Oracle focuses on 5G charging and containerization in latest Billing and Revenue Management release
Oracle focuses on 5G charging and containerization in latest Billing and Revenue Management release

Omdia view

Summary
In late April Oracle released the latest version of its flagship monetization product, Billing and Revenue Management (BRM). The latest release includes several upgrades including the full containerization of the product, full compatibility with 5G networks and enhanced charging capabilities to support 5G business models.

BRM is now 5G-ready
In late April Oracle released the latest version of its flagship monetization product, Billing and Revenue Management (BRM), building on capabilities released in the October 2019 update.

In the October release of BRM, Oracle debuted cloud-native capabilities, including introducing a microservices architecture and 20 containerized images using Docker. The latest release builds on the last update, with Oracle containerizing the remaining elements of BRM including the Elastic Charging Engine and Offline Mediation Controller; making the product now fully containerized.

This is an important update as CSPs are increasingly moving elements of their revenue management systems to the cloud and are looking to cloud-native features like containers to improve system scalability. Moreover, open source technologies like Docker and Kubernetes are becoming the go-to technologies for CSPs looking to take advantage of cloud-native capabilities like containers for their revenue management systems. From a competitive standpoint, containerization using open source is becoming the industry standard with competitors like Netcracker and Optiva also introducing similar capabilities for their products.

In addition to improvements to the architecture and supporting technologies, Oracle has announced that BRM is also officially 5G-ready and aligned with 3GPP standards release-15. At the core of this is the upgraded convergent charging system which includes the elastic charging engine which allows CSPs to rate and charge for any attribute or metric and the "In Memory Charging Grid". The "In Memory Charging Grid" uses HTTP/2 protocols and diameter connections to enable CSPs to charge for 4G and 5G services within a single system. This capability is key as CSPs try to find a balance between monetizing the existing network and supporting new 5G use cases. Finally, the convergent charging system also supports non-standalone and standalone 5G core networks.

Being able to rate and charge for any metric or attribute is a capability that is essential to the monetization of 5G services and the new business models that 5G will enable. An Omdia survey of 125 CSPs found that only 25% of CSPs anticipate consumer-focused business models to be the biggest revenue driver for 5G. Instead, CSPs expect to derive much of their 5G revenue from smart cities, governments, B2BX, and industry vertical business models. Many of these use cases will require the support of unique rating and charging parameters, such as charging based on device type, or location, or for very small increments and thus having a flexible and highly scalable charging system like Oracle’s Elastic Charging Engine is key to supporting these business models.

Overall, the enhancements to BRM are well-timed for the market and Oracle’s competitors have made similar product updates in the last year. Nonetheless, vendors seem to be ahead of the curve in terms of offering future-ready monetization solutions. Omdia anticipates growth in the revenue
Oracle focuses on 5G charging and containerization in latest Billing and Revenue Management release

management market to be relatively modest for vendors over the next four years with much of the investment only beginning in 2022 once wide-scale implementations of 5G have begun.

Appendix

Further reading

“Oracle announces cloud-native deployment option for BRM,” SPT001-000087 (October 2019)

Author

Chantel Cary, Senior Analyst, Telecoms Operations and IT
askananalyst@omdia.com

Citation Policy

Request external citation and usage of Omdia research and data via citations@omdia.com.

Omdia Consulting

We hope that this analysis will help you make informed and imaginative business decisions. If you have further requirements, Omdia's consulting team may be able to help you. For more information about Omdia's consulting capabilities, please contact us directly at consulting@omdia.com.

Copyright notice and disclaimer

The Omdia research, data and information referenced herein (the “Omdia Materials”) are the copyrighted property of Informa Tech and its subsidiaries or affiliates (together “Informa Tech”) and represent data, research, opinions or viewpoints published by Informa Tech, and are not representations of fact.

The Omdia Materials reflect information and opinions from the original publication date and not from the date of this document. The information and opinions expressed in the Omdia Materials are subject to change without notice and Informa Tech does not have any duty or responsibility to update the Omdia Materials or this publication as a result.

Omdia Materials are delivered on an “as-is” and “as-available” basis. No representation or warranty, express or implied, is made as to the fairness, accuracy, completeness or correctness of the information, opinions and conclusions contained in Omdia Materials.

To the maximum extent permitted by law, Informa Tech and its affiliates, officers, directors, employees and agents, disclaim any liability (including, without limitation, any liability arising from fault or negligence) as to the accuracy or completeness or use of the Omdia Materials. Informa Tech will not, under any circumstance whatsoever, be liable for any trading, investment, commercial or other decisions based on or made in reliance of the Omdia Materials.

© Omdia. All rights reserved. Unauthorized reproduction prohibited.
CONTACT US

omdia.com

askanalyst@omdia.com