Oracle Database In-Memory

Powering the Real-Time Enterprise

Oracle Database In-Memory transparently accelerates analytics by orders of magnitude while simultaneously speeding up mixed-workload OLTP. With Oracle Database In-Memory, users get immediate answers to business questions that previously took hours.

Oracle Database In-Memory delivers leading-edge in-memory performance without the need to restrict functionality, or accept compromises, complexity and risk. Deploying Oracle Database In-Memory with any existing Oracle Database compatible application is as easy as flipping a switch - no application changes are required. Oracle Database In-Memory is fully integrated with the Oracle Database's renowned scale-up, scale-out, storage tiering, availability, and security technologies making it the most industrial-strength offering on the market.

The ability to easily perform real-time data analysis together with real-time transaction processing on all existing applications enables organizations to transform into Real-Time Enterprises that quickly make data-driven decisions, respond instantly to customer demands, and continuously optimize all key processes.

Dual-Format Architecture

Oracle Database In-Memory optimizes both analytics and mixed workload OLTP, delivering outstanding performance for transactions while simultaneously supporting real-time analytics, business intelligence, and reports.

This breakthrough capability is enabled by the “dual-format” architecture of Oracle Database In-Memory. Up to now, databases have forced users to store data in either column or row format. Column format is highly efficient for analytics, but imposes very large overheads when used in OLTP environments. Similarly, row format enables extremely fast OLTP, but is less optimized for analytics. The only way to optimize for both OLTP and analytics has been to copy data from OLTP systems to analytic systems using complex ETL processes that add a great deal of expense and latency.

KEY FEATURES

- New In-Memory Column Format accelerates Analytics by orders of magnitude
- Dual-format architecture combines the best of column and row formats
- Many In-Memory optimizations, including In-Memory storage indexes, In-Memory compression, SIMD vector processing
- Scale-up on the world’s largest SMPs with 1000s of CPU threads
- Scale-Out on RAC clusters with in-memory fault tolerance, and the ability to isolate analytics from OLTP on different servers
- Maximum Availability Architecture
- 100% compatible with existing applications

“Now we can run time-sensitive analytical queries directly against our OLTP database. This is something we wouldn’t have dreamt of earlier.”

Arup Nanda
Enterprise Architect
Starwood Hotels and Resorts
Key Benefits

- Dramatically faster Data Warehouses, Analytics, Business Intelligence, Dashboards, Reports
- Fast ad-hoc analytics without the need to pre-create indexes
- Faster mixed workload OLTP
- Concurrent analytics and OLTP
- No database size limit
- Transparently blends memory, flash, and disk to achieve highest performance and lowest cost
- Industrial strength availability and security
- Robustness and maturity of Oracle Database 12c
- Easy implementation and management

Dual row and column formats are a unique feature of Oracle Database In-Memory.

High performance transactions in combination with column formats is a unique feature of Oracle Database In-Memory. Most databases don’t allow efficient OLTP when using column formats.

Figure 1. Oracle’s unique dual-format architecture

The dual-format architecture of Oracle Database In-Memory eliminates this tradeoff by representing tables simultaneously using traditional row format and a new in-memory column format. The Oracle SQL Optimizer automatically routes analytic queries to the column format and OLTP queries to the row format, transparently delivering best-of-both-worlds performance. Oracle Database 12c automatically maintains full transactional consistency between the row and the column formats, just as it maintains consistency between tables and indexes today.

The new column format is a pure in-memory format. Tables are stored on disk using Oracle’s existing row-based or hybrid columnar formats. Since there is no persistent columnar storage format, there are no additional storage costs or storage synchronization issues. Changes to the purely in-memory column format are very fast because they don’t need expensive persistent logging.

Having both a column and a row-based in-memory representation does not double memory requirements. Oracle uses its highly optimized buffer cache management algorithms to keep only actively accessed row data in memory. Decades of experience has shown that caching a small percentage of data blocks in memory eliminates the vast majority of storage I/Os, and flash caching eliminates virtually all the rest. Therefore most of the memory capacity in a database server can be allocated to the column format.

Oracle’s in-memory column format uses sophisticated compression to expand memory capacity and improve query performance. Compression ratios vary from 2X – 20X, depending on the option chosen and redundancy in the data. The compression method may be different across columns, partitions or tables. For example, some table partitions can be optimized for scan speed, others for memory footprint, while others may be optimized to efficiently handle frequent DML operations.

Comprehensive In-Memory Optimizations

Oracle Database In-Memory implements state-of-the-art algorithms for in-memory scans, in-memory joins, and in-memory aggregation. For example:

- Analytic queries typically reference only a small number of the columns in a table. Oracle Database In-Memory minimizes work and maximizes performance by accessing only those columns needed by a query, and by processing these columns directly without having to decompress them first.
- Tables are logically split into sections, and minimum and maximum values of every column are maintained for every section of a table. This allows queries to quickly skip table sections that only contain data outside of the range of data needed by the query.
- Some columns have many repeated values. For example a column storing the geographic region of each sales transaction will have many repetitions of the same
“Oracle Database In-memory is a game changer for OLTP, DW, and mixed workloads. It dramatically improves the performance of all types of analytical queries.”

Liviu Horn
AVP Database Management
McKesson Health Solution

Most other databases incur large overhead when data in column format is updated as part of mixed OLTP workloads.

“Oracle Database In-Memory option will permit us to remove roughly half the indexes from large mixed-workload databases, simultaneously speeding up both complex analytical queries and OLTP transactions.”

Andrew Zitelli
Principal Software Engineer with Honors
Thales-Raytheon Systems

Isolation of analytic workloads on separate servers of a RAC cluster is a unique feature of Oracle Database In-Memory.

regions. Oracle Database In-Memory compresses these repeated values to save memory, and optimizes processing by executing query predicates just once for each unique column value (e.g. once per unique region).

• Modern microprocessors support SIMD (Single Instruction for Multiple Data values) vector processing instructions to accelerate graphics and scientific computing. Oracle Database In-Memory can use these SIMD vector instructions to process multiple column values in a single CPU clock cycle.

Figure 2. SIMD vector processing scans billions of values per second

• In-Memory table joins take advantage of the new column format by converting join conditions into filters applied during very fast data scans.

• In-Memory aggregation algorithms leverage the column format to speed up analytic queries and reports that aggregate large amounts of data.

Together, these optimizations enable Oracle Database In-Memory to run queries at the astounding rate of billions of rows per second for each CPU core. Analytics that previously took hours or days to run now completes in seconds, enabling real-time business decisions.

Mixed Workload OLTP

Mixed workload databases run reports and ad hoc queries in addition to OLTP transactions. It is common to create dozens of indexes on important tables purely to speed up reports. The Oracle In-Memory column format eliminates the need for most of these analytic indexes by delivering performance similar to having an index on every column, but with much less transaction overhead. Removing analytic indexes speeds up OLTP operations since the analytic indexes no longer need to be maintained by every transaction. Further, eliminating the need for analytic indexes removes the time-consuming tuning and administration required to identify and create analytic indexes. Most importantly, users can now issue any query they want and achieve excellent response times. Users are not limited to running queries or reports that have been pre-optimized using analytic indexes.

Oracle Real Application Clusters (RAC) can be combined with Oracle Database In-Memory to isolate analytic workloads from OLTP workloads by running them on different servers of a cluster.

Cost Effective In-Memory Processing for any Database Size

Oracle Database In-Memory does not require all database data to fit in memory. Users can choose to keep only performance sensitive tables or partitions in memory. Less performance sensitive data can reside on much lower cost flash or disk.
Many other in-memory databases severely limit database size, and require costly DRAM for all data including infrequently accessed data.

Many other in-memory databases have limited scale-up capabilities and no scale-out or very immature scale-out implementations.

Scale-out for real-world OLTP workloads with column formats is a unique feature of Oracle Database In-Memory.

"Full support for RAC scale-out means Oracle Database In-Memory can be used on our largest Data Warehouse, enabling more near real-time analytics."

Sudhi Vijayakumar
Senior Oracle DBA

Figure 3. Data may reside in memory, flash or disk with no size limits

Queries execute transparently on data residing on all three tiers - memory, flash and disk - enabling Oracle Database In-Memory to be used with databases of any size.

Oracle Database In-Memory is fully compatible with Oracle’s Multitenant database architecture, allowing consolidated databases to take advantage of a combination of fast in-memory and low-cost storage technologies.

Scale-Up and Scale-Out

The Oracle Database has been optimized and tuned for decades to scale-up on SMP servers and scale-out on clusters of servers. Oracle can parallelize a single SQL statement across thousands of processor cores, or run many concurrent users simultaneously with full isolation and consistency.

Oracle Database In-Memory builds on these technologies to scale-up to very high memory and CPU capacities on large SMP servers with terabytes of memory. For example, the SPARC® based Oracle M6-32 Big Memory Machine can be configured with 32 terabytes of DRAM and 384 processor cores. The Intel® Xeon based Oracle Exadata Database Machine X4-8 can be configured with 12 terabytes of DRAM and 240 processor cores. Large SMP servers are well suited for in-memory workloads because all memory is accessible to all processors over an extremely high speed memory network.

Oracle Database In-Memory optimizes performance on large SMP servers by preferentially scheduling threads on each CPU to access in-memory data that is located on DRAM local to that CPU.

In addition to being able to scale-up, Oracle Database In-Memory can also scale-out to very high memory and CPU capacities by using all of the memory and processors in a cluster of servers. For example, the Exadata Database Machine X4-8 can be configured with up to 36 servers with 216 terabytes of DRAM and 4320 processor cores. Oracle Database In-Memory automatically distributes tables across the in-memory column stores of all the instances in a cluster. This distribution is similar to the striping of data in a storage subsystem. In-memory SQL execution transparently queries and combines data across all the instances of the cluster using parallel execution processes. Oracle Database In-Memory further optimizes scale-out query processing by co-locating frequently joined partitions on the same instance to enable local partition-wise joins. Inter-node communication on Engineered Systems uses Oracle Database 12c’s ultra-fast InfiniBand Direct-to-Wire protocol to achieve both very low latency and high throughput.
Most other in-memory databases have limited and very immature high availability and security features.

"Downtime is extremely costly for our business. Oracle’s In-Memory architecture takes the right approach to balancing real-time speed with continuous availability."

Jens-Christian Pokolm
Analyst IT-DB Architecture & Engineering
Postbank Systems AG

Industrial-Strength Availability and Security Images

Oracle has worked for decades to build, refine, and harden its high availability and security technologies. Oracle Database In-Memory inherits all the proven functionality of Oracle Database 12c, including the sophisticated and robust high availability solutions embodied in Oracle’s popular Maximum Availability Architecture (MAA).

Because the Oracle Database In-Memory column format resides purely in-memory, it does not change storage formats for data files, redo logs, or undo. Therefore, Oracle’s renowned backup, recovery, disaster recovery, and replication technologies work transparently to the in-memory column format with no changes to functionality, operations, or administration. Oracle’s industry-leading security technologies also operate completely transparently with Oracle Database In-Memory. Complete support and compatibility with Oracle’s industrial-strength availability and security eliminates the need to accept new business risks in order to achieve leading-edge in-memory performance.

In-Memory Fault-Tolerance

When a server node fails, the in-memory data on that node is lost. Queries can continue to run on surviving nodes, but it takes time to repopulate the in-memory data from storage, and during this time analytic queries will run much slower.

The Fault-Tolerance feature of Oracle Database In-Memory eliminates this slowdown on Oracle Engineered Systems by optionally duplicating data across the nodes of a cluster. Just as storage subsystems stripe and mirror data across disks to achieve high performance and high availability, Oracle Database In-Memory distributes and duplicates in-memory data across the nodes of a cluster. If a node fails, queries can transparently use the duplicate copy of data on surviving nodes.

In-memory fault-tolerance can be enabled at a table or partition level to balance the extra memory consumption of in-memory fault tolerance against its availability benefits. For example, customers may choose to enable fault tolerance for recent partitions to ensure fast response times for critical transactions while accepting slower response for queries on historical data in the event of a node failure.

100% Compatible

Oracle Database In-Memory delivers leading-edge in-memory performance without the need to compromise functionality or compatibility. Oracle customers have invested hundreds of billions of dollars developing applications on top of Oracle Database. These applications make extensive use of the Oracle Database’s rich SQL and PL/SQL functionality, data types, optimizations, and capabilities. Oracle Database In-Memory enables all existing applications to achieve in-memory performance with near zero effort.

Oracle Database In-Memory is designed to be completely and seamlessly compatible with existing applications. No changes are required to use it with any application or tool that runs against the Oracle Database. Analytic queries are automatically routed to the column store by the SQL optimizer, and transactional semantics are guaranteed by the database.
With Oracle Database In-Memory, users do not need to rewrite, rebuild, or migrate their applications. Users can quickly adopt in-memory technologies to speed up existing applications, and continue to focus their efforts on developing new applications that improve their business.

**Easy to Implement and Manage**

In addition to being compatible at the application level, Oracle Database In-Memory is easy to implement and manage. Enabling Oracle Database In-Memory is as easy as setting the size of the in-memory column store and identifying tables or partitions to bring into memory. Background processes populate data from storage into in-memory columns while the database remains fully active and accessible. Oracle Enterprise Manager makes it easy to monitor and measure the benefits of in-memory columns.

**Lower Costs**

The ultra fast performance delivered by Oracle Database In-Memory not only improves response times, it also lowers costs and improves productivity. For example: hardware and software for both servers and storage can potentially be reduced; employees are more productive because they no longer need to wait for slow reports; and database administrators spend less time tuning.

**Real-Time Enterprise**

Today, simple transactions execute in real-time, but answering business questions that require detailed data analysis can take hours.

Oracle Database In-Memory takes advantage of massively scalable hardware with new in-memory data structures and algorithms to immediately answer any question. Oracle Database In-Memory processes data at a rate of billions of rows per second rather than millions. Moreover, analytics can run directly in OLTP databases, further reducing delays and improving accuracy.

The ability to easily combine real-time data analysis with real-time transaction processing on all existing applications enables organizations to become Real-Time Enterprises that:

- Make data-driven decisions based on immediate and accurate answers
- Respond instantly to customer’s demands for information, choices, personalization, and engagement
- Continuously optimize all key processes including sales, marketing, manufacturing, staffing, costing, etc. using detailed, up-to-date data

Using Oracle Database In-Memory, organizations can become Real-Time Enterprises that out-innovate competitors, delight customers, and improve the bottom line.

**Oracle In-Memory Applications**

Oracle is embracing the benefits of Oracle Database In-Memory throughout its products. Each of Oracle's Applications - including Oracle Fusion Applications, Oracle JD Edwards EnterpriseOne, Oracle PeopleSoft, Oracle Siebel, Oracle E-Business Suite, and Oracle Hyperion—is developing new In-Memory Applications that leverage Oracle
Engineered Systems and Oracle Database In-Memory to transform critical but slow business processes into real-time processes. For example:

- Cost and Profitability Analysis that took 57 hours now runs in minutes
- Financial Position Analysis that took over 4 hours now runs in seconds
- Sales Order Analysis that took days now runs in less than a second
- Consumption Driven Planning that took 13 hours now runs in minutes

Users and application developers can use Oracle Database In-Memory to make similar improvements in their own applications.

**Summary: Highest Performance, Maturity, and Compatibility**

Oracle Database In-Memory transparently accelerates analytic queries by orders of magnitude enabling real-time decisions. It dramatically accelerates Data Warehouses, Data Marts, and Mixed Workload OLTP environments. Oracle Database In-Memory implements a unique dual-format architecture that delivers fast analytics together with high-performance OLTP.

Oracle Database In-Memory is easily deployed under any existing application that is compatible with the Oracle Database. No application changes are required. Oracle Database In-Memory uses Oracle’s mature scale-up, scale-out, and storage tiering technologies to cost effectively run any size workload. Oracle’s industry leading availability and security features all work transparently with Oracle Database In-Memory, making it the most robust offering on the market.

Extreme performance for both analytics and transactions enables organizations to continuously optimize processes and make rapid data-driven decisions thereby transforming into Real-Time Enterprises that are extremely agile and efficient.

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“With Oracle Database In-Memory, we saw tremendous improvement in our query performance, and dropping indexes reduced our database size by 80%.”

Francois Bermond
Data & Analytics
Schneider Electric
**ORACLE DATABASE IN-MEMORY**

**Powering the Real-Time Enterprise**

| **Speed Up Analytics by Orders of Magnitude** | Oracle Database In-Memory transparently extends industry-leading Oracle Database 12c with columnar in-memory technology. Users get immediate answers to business questions that previously took hours because highly optimized in-memory column formats and SIMD vector processing enable analytics to run at a rate of billions of rows per second per CPU core. |
| **Unique Architecture Runs Analytics in Real-Time while Accelerating Mixed Workload OLTP** | Column format is optimal for analytics while row format is optimal for OLTP. Oracle Database In-Memory uses both formats simultaneously to allow real-time analytics on both Data Warehouses and OLTP databases. Indexes previously required for analytics can be dropped, accelerating mixed-workload OLTP. |
| **Compatible with All Existing Applications** | Deploying Oracle Database In-Memory with any existing Oracle Database-compatible application is as easy as flipping a switch, no application changes are required. All of Oracle's extensive features, data types, and APIs continue to work transparently. |
| **Industry-Leading Scale-Up** | Oracle’s highly mature scale-up technologies enable application transparent In-Memory scale-up on SMP computers with up to tens of terabytes of memory and thousands of CPU threads. Data is analyzed at the enormous rate of hundreds of billions of rows per second with outstanding efficiency and no feature limitations. |
| **Industry-Leading Scale-Out** | Oracle’s highly mature scale-out technologies enable application transparent In-Memory scale-out across large clusters of computers with 100s of terabytes of memory and thousands of CPU threads. Data is analyzed at the enormous rate of trillions of rows per second with no feature limitations. |
| **Industry-Leading High Availability and Security** | Oracle’s renowned Availability and Security technologies all work transparently with Oracle Database In-Memory ensuring extreme safety for mission critical applications. On Oracle Engineered Systems, In-Memory fault tolerance duplicates in-memory data across nodes enabling queries to instantly use an in-memory copy of data if a node fails. |
| **Cost Effective for Even the Largest Database** | Oracle Database In Memory does not mandate that all data must fit in memory. Frequently accessed data can be kept In-Memory while less active data is kept on much lower cost flash and disk. |
| **Powering the Real-Time Enterprise** | The ability to easily perform real-time data analysis together with real-time transaction processing on all existing applications enables organizations to transform into Real-Time Enterprises that quickly make data-driven decisions, respond instantly to customer demands, and continuously optimize all key processes. |
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