



Justifying an upgrade of your Oracle E-Business Suite applications environment

Compelling reasons to begin your upgrade project today

The latest IBM hardware—POWER7+ processors, solid state drives, and external storage deliver excellent price performance for your Oracle E-Business Suite applications environment

Latest Oracle E-Business Suite release delivers significant enhancements, new functionality and many new products

Upgrade sizing estimation to help you assess the impact to your server infrastructure of upgrading your Oracle E-Business Suite application software

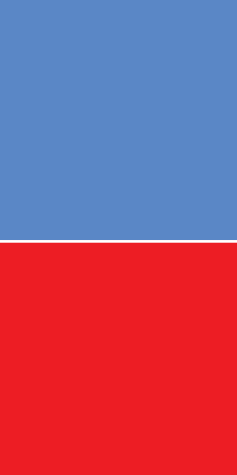
New IBM PureFlex System delivering leading performance for Oracle E-Business Suite clients

Why upgrade your Oracle E-Business Suite software?

With the release of Oracle E-Business Suite 12.1, Oracle has demonstrated a commitment to continued investment and innovation for these applications, and has delivered on the promises of the Applications Unlimited program announced in 2005. Oracle has delivered significant new application features—many of them industry specific, extended application functionality with adjacent products, and enhanced coexistence capabilities with other Oracle applications.

Oracle E-Business Suite 12.1 delivers innovation and significant functional enhancements to the following application areas:

- Global Subledger Accounting, Share Service Centers, Advanced Collections
- Project Management for Asset Based Industries
- Buyers Workbench, Sourcing, Contracts, Electronic Invoicing, iSupplier Portal
- Mobile Supply Chain Applications Personalization
- Common Inventory
- Outsourced Manufacturing
- Field Service Scheduling
- Safety—Work Order Permits
- Org Chart and Talent Profile
- UI Improvements



Oracle E-Business Suite 12.1 also offers new and deeper integrations with other Oracle products as compared to previous releases. These enhanced and additional integrations can be another compelling reason for clients using previous versions to consider an upgrade. Oracle E-Business Suite 12.1 includes:

New products integrations:

- Supplier Lifecycle Management
- Price Protection
- Supplier Ship and Debit
- Succession Planning

Enhanced product integrations:

- Fusion Accounting Hub
- Warehouse Management System
- Manufacturing Execution System
- Value Chain Planning
- Field Service and Spare Management
- Enterprise Asset Management
- Applications Management Suite

Integrations to complementary Oracle solutions:

- Oracle E-Business Suite Extensions for Oracle Endeca
- User Productivity Kit
- Spend Classification and Analysis
- Advanced Controls

In addition, Oracle E-Business Suite 12.1 has enhanced capabilities in the area of coexisting with other Oracle applications. With coexistence capabilities, organizations can incrementally add functionality and value by coupling an existing Oracle E-Business Suite environment with other Oracle solutions, such as Oracle Fusion Applications or Oracle Business Intelligence, whether on premise or in the cloud.

For many clients the thousands of enhancements and new features in Oracle E-Business Suite are very compelling and the savings delivered to their bottom line by implementing the new enhancements and features can be used to justify the expense of the upgrade project. Additionally, new and enhanced applications can sometimes include features and functionality that can eliminate customizations. In many cases these modifications could be retired upon upgrading, delivering additional savings.

For clients who may be on an older release of Oracle E-Business Suite, there may be other important reasons to consider an upgrade. Oracle E-Business Suite releases 11.5.1 through 11.5.9 are currently in the “sustaining” category of support from Oracle—meaning that only fixes for known problems and support for older operating environments are available for these releases. In addition Oracle E-Business Suite 11.5.10 will move to sustaining support at the end of November 2013. Many clients will not want to risk running their mission-critical Oracle E-Business Suite applications with sustaining support and those clients would be better served by upgrading to the current release. In all cases Oracle recommends targeting the 12.1 release for your upgrade project. See Table 1 for a summary of important support dates for Oracle E-Business Suite.

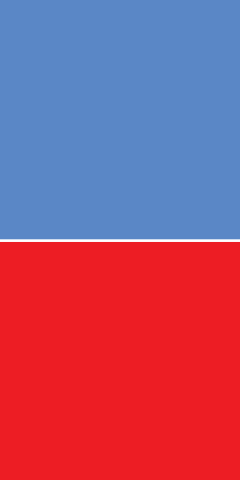
Release	GA Date	Premier Support Ends	Extended Support Ends	Sustaining Support Ends
11.0.3	May 1999	February 2007	Not Available	January 2009
11.5.1	May 2000	July 2006	Not Available	Indefinite
11.5.2	October 2000	July 2006	Not Available	Indefinite
11.5.3	January 2001	July 2006	Not Available	Indefinite
11.5.4	June 2001	July 2006	Not Available	Indefinite
11.5.5	September 2001	July 2006	Not Available	Indefinite
11.5.6	January 2002	July 2006	Not Available	Indefinite
11.5.7	May 2002	May 2007	Not Available	Indefinite
11.5.8	November 2002	November 2007	Not Available	Indefinite
11.5.9	June 2003	June 2008	Not Available	Indefinite
11.5.10	November 2004	November 2010	November 2013 ¹	Indefinite
12.0	January 2007	January 2012	January 2015	Indefinite
12.1	May 2009	May 2014	December 2018	Indefinite

Table 1: Oracle E-Business Suite planned support dates²

Why upgrade the servers that run your Oracle E-Business Suite software?

When planning for an upgrade of your Oracle E-Business Suite environment it is very important to also consider the impact an upgrade can have on the underlying server infrastructure. Newer releases of Oracle E-Business Suite will typically require more computing resources—both processor and memory—as compared with previous versions. However, new IBM servers deliver significantly better price-performance and reduced costs per megabyte for memory as compared to servers available even just a few years ago. These improvements can potentially allow clients to reduce their hardware expenditures while still ensuring excellent performance for running the latest version of Oracle E-Business Suite. IBM, or your qualified IBM Business Partner, can help estimate the server resources required to support an upgrade to the current release of Oracle E-Business Suite using our proven upgrade sizing estimation methodology. See the “Upgrade sizing estimation” section below for more details about how to initiate this process.

When building a business case to justify purchasing or leasing new IBM servers to run your Oracle E-Business Suite software, there are a number of factors that should be considered in the cost benefit analysis. New IBM Power Systems™ and IBM PureFlex™ System servers are built around the IBM POWER7+™ processor which delivers industry leading performance to Oracle E-Business Suite clients. These powerful servers can deliver improved end-user response times and quicker execution of batch job requests, enhancing the productivity of all who use the system.



In fact, IBM has demonstrated the outstanding performance of the PureFlex System with the IBM AIX® operating system for running Oracle E-Business Suite software by delivering leadership per-core throughput for the Oracle E-Business Suite Release 12 (12.1.2) Extra-Large Payroll (Batch) benchmark when run on an IBM Flex System p260 Compute Node with POWER7+ processors³.

Another factor that can help cost-justify the upgrade to your hardware environment is the integration and support for recent technologies that can help deliver increased performance to your operating environment. As an example, consider solid state disk drives (SSDs)—solid state drives can help optimize high I/O access applications to improve performance, throughput, response time and overall system responsiveness. This means that all Oracle E-Business Suite activity, but particularly batch jobs, have the potential to see greatly improved performance with SSDs by breaking through the constraints typically seen with I/O intensive batch jobs.

Further bottom-line savings that can help build the business case to upgrade can be found when considering the included server warranty and lower hardware maintenance costs for new servers. The dramatically lower power and cooling requirements can also significantly lower your monthly operating costs. New servers also run newer versions of the operating system software which typically include enhanced administration utilities that can make your system administrators more productive, thereby reducing your system administration expenses.

Another important factor to consider when cost justifying a hardware upgrade is that newer hardware tends to be more reliable than older hardware, and may include new features that can reduce the number of outages—both planned and unplanned—that you may encounter. For some clients system downtime can be very costly to the business and money saved due to outages avoided can significantly improve the cost benefit analysis.

Upgrade planning and sizing estimation

IBM can assist clients with upgrade planning and execution in a number of different ways. IBM has trained field technical resources with years of Oracle E-Business Suite experience that can assist clients with Oracle E-Business Suite upgrade projects. These non-billable resources can help with infrastructure upgrade planning, general system tuning, and problem resolution to help ensure a successful Oracle E-Business Suite computing environment upgrade.

In addition, the Oracle practice within IBM Global Business Services has many highly-skilled consultants with years of Oracle E-Business Suite application and technical upgrade skills. These professionals can help plan and execute functional and technical Oracle E-Business Suite upgrades using specialized upgrade accelerator tools that help clients reduce project risks and complete their upgrades leveraging best practice techniques that help ensure project success.

And finally, IBM and Oracle have developed an upgrade capacity estimation capability to aid in designing an optimal configuration to support your upgraded Oracle E-Business Suite environment. The IBM Techline Solution Sizing Team, accessible through IBM or your IBM Business Partner, can provide a detailed upgrade sizing estimate. To begin the sizing process, simply download the appropriate sizing questionnaire from: ibm.com/erp/sizing

The IBM and Oracle alliance

Since 1986, Oracle and IBM have been providing customers with compelling joint solutions, combining technology and application software with IBM's complementary hardware, software and services solutions. More than 140 000 joint clients benefit from the strength and stability of the Oracle and IBM alliance, which offers technology, applications, services, and hardware solutions that mitigate risk, boost efficiency, and lower total cost of ownership.

IBM is a Diamond Partner in the Oracle Partner Network, delivering the proven combination of industry insight, extensive real-world Oracle applications experience, deep technical skills and high performance servers and storage to create a complete business solution with a defined return on investment. From application selection, purchase and implementation to upgrade and maintenance, we help organizations reduce the total cost of ownership and the complexity of managing their current and future applications environment while building a solid base for business growth.

For more information

To learn more about joint solutions from IBM and Oracle, contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner at 1-866-426-9989, or visit:

ibm.com/solutions/oracle
ibmandoracle.com

For more information about IBM PureFlex System servers for Oracle E-Business Suite clients, download the data sheet available at:

ibm.com/support/techdocs/atmastr.nsf/WebIndex/PRS5080

For more information about IBM Power Systems for Oracle E-Business Suite clients, download the data sheet available at:

ibm.com/support/techdocs/atmastr.nsf/WebIndex/PRS5148

For more information about Oracle E-Business Suite software, visit:

www.oracle.com/us/products/applications/ebusiness/overview/index.html

For more information about Oracle's Applications Unlimited program, visit:

www.oracle.com/us/products/applications/035482.htm



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¹ For customers with a current support contract for Oracle E-Business Suite 11.5.10, Oracle will be providing an exception for the first 13 months of Sustaining Support valid from December 1, 2013 – December 31, 2014. This exception support will be comprised of the following components: (1) new fixes for Severity 1 production issues, (2) Critical Patch Updates (CPUs), up to and including the October 2014 CPU, (3) United States Form 1099 updates for the 2013 tax year, and (4) payroll regulatory updates for the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, and Australia for each country's fiscal year ending in 2014. Customers must have the indicated baseline patches (or above) for new Severity 1 production bug fixes as per Patch Requirements for Extended Support of Oracle E-Business Suite Release 11.5.10 (see Doc ID 883202.1).

² Note: always consult current support policies at: www.oracle.com/support

³ Detailed benchmark report available at: www.oracle.com/us/solutions/benchmark/ibr12-pay-ora-lrg-ibm-p7-8-core-1873524.pdf