

# Oracle VM FAQ

## General Overview

### What has Oracle Announced?

Oracle has announced a new product, [Oracle VM](#), server virtualization software which fully supports both Oracle and non-Oracle applications. Oracle VM offers scalable, low-cost server virtualization that is three times more efficient than existing server virtualization products from other vendors.

Oracle has also announced certification of key Oracle products including Oracle Database, Oracle Fusion Middleware, and Oracle Applications with Oracle VM. Backed by Oracle's world-class support organization, customers now have a single point of support for their entire virtualization environments including the Linux operating system, Oracle Database, Oracle Fusion Middleware and Oracle Application software.

Oracle VM is free, and is available for free download from [edelivery.oracle.com/oraclevm](http://edelivery.oracle.com/oraclevm). Both Linux and Windows guests are supported.

### What is Oracle VM?

Oracle VM is a product that offers scalable, low-cost server virtualization that supports both Oracle and non-Oracle applications. Consisting of open source server software and an integrated Web browser-based management console, Oracle VM provides an easy-to-use graphical interface for creating and managing virtual server pools, running on x86 and x86-64-based systems, across an enterprise.

Users can create and manage Virtual Machines (VMs) that exist on the same physical server but behave like independent physical servers. Each virtual machine created with Oracle VM has its own virtual CPUs, network interfaces, storage and operating system. With Oracle VM, users have an easy-to-use browser-based tool for creating, cloning, sharing, configuring, booting and migrating VMs.

### Why is Oracle offering Oracle VM?

Oracle has a long-standing history of enabling our customers to exploit low-cost hardware through Grid Computing. Oracle has developed several essential Grid Computing technologies, including

- Oracle Database and Oracle Fusion Middleware Clustering
- Oracle Automatic Storage Management
- Oracle Enterprise Manager Grid Control

Oracle VM is another key grid technology. Oracle VM enables customers to easily and economically deploy applications in a grid without physical server configuration or per server software installation. Oracle VM enables customers to increase server utilization through virtual machine consolidation with very little overhead, saving power, floor space, and hardware cost. And Oracle VM allows customers to grow or shrink the physical server resources dedicated to an application without downtime through Oracle VM live migration.

With Oracle VM, Oracle now provides customers integrated clustering, virtualization, storage, and management for Grid Computing, as well as unified, full stack support for virtualization, Linux, database, middleware, and application products. Recognizing enterprise customers' demand for fully supported server virtualization, Oracle now offers Oracle VM backed by a world-class support organization, as well as a full suite of Oracle product certifications. Oracle is the only software vendor that combines the benefits of server clustering and server virtualization technologies to deliver a complete Grid Computing infrastructure.

### Which industry vendors support Oracle VM?

A significant number of infrastructure vendors including AMD, Dell, Emulex, HP, Intel, Liquid Computing, NetApp, Pillar Data Systems, and Qlogic support their products running with Oracle VM

today. Also, Oracle is working closely with numerous other strategic vendors and will continue to highlight these partnerships. [Read more Oracle VM Partner Endorsements.](#)

### What does Oracle deliver with Oracle VM Support?

Oracle delivers:

- Free installable binaries for Oracle VM;
- Access to patches, fixes, and updates, delivered via a subscriber network, the Unbreakable Linux Network (ULN);
- 24x7 global support from the world's largest enterprise software support organization.

### Who can use Oracle VM?

Any user can get Oracle VM and associated support from Oracle whether they use Oracle products or third party applications.

## Pricing and Licensing

### How much do customers pay for Oracle VM support from Oracle?

Oracle VM software is available for free download. Pricing for Oracle VM support is simple, and is calculated on a per system basis as follows:

	Annual price per system with up to 2 physical CPUs (sockets)	Annual price per system with unlimited physical CPUs (sockets)	Details
<b>Installable Binaries (both server and manager) and Source (for server)</b>	Free	Free	Free installable binaries and source available online at <a href="http://edelivery.oracle.com/oraclevm">edelivery.oracle.com/oraclevm</a>
<b>Oracle VM Premier Support (1 Year)</b>	\$499	\$999	Access to software and updates through the <a href="#">Unbreakable Linux Network</a> , 24x7 support with global coverage
<b>Oracle VM Premier Support (3 Years)</b>	\$1,497	\$2,997	Network access plus 24x7 support with global coverage.

Support for Oracle VM can be [purchased online via the Oracle VM Store.](#)

**NOTE:** A monolithic integrated circuit with multiple cores or hyperthreading is counted as a single physical CPU when determining the total number of physical CPUs in a system; [See the Oracle VM Pricing Guide for further details.](#)

### How are Oracle products priced and licensed for use with Oracle VM?

There is no change in pricing and licensing of Oracle's products for use with Oracle VM. Oracle counts and licenses physical processors on which the licensed programs are installed and/or running.

### How does partitioning relate to software licensing?

[This document discusses the attributes of server partitioning and how companies can leverage partitioning to optimize their software licenses.](#)

### **Does Oracle indemnify users against intellectual property infringement claims?**

Yes. With Oracle's offer of comprehensive indemnification against infringement, users can deploy Oracle VM with confidence.

## **Features and Benefits**

### **What are some of the benefits of Oracle VM?**

Oracle VM offers:

- Greater efficiencies—Three times more efficient than the other, leading server virtualization product
- Server consolidation and better utilization of resources;
- Three times greater efficiency than current x86 based server virtualization products;
- Improved Return On Investment (ROI) and lower Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) through lower price, consolidated support and savings in terms of space, cooling, power and more;
- High performance server virtualization capable of handling production environments;
- Full and integrated support provided by the world's largest software support organization;
- Combined benefits of Grid Computing and server virtualization;
- Certification of Oracle Database, Middleware and Applications;
- Risk mitigation with full indemnification from Oracle;
- Simplified installation—Server install is a single CD; installs and configures in a minute;
- Faster deployment through pre-configured VM templates of Oracle Database and Oracle Enterprise Linux.

### **What are some of the technical benefits of Oracle VM?**

Oracle VM can provision a working environment or application within a short time, enabling faster time to market. Oracle VM can easily manage the complete lifecycle of VMs including creation, customization, sharing, management, and deployment, in a hosted infrastructure. Oracle VM also offers:

- Three times greater efficiency than current x86 based server virtualization products;
- Increased utilization of a physical server;
- The capability of moving live virtual machines from one physical host to another without re-configuration;
- Centrally managed resources;
- Easy-to-use interface to configure parameters;
- A server-centric focus—Oracle VM is designed to be run in a data center;
- Load balancing to fully utilize resources;
- Easy template creation—Anyone can create VMs easily from templates or from scratch;
- No special software required, just a web browser.

### **How is Oracle VM three times more efficient than existing x86 server virtualization products?**

Oracle ran many performance benchmarks comparing Oracle products running with Oracle VM against the existing leading server virtualization product and also with Oracle products on non-virtualized operating systems on x86 and x86-64. Oracle consistently saw much better resource utilization with an average of three times less overhead using Oracle VM, and also saw significant scalability with virtual SMP. In many cases, the comparison with real hardware was approximately equal in performance.

### **How is Oracle On Demand benefiting from Oracle VM?**

Oracle On Demand provides a portfolio of industry-leading applications—available on a subscription or managed basis—that deliver a superior ownership experience and help customers achieve better business results. With Oracle VM, Oracle is now introducing server virtualization within the Oracle On Demand Managed Services Grid.

The introduction of virtualization in On Demand will afford Oracle the opportunity to optimize each customer's configuration, more fully harness the capabilities of these servers, maintain the operational enhancements deployed over the last several years, and introduce new benefits. In addition, Oracle On Demand expects to benefit from significant savings in terms of space, power and cooling. [For more information, read the On Demand/Oracle VM white paper.](#)

## **Technical Details**

### **Which Oracle products are currently certified with Oracle VM?**

The following Oracle products are certified with Oracle VM. Oracle customers can get the latest details from [Oracle MetaLink](#) Note number 464754.1

- Oracle Database 10g Release 2 and Oracle Database 11g Release 1
- Oracle Application Server 10gR2 and 10gR3
- Oracle Enterprise Manager 10.2.0.4
- Oracle Berkeley DB 4.6
- Oracle TimesTen 7.0.3.1
- Oracle E-Business Suite 11.5.10 and 12
- Oracle PeopleSoft Enterprise 8.4.x and 9.0
- PeopleTools 8.49.07 and above
- Oracle Siebel CRM 8.0
- Oracle Hyperion 9.3.1

Oracle Real Application Clusters testing is in progress and it will be certified with Oracle VM in 2008 (calendar year).

### **How do customers manage their Oracle VM environment?**

A browser-based management utility is included with Oracle VM at no additional charge. Oracle Enterprise Manager offers end-to-end management capabilities for managing applications down to the operating system. Oracle Enterprise Manager will extend these capabilities to include Oracle VM in 2008 (calendar year).

### **Is Oracle VM available for download?**

Yes. Oracle VM software is free, and is available for free download from [edelivery.oracle.com/oraclevm](http://edelivery.oracle.com/oraclevm). Both Linux and Windows guests are supported.

### **What is the difference between Oracle VM and the virtualization that comes bundled with Oracle Enterprise Linux?**

As part of the Unbreakable Linux Support program, Oracle supports virtualization that is included with Oracle Enterprise Linux 5. Please note that Oracle products are not certified to run in that environment. Any customer who wants to deploy Oracle products in a virtual environment should use Oracle VM, and subscribe to Oracle VM support. Oracle customers should refer to [MetaLink](#) note 466538.1

### **Does Oracle VM require a host operating system?**

No. Oracle VM installs directly on server hardware and does not require a host operating system.

### **What guest operating systems are supported with Oracle VM?**

Oracle VM supports the following guest operating systems:

- Oracle Enterprise Linux 4 and 5;
- RHEL3, RHEL4 and RHEL5;
- Windows 2003, Windows Server 2003 and Windows XP are supported on HV capable hardware.

Please refer to the product documentation for complete information on supported Guest OS configurations.

### **Which hardware is supported for Oracle VM?**

Oracle VM requires a 32 or 64 bit host, with at least an i686-class processor. This includes all Intel Pentium Pro or newer models, and all AMD Athlon/Duron processors or newer models; Pentium 4 or Athlon CPU is recommended at a minimum.

For unmodified guest operating systems, a CPU with hardware virtualization support is required. This includes some Intel Pentium D, Core, Core2 and Xeon models, and some AMD Athlon and Opteron models. Please refer to your processor documentation and the Oracle VM product documentation or further information.

### **Will the performance of Microsoft Windows running on Oracle VM be similar to the performance of Enterprise Linux running on Oracle VM?**

No. Currently, Microsoft Windows runs significantly slower on Oracle VM than it does on native hardware. However, Oracle is developing paravirtualized Windows drivers that will substantially improve the performance of Windows on Oracle VM.

## **Support Details**

### **Will Oracle support customers who are using Oracle products on other x86 server virtualization environments?**

Oracle VM is the only x86-based server virtualization environment on which Oracle products are supported. Oracle customers should refer to [MetaLink](#) note 249212.1 for more details.

### **How do I get access to patches and updates?**

Patches and updates for Oracle VM are available through the [Unbreakable Linux Network \(ULN\)](#). ULN is a comprehensive resource for Oracle Unbreakable Linux support subscribers and Oracle VM support subscribers. ULN offers access to software patches, updates and fixes. To access ULN, a valid Customer Support Identifier (CSI) is required which can be obtained by purchasing Oracle VM Support. Support for Oracle VM can be [purchased online via the Oracle VM Store](#).

### **What is Microsoft's support policy regarding Windows and Oracle VM?**

Please refer to the Microsoft Help and Support document titled, "[Support Policy for Microsoft Software Running in Non-Microsoft Hardware Virtualization Software](#)."

## **More Information**

For more information about Oracle VM, visit [oracle.com/virtualization](http://oracle.com/virtualization)

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