup>

It needs to be noted that Oracle RAC is not listed as part of the Oracle programs that are eligible for Authorized Cloud Environments per the policy document listed under 1. above ("Licensing Oracle Software in the Cloud Computing Environment").

No Third-Party Cloud currently meets Oracle's requirements regarding natively provided shared storage. "Native" in this context means that the cloud provider must support shared storage as part of their infrastructure as per Oracle's support policy<sup>4</sup>:

*"All storage products must be supported by the server (host) and storage vendors"*

<sup>1</sup> <https://cloud.oracle.com/marketplace>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.oracle.com/us/corporate/pricing/cloud-licensing-070579.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.oracle.com/us/corporate/pricing/authorized-cloud-environments-3493562.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/database/clustering/tech-generic-linux-new-086754.html>

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### 1) Can I use my current license to run Oracle RAC on Third-Party Clouds?

**Answer:** For individual license reviews, contact your Oracle sales representative.

### 2) Who are the host and the storage vendors in a Third-Party Cloud?

**Answer:** The cloud provider is the host as well as the storage vendor in a Third-Party Cloud. The “hosts” are the instances provided by the cloud vendor, while the storage is typically inherent to the cloud solution and hence, provided by the cloud provider, too.

### 3) Can I use FlashGrid® to enable shared storage for Oracle RAC?

**Answer:** As per the company’s website (<https://www.flashgrid.io>), FlashGrid® storage basically comes in three flavors: 1) to provide shared storage for Oracle RAC on Third-Party Clouds (AWS or Azure), 2) to provide shared storage for Oracle RAC on-premises, 3) to provide shared storage for Oracle RAC in virtualized environments. All three flavors are subject to the support policy<sup>5</sup>: stating that: “All storage products must be supported by the server (host) and storage vendors”. For on-premises RAC deployments, FlashGrid® storage can be supported if the server (host) vendor and the storage vendor agree to support FlashGrid® storage natively. As FlashGrid® storage uses server-internal storage, the server vendor needs to confirm its support.

For AWS and Azure, neither Amazon nor Microsoft have confirmed native support for FlashGrid® storage and hence, this solution is not supported in such environments. Similar holds true for virtualized environments, as at least Oracle (Oracle VM) has not confirmed the required support either.

### 4) Apart from licensing, can RAC be supported on Third-Party Clouds?

**Answer:** As the licensing restriction documented above currently restricts the use of Oracle RAC in either Amazon’s AWS or Microsoft Windows Azure or any other Third-Party Cloud for this matter, Oracle has ceased any supportability evaluation of Third-Party Clouds for Oracle RAC in general. That said, the lack of natively provided shared storage in addition to certain network restrictions that would need to be worked around on most Third-Party Clouds currently prevent Oracle from supporting any Third-Party Cloud for Oracle RAC presently and regardless of technical feasibility.

### 5) Can I test Oracle RAC on Third-Party Clouds?

**Answer:** Under the OTN License Agreement<sup>6</sup> certain testing of Oracle RAC on Third-Party Clouds is permitted. Disclosing results of any program benchmark test is not permitted without Oracle’s prior consent in this case. Oracle will also not accept the results of any individual test as a proof for the supportability of a Third-Party Cloud.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/database/clustering/tech-generic-linux-new-086754.html>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/licenses/standard-license-152015.html>

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