

Instant Client: An Overview

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INTRODUCTION

Instant Client gets customers on the Grid. Now.

Customers no longer need to attend the installation of an Oracle client. Customers no longer need to call technical support when installing applications, looking for the appropriate Oracle client configuration parameters. With Instant Client, application deployments just work, instantly.

Using Instant Client, customers can deploy their OCI, OCCI, JDBC, and ODBC applications throughout their enterprise, instantly. Customers can automatically configure all application environments with the same settings, instantly. Customers can be satisfied, instantly.

And what does instant satisfaction with Instant Client cost? Nothing. Customers enjoy all of the benefits, for free. Application developers satisfy their customers, for free. In short, Instant Client provides all of the benefits for free.

ADVANTAGES FOR CUSTOMERS

Instant Deploy and Upgrade

Deploying and upgrading are equally easy with the Instant Client. The process simply involves unzipping and copying. Short and simple.

No ORACLE_HOME

The ORACLE_HOME requirement is gone. No more need for a full Oracle installation on every machine to access an Oracle database.

Same Functionality

Client applications lose no functionality. All OCI, OCCI, JDBC, and ODBC client applications will continue to function. No need to recompile. No need to change dependable, well-tested code. From SQL*Plus to most complex applications, Instant Client supports it.

Same High Performance

Application performance often makes or breaks an application deployment. With Instant Client, however, there is no tradeoff between application deployment time and application performance. Combined with the same level of

functionality, Instant Client gives customers a faster time to deployment, with less down time.

Small Size

In some application environments, storage space can be tight. Instant Client's significantly smaller size helps alleviate the situation.

No Cost

Customers do not have to purchase separate licenses to use Instant Client. Instant Client comes with a free license for both development and production environments.

INSTANT INSTALLATION PROCESS

Instant Client means instant installation. Here are all the steps involved:

- Retrieve a copy of Instant Client in any of the following ways:
 - OTN download
 - ISV package
 - Oracle Client CD – Instant Client installation
 - Generated version from an ORACLE_HOME created by an Oracle Client CD – Administrative Client installation
- Copy/decompress the files into a directory such as “instantclient”
- Set the OS library path to the “instantclient” directory:
 - UNIX: set the LD_LIBRARY_PATH variable
 - Windows: set the PATH variable

INSTANT CLIENT SUPPORT

Customers receive a license to use Instant Client in a production environment automatically. Customers that already have a support contract with Oracle can continue to call Oracle Support for any issues that may arise, including help with the Instant Client configuration. Customers that do not have a support contract may easily purchase one.

New versions of the Instant Client will be posted on OTN periodically, at least once per patchset. Download and install the newest version and be ready to run. Instant Client provides a facility for adding in patches through a library-regeneration process from an Administration Client installation. Once regenerated, Instant Client can be distributed just as easily as the original download.

BENEFITS AS A CUSTOMER

As a customer, Instant Client saves you a tremendous amount of both time and energy. No longer do you have to wait for your IT department to load a CD into your machine to run a client application. Instead, you can retrieve Instant Client from your IT department using the same methods you use for other applications.

When installing ISV packaged applications that already include the Instant Client, you need not worry about configuring a separate Oracle client beforehand. ISVs will be able to install the Instant Client and configure it appropriately without requiring customer-site customization. Instant Client leads to shorter application deployment downtime.

BENEFITS AS AN INDEPENDENT SOFTWARE VENDOR (ISV)

Oracle Corporation offers you, as an Independent Software Vendor (ISV), a freely redistributable license for Instant Client. You can now easily prepackage an Oracle client along with your applications. You save valuable developer and support costs, no longer needing to test many different potential customer configurations of your software when interacting with Oracle. You only need to test the Instant Client configuration, and have it installed from within your application installer for no additional charge. Your applications become freestanding and self-sufficient. You need not tell your customers to install and configure an Oracle client separately. And customers who have already purchased the Oracle database will have no problems calling Oracle Support for any of their Instant Client needs.

SUMMARY

Instant Client is just that. Instant. Customers and ISVs alike can enjoy the benefits. Distribute, deploy, and deliver. Instantly.

MORE INFORMATION

For the most up-to-date Instant Client information, visit the Instant Client webpage:

<http://otn.oracle.com/tech/oci/instantclient/instantclient.html>



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