



Oracle Accelerates Plans for Systems and Cloud Management Convergence at Oracle OpenWorld 2019

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IDC's Quick Take

At the recent Oracle OpenWorld 2019 customer event, Oracle promised enterprises full systems and application management choice and integration across on-premises, SaaS, and cloud platforms. The commitment was bolstered by a flurry of new features and product releases designed to accelerate the convergence of its hybrid systems and cloud management portfolio.

Product Announcement Highlights

Oracle's systems, applications, and cloud management portfolio includes three existing and somewhat overlapping product families that have historically served different customer personas and use cases. They are:

- **Oracle Enterprise Manager (EM):** EM is the flagship on-premises management platform supporting Oracle's database, server, storage, engineered systems, applications, middleware, and cloud services offerings including the recently announced Autonomous systems and Customer@Cloud platforms. EM's strengths include robust discovery, configuration management, tuning, and automated fleet management.
- **Oracle Management Cloud (OMC):** OMC is a family of SaaS-delivered monitoring and analytics services designed to monitor infrastructure and application performance and provide log and capacity analytics. OMC can be used to monitor and analyze telemetry from a wide range of on-premises and public cloud targets.
- **Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI) Management Console:** OCI is a unified management interface for all OCI public cloud services. The Console enables a mix of native OCI configuration and policy control capabilities as well as integrations with OMC monitoring and analytics. The OCI Console is limited to the management of OCI resources. The companion Oracle Governance Cloud services provide Oracle Cloud Infrastructure Tagging, Cost, and Audit services. Resource Manager is available to provide OCI as a managed service.

This trio was joined by the just announced [Oracle OS Management Service](#) (GA planned late 2019), available initially for Oracle Autonomous Linux, a newly introduced OCI-delivered version of Oracle Linux planned for late 2019. Autonomous Linux will provide automated OS configuration management including self-patching with almost no downtime. Oracle indicated it eventually expects to extend the OS Management Service to other versions of cloud-delivered Linux and eventually to the Windows OS as well. IDC expects the OS Management Service will be accessed via the OCI Management Console as will other newly announced self-driving Autonomous offerings that will be offered as both serverless and dedicated cloud services. These include Autonomous Data Warehouse, Autonomous Transaction Processing, and the previously announced Autonomous Database.

Beyond the introduction of the OS Management Service, management announcements at Oracle OpenWorld 2019 included continued upgrades for EM and plans for convergence of EM, OCI, and OMC data modeling, monitoring, analytics, UI, and APIs over time to allow customers to have a consistent management experience whether they prefer an on-premises or a cloud-based control plane. Oracle also committed to maintaining consistency of plug-ins and connectors across EM, OMC, and OCI so that customers can opt to move from one management experience to the other without having to invest in extensive rework and new integrations.

New EM capabilities include:

- Plug-ins to provide seamless visibility into the status of newly available OCI services and Autonomous offerings, as well as integrations with third-party partners such as Microsoft Azure and VMware
- Smart Insights for Mobile, an app for handling incidents and alerts via phone and tablets
- Grafana dashboard plug-in to allow for more flexible EM data visualizations
- Availability of EM in the OCI Marketplace to streamline installations and updates of EM running on OCI
- New analytics and data warehousing capabilities for on-premises EM customers that do not want to connect EM to the cloud

Plans to converge OMC and OCI include:

- Migration of OMC logging, alerting, analytics, and monitoring capabilities (such as APM) to the native OCI control plane to enable consistent applicability of policies, including OCI's fine-grain identity access controls, across both OCI and OMC expected in 2020
- Expansion of new OCI services and combined OMC/OCI services to manage on-premises systems and applications including Cloud@Customer available in mid-2020
- Deployment of an integrated Autonomous Data Warehouse–based analytics platform to support more comprehensive data storage and analytics across OEM, OMC and OCI
- Ongoing algorithmic optimizations including improved anomaly detection to identify abnormal behavior, pattern analysis, correlation, topology assessments, and capacity planning
- Full OMC API Integrations with Azure and VMware systems to support OCI connectivity
- Consolidation of OMC and OCI Console UIs into one unified experience
- Integrated OCI and OMC webhooks to link to Jira, Slack, ServiceNow, and other popular web tools
- Enhanced OCI Multicloud Orchestration Resource Manager based on Terraform orchestration to be made available in phases during 2020

Ultimately, Oracle customers should have access to a converged management experience across on-premises, SaaS, OCI, and integrated partner offerings built on common plug-in and connector, data warehouse, analytics, orchestration, and UI underpinnings.

IDC's Point of View

Oracle's stated goal is to allow customers to evolve toward hybrid and cloud management architectures at their own pace, with the expectation that many Oracle customers will opt to retain important on-premises Oracle assets for a decade or more even as they choose to move some existing and/or net-new workloads to the public cloud. Simultaneously, Oracle aims to create sticky, long-lasting connections

with customers by encouraging them to move away from managing their own systems and apps and allow Oracle and its Autonomous OCI Gen 2 delivered services to take care of them instead.

The appeal of more reliable and efficient self-driving, self-patching OS and cloud infrastructure can be compelling to organizations that currently depend on manual processes and ad hoc tools to support core infrastructure and OS configuration administration and remediation activities. Many of these teams have invested in infrastructure-as-code configuration automation tools from a range of open source projects as well as deployed vendor-specific tools. However, oftentimes they still find themselves working in very reactive ways when critical patches are announced. Oracle's vision anticipates a highly automated, AI-driven operations model that radically reduces staffing requirements while eliminating human error and the risk of downtime associated with configuration errors.

Customers subscribing to these Autonomous services will find that traditional visibility into infrastructure, patch, and configuration status will be unavailable, as these decisions will be controlled by Oracle using predefined policies. Customers considering Autonomous Linux will need to carefully align application configuration and update life cycles with the Autonomous Linux refresh cadence in order to assure consistent application SLAs. Applications that have been lifted and shifted to OCI may not be able to adapt as quickly as the Autonomous platforms are updated. Applications written to take advantage of OCI serverless offerings as part of the development tool chain may be in better shape.

IDC believes most Oracle customers will find they continue to require fine-grain user visibility and unified access control, policy definitions, application management, and cost management across Autonomous, cloud, and on-premises resources. Customers will need to develop consistent assessment models for determining what location and operational policies are most appropriate for different styles of workloads and how to best collect, normalize, and store performance and log data from a variety of sources. The work being done to align EM, OMC, and OCI around standardized data frameworks and analytics services are designed to make it much easier for Oracle customers to create a unified pane of glass for managing a diverse hybrid mix of Oracle and third-party systems and application assets.

Subscriptions Covered:

[Cloud Management Software](#), [Enterprise System Management Software](#)

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