



Oracle Announces Oracle Exadata X8: What It Means

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IDC's Quick Take

Oracle Corporation's newly announced Exadata X8 represents a substantial improvement not only over the prior versions of Exadata, but over just about any other possible deployment of Oracle Database in the data center. The combination of hardware improvements and self-managing features developed for the Oracle Autonomous Database deliver not only higher operational speeds, but better performance without manual tuning for an optimal database experience.

Product Announcement Highlights

On June 12th, Oracle Corporation announced general availability of Oracle Exadata X8, the latest version of its hyper converged system designed specifically for the Oracle Database, with database features unique to this configuration. This is the continuation of a product line first introduced in 2008.

Hardware improvements include a 15% higher clock rate with the latest 24 core Intel Cascade Lake CPUs, 60% more cores on storage servers to better offload database processing at that level, and 40% higher capacity 14TB Helium disk drives. The result is 60% higher throughput than X7, with a 25% higher read rate on storage than the prior version.

The Oracle Database 19c software designed to run on Exadata makes more efficient use of the storage servers while reducing I/O rates with database-aware Flash Caching. In-memory analytics are used to optimize data access between memory, flash, and disk. But the biggest benefit may be the inclusion of the same self-optimizing features found in the Oracle Autonomous Database cloud service. The system uses machine learning (ML) to optimize indexing choices and other physical aspects of database storage and access.

IDC's Point of View

Oracle Exadata X8 represents a substantial jump in the value of the Exadata platform. Its combination of improved performance and optimal tuning without human effort make it a clear choice over self-provisioned Oracle Database options, and make a compelling case for upgrading from Exadata X7. Enterprises that depend on Oracle Database as the workhorse for mission critical data management cannot afford to overlook Oracle Exadata X8.

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