Licensing Data Recovery Environments

In today's data and information intensive economy, businesses need continuous access to mission-critical information. IT departments must not only manage the rapid growth of business information but they must also keep this information available and protected. That's why every business has data recovery and business continuance plans. This document will help you in understanding how to license Oracle programs in such environments.

Data Recovery environments are usually deployed using following two methods: **a)** Deploying a clustered environment such as Failover or **b)** Copying, Synchronizing or Mirroring of the data and/or program files (such as Physical DB files, Binaries, Executables).

Data Recovery using Clustered Environments (Failover)
The failover data recovery method is an example of a clustered deployment; where multiple nodes/servers have access to one Single Storage/SAN. In such cases your license for the programs listed on the US Oracle Technology Price, which may be accessed at http://www.oracle.com/corporate/pricing/pricelists.html, includes the right to run the licensed program(s) on an unlicensed spare computer in a failover environment for up to a total of ten separate days in any given calendar year (for example, if a failover node is down for two hours on Tuesday and three hours on Friday, it counts as two days). The above right only applies when a number of machines are arranged in a cluster and share one disk array. When the primary node fails, the failover node acts as the primary node. Once the primary node is repaired, you must switch back to the primary node. Once the failover period has exceeded ten days, the failover node must be licensed. In addition, only one failover node per clustered environment is at no charge for up to ten separate days even if multiple nodes are configured as failover. Downtime for maintenance purposes counts towards the ten separate days limitation. When licensing options on a failover environment, the options must match the number of licenses of the associated database. Additionally, when licensing by Named User Plus, the user minimums are waived on one failover node only. Any use beyond the right granted in this section must be licensed separately. In a failover environment, the same license metric must be used for the production and failover nodes when licensing a given clustered configuration.

Data Recovery Environments using Copying, Synchronizing or Mirroring
Standby and Remote Mirroring are commonly used terms to describe these methods of deploying Data Recovery environments. In these Data Recovery deployments, the data, and optionally the Oracle binaries, are copied to another storage device. In these Data Recovery deployments all Oracle programs that are installed and/or running must be licensed per standard policies documented in the Oracle Licensing and Services Agreement (OLSA). This includes installing Oracle programs on the DR server(s) to test the DR scenario. Licensing metrics and program options on Production and Data Recovery/Secondary servers must match.

Testing
For the purpose of testing physical copies of backups, your license for the Oracle Database (Enterprise Edition, Standard Edition or Standard Edition One) includes the right to run the database on an unlicensed computer for up to four times, not exceeding 2 days per testing, in any given calendar year. The aforementioned right does not cover any other data recovery method - such as remote mirroring - where the Oracle program binary files are copied or synchronized.