In response to customer demands for expanded automation and support for managing large-scale production private clouds, Oracle recently released Oracle Enterprise Manager 12c release 4 (EM12c) featuring a number of important enhancements to help customers more quickly provision, scale, and optimize mission-critical Oracle applications and databases. This new release emphasizes high availability, faster full stack provisioning, stronger security, more granular chargeback, and a number of service catalog updates to streamline and speed up provisioning of database as a service (DBaaS) and middleware as a service across private clouds running on Oracle and third-party infrastructure.

Among Oracle customers, EM12c continues to gain popularity among organizations that want to run Oracle databases, middleware, and applications such as Siebel and the E-Business Suite in large-scale, secure private cloud datacenters. These customers are typically turning to private clouds to enable faster self-service provisioning and more efficient use of resources. Increasingly, Oracle is working with customers to implement big data solutions in private clouds as well.

For Oracle’s customers, self-service enabled database as a service has become the most common private cloud use case managed by EM12c. The latest release delivers a number of upgrades designed to reduce operational costs and ensure more efficient use of database and storage resources for both production and non-production use cases. These new capabilities allow customers to quickly scale up infrastructure, database, and middleware resources to handle increased demand and to rapidly scale down when that demand is reduced.

EM12c Release 4 introduces new high-availability service provisioning templates that include built-in Active DataGuard access so that self-service users can provision bronze, silver, gold, and platinum levels of HA configurations across Oracle 10.2.0.5, 11.1.0.7, 11.2+, and 12.1 databases on demand. New Enterprise Data Governance capabilities allow customers to automatically discover, scan, and identify databases that may contain sensitive data. The product also provides guidance and automated workflows to protect the information in those databases. A Snap Clone feature provides up to 97% more efficient database cloning.

Oracle’s customers are rapidly increasing the scale and scope of their private clouds. EM12c Release 4 responds to their need for faster and simpler provisioning and chargeback by introducing a number of predefined “push button” templates for rapid automated deployment of database-as-a-service catalogs on Oracle Exadata, application platform as a service on Oracle Exalogic Elastic Cloud, and database as a service on third-party industry platforms.

More granular role-based metering and chargeback capabilities are being rolled out to provide specific usage and cost data views that are relevant to chargeback administrators, self-service portal users, and line-of-business users. Dashboards optimized for each persona and visualization capabilities have been enhanced.

A number of new security functions are also being made available to support the needs of Oracle customers that are using private clouds to support mission-critical applications, confidential data, and environments that are subject to extensive change control and audit policies. Specifically, Oracle has added support for the SNMP v3 protocol, including encryption, and out-of-the-box capabilities to detect data and configuration vulnerabilities, which in turn provide enhanced cloud service governance. A new
unified security console has been introduced to provide a single point of control for auditing access control, credentials, and resource privileges within EM12c. More sophisticated configuration validation and threshold management and alerts are also being introduced.

Over the past several years, Oracle has been steadily investing in EM12c private cloud management to support the needs of its database, middleware, and application software customers. In June 2014, Oracle was listed as one of the top 10 vendors by revenue in *Worldwide Cloud Systems Management Software 2013 Vendor Shares* (IDC #249131, June 2014). IDC expects Oracle will continue to invest in additional cloud management functionality with each forthcoming release of Oracle Enterprise Manager and will continue to prioritize the needs of Oracle customers as their cloud strategies mature.

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