

Oracle Solaris 11 Frequently Asked Questions

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Overview

Oracle Solaris is the #1 enterprise operating system, providing you with a range of services you need to reliably run your enterprise applications. Oracle Solaris provides innovative, built-in features that deliver breakthrough high availability, advanced security, efficiency, and industry-leading scalability and performance as your business grows.

General

What is Oracle Solaris 11?

Oracle Solaris 11 delivers ground-breaking features for secure and fast deployment of services in large scale cloud environments as well as traditional data center environments. Oracle Solaris 11 has been tested and optimized for Oracle hardware and software, and is an integral part of Oracle's combined hardware and software portfolio.

What is new with Oracle Solaris 11?

Oracle Solaris 11 contains many new features that enable secure and lightening fast deployment of services in a large-scale cloud environment, including new automated provisioning tools, rapid deployment of virtualized environments from test to production including full virtualized networking, simplified software lifecycle with new package management tools, and scalable management of big data. For a complete list of features, see

<http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/server-storage/solaris11/documentation/solaris11-whatsnew-201111-392603.pdf>

What are the key benefits of Oracle Solaris 11?

Oracle Solaris 11 is the first cloud OS, helping businesses increase agility and reliability of their enterprise deployments, while reducing costs. Oracle Solaris 11 is scalable, allowing

you to provision thousands of virtual environments with zero over-head.

Oracle Solaris 11 is the best platform in which to run your enterprise applications with years of leadership in the industry. Extensive testing, performance and scalability improvements have been done to ensure that Oracle applications, middleware and database run best on Oracle Solaris 11.

Oracle Solaris 11 has been engineered for Oracle, optimizing across all parts of the hardware and software stack for the highest levels of performance and integration.

Why should I use Oracle Solaris 11?

As Larry Ellison said, "If it must run, it runs on Solaris". Oracle Solaris has been providing enterprise leadership for decades and continues to be the #1 enterprise UNIX operating system in which to run mission critical services.

Why should I use Oracle Solaris 11 instead of Oracle Solaris 10?

Oracle offers lifetime support for the enterprise with Oracle Solaris. The decision to use Oracle Solaris 11 should be based on business justification of some of the new features included in the operating system, the hardware platform being deployed on and the applications that will run. Oracle Solaris 11 has been optimized for Oracle hardware and software and provides a solution with the highest levels of integration and performance available in the marketplace today.

What are the main differences between Oracle Solaris 10 and Oracle Solaris 11?

Oracle Solaris 11 has improved in the areas of simplified administration, built-in virtualization, advanced protection, and scalable data management. Over 2,700 new features have been made to Oracle Solaris 11. For a complete list of features, see <http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/server-storage/solaris11/documentation/solaris11-whatsnew-201111-392603.pdf>

Oracle Solaris 11 Frequently Asked Questions

How does Oracle use Oracle Solaris 11 to run its business and product development?

Oracle's core ERP system (running services from sales, human resources, and manufacturing) is run on Oracle Solaris on the Oracle SPARC platform. Oracle Solaris' strong leadership in the areas of scalability, availability and serviceability have been key to this deployment.

Is Oracle Solaris 11 only available on Oracle SPARC or x86 hardware?

No. Oracle Solaris 11 can be installed on both Oracle hardware and hardware from third party vendors.

Can I order Oracle Solaris 11 pre-installed on Oracle hardware products?

Yes. Oracle Solaris 11 may be factory pre-installed at time of order at no additional charge. Please check the available operating system configurations when ordering.

Downloading Oracle Solaris 11

Where can I download Oracle Solaris 11?

Oracle Solaris 11 can be downloaded from Oracle Technology Network (<http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/server-storage/solaris/downloads/index.html>) or Oracle Software Delivery Cloud (<https://edelivery.oracle.com/>)

Where can I buy an Oracle Solaris 11 media pack?

Oracle Solaris 11 media packs can be purchased from the Oracle Store, <http://shop.oracle.com>. Alternatively, contact your local Oracle sales representative if you are unable to purchase a media pack on the Oracle Store.

How do I choose which Oracle Solaris 11 ISO image to download?

Oracle Solaris 11 provides a number of installation options for different environments and customer scenarios, from initial evaluation of the operating system, to single and multi-node

system provisioning. See the following questions for more details on each installation media option.

What is the Oracle Solaris 11 Live Media?

The Oracle Solaris 11 Live Media, available only for x86 based systems, provides customers with an opportunity to explore a complete Oracle Solaris environment without the requirement of installing it onto a system by loading the operating system into RAM. Once evaluated, customers can start a graphical installer to install the operating system. The graphical installer installs a fixed selection of software with minimal configuration, including a full desktop environment.

What is the Oracle Solaris 11 Interactive Text Installer?

The Oracle Solaris 11 Interactive Text Install, available for SPARC and x86 based systems, provides a text or console-based installation most suitable for server systems. The text installer installs a fixed selection of software with a greater level of configuration than the Oracle Solaris 11 Live Media, but does not include a desktop environment (but can be added later, if desired).

What is the Oracle Solaris 11 Automated Installer?

The Oracle Solaris 11 Automated Installer, available for SPARC and x86 based systems, provides an automated 'hands-free' network installation most suitable for provisioning multiple systems in the data center. Customers can create and manage installation profiles for a variety of systems, including complete customization of software, users, services, and other system configuration.

What options are available to install Oracle Solaris 11 without access to a CD or DVD drive?

Oracle Solaris 11 can be installed through the network using the Oracle Solaris 11 Automated Installer, or installed through USB using the Oracle Solaris 11 USB Live Media. Customers can download the Oracle Solaris 11 USB Live Media ISO

Oracle Solaris 11 Frequently Asked Questions

image from the Oracle Technology Network, but must use an existing Oracle Solaris 11 installation to copy this image to a USB stick using the `usbcopy (1M)` utility.

Installing Oracle Solaris 11

What hardware architectures is Oracle Solaris 11 supported on?

Oracle Solaris 11 is supported on both SPARC and x86 architectures.

What are the minimum hardware requirements to install Oracle Solaris 11?

Depending on the type of installation media used, the minimum (and recommended) requirements are as follows:

Installation Type	Minimum Memory	Minimum Disk	Recommended Disk
Live Media (x86)	1GB	5GB	7GB
Text Installer (SPARC, x86)	1GB	2.5GB	4.5GB
Automated Installer (SPARC, x86)	1GB	2.5GB *	13GB

* Note, the minimum disk size of the Automated Installer depends on what packages and sizes are part of the installation manifest

How do I find out if Oracle Solaris 11 supports my server?

Check out the Oracle Solaris 11 Hardware Compatibility List (<http://www.oracle.com/webfolder/technetwork/hcl/index.html>) to see a full list of supported systems, both Oracle SPARC and x86 systems and third party x86 systems.

Why isn't Oracle Solaris 11 supported on older generation SPARC servers?

Support for older generation legacy SPARC servers that have included the UltraSPARC I, II, IIe, III, IIIi, III+, IV and IV+ processor architectures has been removed. Oracle Solaris 11 is only supported on Oracle SPARC Enterprise M and T series servers. This has been done to ensure Oracle Solaris can scale on future generation systems with significantly higher thread, core, and memory capacities without being hindered by these old architectures. Oracle Solaris 10 will continue to be a supported operating system for those affected platforms as per the current Oracle lifetime support policy. Go to <http://www.oracle.com/us/support/systems/operating-systems/index.html> for more information.

Does Oracle Solaris 11 install on laptops?

Yes. Oracle Solaris 11 installs onto many different laptop configurations. Check out the Oracle Solaris 11 Hardware Compatibility List to see a full list of supported systems.

Is Oracle Solaris 11 supported on non-Oracle x86 systems?

Yes. Oracle Solaris 11 is supported on many third party x86 based systems. Check out the Oracle Solaris 11 Hardware Compatibility List to see a full list of supported systems.

Can I install Oracle Solaris 11 into a virtual machine?

Yes. Oracle Solaris 11 is a supported guest operating system on Oracle VM Server for SPARC, Oracle VM Server for x86, and Oracle VM VirtualBox. Oracle Solaris 11 is known to work on a number of other third party virtualization offerings from vendors including VMware, Windows, and Red Hat.

What languages are supported on Oracle Solaris 11?

Oracle Solaris 11 includes support for over 200 different locales. Translated messages include Japanese, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Korean, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Brazilian Portuguese.

Oracle Solaris 11 Frequently Asked Questions

Upgrading to Oracle Solaris 11

Can I upgrade to Oracle Solaris 11 from Oracle Solaris 10?

There is no direct upgrade path from Oracle Solaris 10. Customers wishing to upgrade to Oracle Solaris 11 must either install a system from scratch, or consider the use of Oracle Solaris 10 Zones running on Oracle Solaris 11 and take advantage of built-in physical-to-virtual and virtual-to-virtual migration tools.

Can I upgrade to Oracle Solaris 11 from Oracle Solaris 11 Express or Oracle Solaris 11 Early Adopter?

Yes. Customers can upgrade to Oracle Solaris 11 by using the package management tools. Refer to the Oracle Solaris 11 Transition Guide (<http://www.oracle.com/pls/topic/lookup?ctx=E23824&id=MFJA1>) for more information.

Using Oracle Solaris 11

Where can I find out more information about Oracle Solaris technologies?

You can learn more about the technologies included in Oracle Solaris 11 by checking out the Oracle Solaris 11 Technology Spotlights (<http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/server-storage/solaris11/technologies/index.html>) on Oracle Technology Network, which also includes links to product documentation.

How can I customize my Oracle Solaris 11 installation?

Oracle Solaris 11 installations can be customized using a number of administrative commands, including the package management utilities. You can learn more about administrative customization by reading the Oracle Solaris 11 product documentation (<http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/server-storage/solaris11/documentation/index.html>).

What is Image Packaging System (IPS)?

Image Packaging System (IPS) is the new package management framework for complete software lifecycle management such as installation, upgrade and removal of software packages on Oracle Solaris 11. IPS integrates package and patch management, reducing the complexity of administration with fully automatic dependency checking. You can learn more about IPS by checking out the Oracle Solaris 11 IPS Technology Spotlight (<http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/server-storage/solaris11/technologies/ips-323421.html>)

How can I package my application for Oracle Solaris 11?

You can learn more about packaging your application using IPS by checking out the Packaging and Delivering Software with IPS Developer Guide (<http://hub.opensolaris.org/bin/download/Project+pkg/files/ips/devguide.pdf>)

Can I use the old packaging and patching tools on Oracle Solaris 11?

Administrators can install SVR4 packages on Oracle Solaris 11 using the legacy `pkgadd(1M)` and equivalent utilities. However, the legacy patching tools (`patchadd(1M)` and friends) have been removed, as few vendors other than Oracle used this mechanism to update their software.

Is the Companion CD still available to install a variety of popular open source utilities and libraries?

The Companion CD is no longer distributed as a physical CD media in the Oracle Solaris 11 media pack or available as a standalone ISO download from Oracle Technology Network. Much of the software that was previously included in the Companion CD is now located in the Oracle Solaris 11 software package repository. Customers can use the package management utilities to install additional software from this repository.

Oracle Solaris 11 Frequently Asked Questions

How can I understand the differences between Oracle Solaris 10 and Oracle Solaris 11?

One of the best ways to understand the differences is to check out the What's New in Oracle Solaris 11 guide (<http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/server-storage/solaris11/documentation/solaris11-whatsnew-201111-392603.pdf>), and the Transition to Oracle Solaris 11 Guide (<http://www.oracle.com/pls/topic/lookup?ctx=E23824&id=MFJAI>).

What recommendations are there for deploying applications on Oracle Solaris 11?

Thanks to the Oracle Solaris Binary Compatibility Guarantee, applications running on earlier versions of Oracle Solaris can be run on Oracle Solaris 11 without being recompiled.

To create new applications, or to move existing applications to Oracle Solaris 11 from other platforms, the use of Oracle Solaris Studio is recommended as the compiler of choice. Oracle Solaris Studio provides a comprehensive C, C++, and Fortran tool suite for Oracle Solaris (and Linux) that accelerates the development of scalable, secure and reliable enterprise applications.

During the development and deployment of applications on the Oracle Solaris platform, it is recommended that customers consider the use of native OS virtualization using Oracle Solaris Zones. This virtualization technology provides a rapid provisioning environment with zero over-head helping to streamline the application deployment process. You can learn more about Oracle Solaris by viewing the Using Oracle Solaris Zones to Develop and Deploy Applications demonstration (http://download.oracle.com/otndocs/tech/OTN_Demos/Zones/Zones-OTN-Demo.html)

Where can I download Oracle Solaris Studio?

Oracle Solaris Studio is available for download at no cost from the Oracle Technology Network ([http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/server-](http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/server-storage/solarisstudio/)

[storage/solarisstudio/](http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/server-storage/solarisstudio/)). Customers may choose to purchase Oracle Solaris Development Tools Support (<http://www.oracle.com/us/support/development-tools-080025.html>) to receive support and updates, and browse knowledge articles.

Where can I find out more information about using Oracle Solaris 11?

Visit the Oracle Solaris 11 product documentation, <http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/server-storage/solaris11/documentation/index.html>

How do I find out what applications are certified with Oracle Solaris 11?

Visit the Oracle Partner Network (<http://www.oracle.com/us/partnerships/exastack-ready-solutions-487687.html>) to find the "Oracle Solaris Ready" partners. These partners have applications running on Oracle Solaris 11 today. You can view a list of recently certified applications by visiting the Oracle Partner Network blog (<http://blogs.oracle.com/partnertech>)

Is Oracle Solaris 11 binary compatible with Oracle Solaris 10?

Yes. Source and binary compatibility have been at the foundation of Oracle Solaris development for decades and Oracle is committed to providing this important business investment in Oracle Solaris 11. Customers wishing for a compatible Oracle Solaris 10 environment should consider using Oracle Solaris 10 Zones, virtualized environments running on Oracle Solaris 11.

Licensing and Support

What support options are available for Oracle Solaris 11?

Customers can choose between the following Oracle Solaris 11 support options:

Oracle Solaris 11 Frequently Asked Questions

- **Oracle SPARC and x86 Hardware:**

Oracle Premier Support for Servers

Oracle Premier Support for Operating Systems

<http://www.oracle.com/us/support/systems/index.html>

- **Non-Oracle x86 Hardware:**

Oracle Solaris Premier Subscription for non-Oracle x86 Hardware

<http://www.oracle.com/us/products/server-storage/solaris/non-sun-x86-081976.html>

What does Oracle deliver for Oracle Solaris support?

Oracle delivers award-winning operating system support coverage, including 24/7 technical support, access to Oracle Solaris updates, and access to a wide suite of proactive support tools. For details of what is included in all Oracle Solaris support offerings, see

<http://www.oracle.com/us/support/systems/operating-systems/index.html>

How can I obtain an Oracle Solaris license for a system purchased on the open market, given that an Oracle Solaris license is non-transferable?

For Oracle systems purchased on the open market, you may obtain a license for Oracle Solaris by purchasing Oracle Premier Support for Systems. If the system you purchased has been off of Oracle support for more than 90 days, completion of the Oracle Premier Support Qualification Service is a requirement in order to receive Oracle Premier Support for Systems coverage.

Can I use Oracle Solaris 11 without a support contract?

Oracle Solaris 11 can be downloaded from the Oracle Technical Network under the terms of the *Oracle Technology Network Developer Licensing Terms for Oracle Solaris* which permits for a perpetual license for the purposes of developing, testing, prototyping and demonstrating applications on Oracle Solaris 11. Oracle Solaris 11 can also be downloaded from Oracle Software Delivery Cloud under the terms of the *Oracle*

Software Delivery Cloud Trial License Agreement that permits a 30-day evaluation use only license for Oracle Solaris 11. In both the above cases, neither license permits for production use. Customers will not receive updates to the operating system unless they purchase a support agreement from Oracle.

What are support repository updates (SRU)?

Support repository updates are a set of updates provided by Oracle for customers who have a valid Oracle support agreement for Oracle Solaris 11. Updates usually take the form of new package versions to fix software bugs or security issues, but can also include enhancements or support for new hardware at Oracle's discretion. Customers can update their systems to the latest SRU using the package management tools included in Oracle Solaris 11.

How often are new SRU updates issued?

SRU updates are issued approximately every month from the Oracle Solaris support repository,

<https://pkg.oracle.com/solaris/support>

Are Oracle Solaris 11 patches freely available for developer purposes only?

Under the Oracle Solaris Development Initiative patches and updates are available to Oracle PartnerNetwork Gold members and higher for the purposes of porting, developing, integrating, testing and validating commercially available software applications. For more details about the initiative, see <http://www.oracle.com/partners/secure/support/oracle-solaris-development-494690.html>

How can I report bugs on Oracle Solaris 11?

Customers who have a valid Oracle support agreement can report bugs through My Oracle Support,

<https://support.oracle.com>

Oracle Solaris 11 Frequently Asked Questions

Additional Learning

What other Oracle products are available for Oracle Solaris 11?

Among the many Oracle products that are available for Oracle Solaris 11 are:

- **Oracle Solaris Cluster, Enterprise Edition**
High availability for the #1 Enterprise OS
<http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/server-storage/solaris-cluster/overview/index.html>
- **Oracle Solaris Studio**
#1 Development Platform for the #1 Enterprise OS
<http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/server-storage/solarisstudio/overview/index.html>

How can I get more news about Oracle Solaris?

Catch the latest news and information from our social media sites:

Blog	http://blogs.oracle.com/solaris
Facebook	http://www.facebook.com/solaris
Twitter	http://www.twitter.com/ORCL_Solaris
LinkedIn	http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Oracle-Solaris-Insider-3951282
YouTube	http://www.youtube.com/oraclesolaris

What training courses or certification programs are available for Oracle Solaris 11?

An extensive set of training courses and certification programs are available from Oracle University.

The training courses that are currently offered are:

- **What's New in Oracle Solaris 11**
- **Transition to Oracle Solaris 11**
- **Oracle Solaris 11 System Administration**
- **Oracle Solaris 11 Advanced System Administration**

The certification programs that are currently offered are:

- **Oracle Certified Associate**
Oracle Solaris 11 System Administrator
- **Oracle Certified Professional**
Oracle Solaris 11 System Administrator

For more details, see

<http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/server-storage/solaris11/training/index.html>

If you have inputs or questions, please send out a message to SOLARIS-OTN_WW_GRP@oracle.com adding in the Subject: Oracle Solaris 11 FAQ.



Oracle Corporation
Worldwide Headquarters
500 Oracle Parkway
Redwood Shores, CA 94065
U.S.A.

Worldwide Inquiries

Phone: +1.650.506.7000
+1.800.ORACLE1
Fax: +1.650.506.7200
oracle.com



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Hardware and Software, Engineered to Work Together