Oracle Management Strategy Underscores Commitment to Hybrid, Multicloud Choice
February 10, 2020
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IDC's Quick Take
During its recent cloud analyst event, Oracle emphasized its commitment to providing customers with consistent cloud management capabilities and a wide range of choices for building, deploying, running, and managing applications and databases across hybrid, multicloud architectures. Oracle Enterprise Manager (EM) continues to be the flagship management platform for on-premises Oracle systems and databases, while Oracle Management Cloud (OMC) is the focal point for cloud-based management and analytics. The just announced general availability of Oracle Enterprise Manager 13.4 includes plug-ins and analytics to enable deeper integrations and more consistent operations across EM and OMC.

Product Announcement Highlights
Oracle Enterprise Manager 13.4 expands the range of third-party clouds and platforms that can be monitored by EM and includes new capabilities for deeper analytics, similar to what Oracle already offers in OMC via a SaaS consumption model. It also introduces a new Migration Workbench that supports customer efforts to evaluate the benefits of migrating Oracle databases to Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI). Together, these enhancements are designed to accelerate Oracle's Autonomous Cloud vision.

IDC's Point of View
Oracle's overall cloud strategy is anchored by its self-driving Autonomous OS and Gen 2 Oracle Cloud Services portfolio that spans on-premises customer-managed engineered systems, on-premises remotely managed Cloud@Customer platforms, and a rapidly growing worldwide network of OCI public cloud datacenters that are expected to cover 36 regions by the end of 2020. Simultaneously, Oracle is acknowledging that customers will continue to run workloads on VMware platforms and may choose to deploy applications on third-party public clouds such as Microsoft Azure. The evolving Oracle Cloud Management architecture is becoming more open and is taking steps to ensure that Oracle management tools and services have consistent visibility and control across Oracle platforms and third-party clouds.

Oracle is implementing a consistent approach to the management, automation, observability, and optimization of cloud database and infrastructure operations with the goal of ensuring comprehensive, self-managed, AI-powered control across the full application and infrastructure stack. To achieve this goal, the company is introducing several new analytic features into EM itself, such as the new Exadata Warehouse. These features will provide customers with choice about where and how to deploy management functionality while assuring that AI/ML analytics supported in both EM and OMC can be applied consistently across cloud and on-premises telemetry such as logs, metrics, and traces. Another new plug-in supports integrations with Grafana dashboards, which are popular with developers and container and Kubernetes administrators.

IDC #lcUS46017920
This latest EM release also introduces a new Migration Workbench that supports customer efforts to evaluate the benefits of migrating Oracle databases to OCI. It provides a guided migration experience by measuring on-premises baselines, creating informed goals for cloud SLAs, measuring on-premises resource usage, and intelligently planning cloud capacity requirements by comparing cloud-hosted application performance versus baselines. It also provides overall measures of the value that may result from a move to the Oracle Cloud.

Oracle's investment in opening up the company's management platforms and services to deeper integrations with third-party clouds, analytic paradigms, and virtualization platforms sends a strong message that the company recognizes customer needs for consistent hybrid and multicloud automation and observability. A more open, pluggable platform architecture makes it easier for Oracle customers to integrate across on-premises and public cloud platforms and to mix and match applications, containers, Kubernetes, database, and infrastructure options as needed by the business.

Enterprise IT leaders with reliance on Oracle databases, OCI, and engineered systems should continue to track and evaluate these new integrations and analytics capabilities as they formulate their ongoing approach to optimizing database, developer, and infrastructure resources.

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