

Overview and Frequently Asked Questions

Overview

Oracle Buys Ksplice:

Oracle Linux Enhanced with Zero Downtime Software Updates

On July 21, 2011, Oracle announced it has acquired Ksplice, the creator of innovative zero downtime update technology for Linux.

The combination of Ksplice technology and Oracle Linux Premier Support is expected to be the only enterprise Linux provider that can offer zero downtime updates, and Oracle plans to make the Ksplice technology a standard feature of Oracle Linux Premier Support. Customers are also expected to be able to introduce and remove diagnostic patches without business disruption and make Oracle Linux easier to manage and more secure, Ksplice technology is expected to improve the uptime of Oracle Linux based environments.

CUSTOMER AND PARTNER BENEFITS

The addition of Ksplice's technology is expected to provide the following benefits to Oracle Linux customers:

- Remove the costly and disruptive process of scheduled downtime and system reboots to apply updates
- Enhance the manageability, security and uptime of Oracle Linux
- Enable the introduction and removal of diagnostic patches without business disruption

Frequently Asked Questions

BUSINESS RATIONALE

What is the rationale for this acquisition?

The number of Oracle customers using Oracle Linux server technology has reached over 7,000 and is growing. Oracle Linux is used in mission critical systems such as Exadata and Exalogic and Oracle Database is the number one database for Linux customers. At the same time Linux customers have to manage security patches released on a monthly basis. Linux system administrators have had to schedule system downtime and reboot their systems to successfully apply updates. Downtime for companies can be highly costly and if updates are not applied, security can be compromised. In addition, industry regulations can mandate compliance with update timing. With Ksplice's zero downtime update technology, updates can be applied without business disruption and in a way that's transparent to end users.

Why did Oracle select Ksplice?

Ksplice's technology has been proven with more than 700 customers across multiple industries. Ksplice has delivered more than two million updates to more than 100,000 servers. Updates can be applied while the system and applications keep running, making the update process transparent to users and without disruption to a customer's business. This capability is expected to provide Oracle customers with significant savings and minimize the business disruption from applying updates to their Linux systems.

How will the acquisition of Ksplice further improve Oracle's position as the leading Linux provider?

Ksplice's zero downtime update technology for Oracle Linux combined with hot patches for Oracle database further extends Oracle's technology leadership for Linux customers. Oracle is expected to be the only Linux vendor that can provide zero downtime update updates as part of a Linux offering.

PRODUCT OVERVIEW AND STRATEGY

What products does Ksplice currently develop and support?

Ksplice currently delivers a subscription service that lets customers apply important Linux kernel security updates without rebooting. Ksplice converts traditional Linux updates into rebootless updates that can be installed seamlessly and transparently to end users.

How will Ksplice fit into the Oracle Linux offering?

Ksplice's zero downtime updates will be offered as a part of premier support for Oracle Linux for use with the Unbreakable Enterprise Kernel.

PRODUCT SUPPORT

The combination of Ksplice technology and Oracle Linux Premier Support is expected to be the only enterprise Linux provider that can offer zero downtime updates, and Oracle plans to make the Ksplice technology a standard feature of Oracle Linux Premier Support. Customers are also expected to be able to introduce and remove diagnostic patches without business disruption and make Oracle Linux easier to manage and more secure. Ksplice technology is expected to improve the uptime of Oracle Linux based environments.

Oracle Linux Premier Support* Customers:

Existing Oracle Linux Premier Support customers will be able to take advantage of the Ksplice service as soon as it is made available without additional fees. The service will be incorporated into the existing Oracle Linux Premier Support service offering.

Oracle Linux Basic* or Network Support Customers:

Customers who upgrade from Oracle Linux Basic or Oracle Linux Network support to Oracle Linux Premier Support will be able to make use of the Ksplice service as soon as the service is made available.

For new customers, the Ksplice technology will be available for the Oracle Unbreakable Enterprise Kernel. Ksplice will not be available for other Linux distributions.

Oracle does not plan to support the use of Ksplice technology with Red Hat Enterprise Linux for new customers. The Oracle Linux Premier Support subscription applies to Unbreakable Enterprise Kernel only.

* Oracle Linux Premier Support includes both Oracle Linux Premier and Oracle Linux Premier Limited. Oracle Linux Basic includes both Oracle Linux Basic and Oracle Linux Basic Limited.

As an existing Ksplice customer, can I keep running my existing Linux distribution and extend my subscription?

Yes, existing customers can continue using Ksplice with their existing Linux distributions, including Red Hat Enterprise Linux and CentOS.

For a complete list of supported kernels, please see: <http://www.ksplice.com/uptrack/supported-kernels>

Is Ksplice Uptrack for Fedora and Ubuntu desktops still offered as a free service?

Yes. Oracle will continue to offer Ksplice Uptrack for Fedora and Ubuntu desktops as a free service.

What happened to the Ksplice blog?

The Ksplice blog is being migrated to blogs.oracle.com/ksplice.

Where is the Ksplice GIT repository that was hosted on ksplice.com?

Source code packages which Ksplice previously made available prior to the acquisition are being migrated to <http://oss.oracle.com>.

BUSINESS CONTINUITY

Can I still purchase Ksplice products?

Yes, existing Ksplice customers can extend or expand their existing subscriptions. Please contact your existing Ksplice sales representative to assist you, or visit www.ksplice.com for contact information.

Should Ksplice customers continue to use existing channels to contact support?

Ksplice customers should continue to use existing Ksplice contacts for support and sales to address immediate and ongoing needs. We will communicate all changes and transitions occurring after the close of the transaction well in advance through these familiar channels.

Should Ksplice customers continue to contact their Ksplice sales representative?

Yes, customers should continue to rely on existing relationships.

Where can I find out more information about the proposed Oracle and Ksplice combination?

For more information, please visit oracle.com/ksplice

The above is for informational purposes and may not be incorporated into a contract.

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