

ORACLE LICENSING

The Oracle Standard Edition One, Standard Edition and Enterprise editions of the database can be licensed using the Named User Plus metric or the Processor metric.

PROCESSOR:

The Processor metric is used in environments such as the Internet where users cannot be identified and counted. This metric can also be used when the Named User population is very high and it is more cost effective to license per processor. The Processor metric considers all processors where Oracle is installed and/or running. Programs licensed on a processor basis may be accessed by internal users (including agents and contractors) and third party users. A license is required for each processor.

An allowance (discount) is made for multi-core chips. For the purposes of counting the number of processors which require licensing in the case of a Sun UltraSPARC T1 processor with 4, 6 or 8 cores at 1.0 gigahertz or 8 cores at 1.2 gigahertz, "n" cores shall be determined by multiplying the total number of cores by a factor of .25. When counting the number of processors which require licensing for AMD and Intel multi-core chips, "n" cores shall be determined by multiplying the total number of cores by a factor of .50. For all hardware platforms not otherwise specified in this section, the multi-core factor is .75. All cores on all multi-core chips are to be aggregated before multiplying by the appropriate factor and all fractions of a number are to be rounded up to the next whole number.

Notwithstanding the above, when licensing Oracle Standard Edition One or Standard Edition programs on servers with a maximum of one processor with 1 or 2 cores, only one processor is counted.

Licensing by processor is subject to rules that depend on the edition, as follows.

Oracle Standard Edition One:

This may only be licensed on servers that have a maximum capacity of 2 single core processors, eg 2 physical sockets. For multi-core chips, the maximum number of cores per server is determined by multiplying the core processor licensing factors (see above) by the number of cores. The result of this calculation must be less than or equal to 2 and the total number of actual cores must be less than or equal to 4.

Oracle Database Standard Edition:

This may only be licensed on servers that have a maximum capacity of 4 single core processors. For multi-core chips, the maximum number of cores per server is determined by multiplying the core processor licensing factors (see above) by the number of cores. The result of this calculation must be less than or equal to 4 and the total number of actual cores must be less than or equal to 8. Additionally, it may be licensed on a single cluster of servers supporting up to a maximum of four single core processors per cluster (two 2-way nodes, four 1-way nodes - and one 1-way and one 3-way). For multi-core chips, the maximum number of cores per cluster is determined by multiplying the core processor licensing factors (see above) by the number of cores. The result of this calculation must be less than or equal to 4 and the total number of actual cores in the cluster must be less than or equal to 8.

Enterprise Edition and associated options:

There is no maximum number of processors or cores that can be licensed. For multi-core chips, the number of cores per server is determined by multiplying the core processor licensing factors (see above) by the number of cores. Processors that are switched off or are physically hard partitioned so that they are not used by the Oracle database, do not have to be counted. There needs to be 100% certainty that the processor cannot be physically accessed by the database for such processors to be excluded from the count - which is why software partitioning does not qualify as this can be circumvented.

NAMED USER:

This metric can be used in all environments. Both human and non-human operated devices are counted as users. In a multiplexing or multi-tier environment, all users at the front-end must be licensed. A Named User license may cover multiple servers. Again, different rules apply depending on the edition:

Standard Edition One and Standard Edition:

These require a minimum of five Named User licenses or the total number of actual users, whichever is greater. The number of processors or cores isn't used in determining the number of Named User licenses. The processor rules described above DO apply; Standard Edition One and Standard Edition must not be used on servers with more than two and four sockets respectively.

Enterprise Edition:

This requires a minimum of 25 Named User licenses per corresponding number of processors / cores or the total number of actual users, whichever is greater. If the user minimum is 25 Named Users per processor, then follow the instructions below to calculate the minimum number of Named User Plus licenses required for your intended hardware configuration.

1. Determine the number of processors on each server where the programs are installed and/or running.
2. Add together the processors on each server, applying the multi-core discount as described above if appropriate.
3. Multiply the total number of processors / cores by 25.
4. The resultant number represents the minimum number of named user plus licenses required for this hardware configuration.

TERM LICENCES

Term licenses are available. These are useful for short term projects or start-ups that need to keep costs down until properly established.

Pricing is based on:

4-Year Term License at 60% of Perpetual License

3-Year Term License at 50% of Perpetual License

2-Year Term License at 35% of Perpetual License

1-Year Term License at 20% of Perpetual License

For the complete and legal set of definitions, please refer to the Oracle License and Services Agreement on Oracle's website.

FREE LICENSES:

Express Edition:

This is a free download that may be used on a 1 CPU box only. The database is restricted in size to 4GB and will address no more than 1GB of RAM.

OTHER SITUATIONS:

Failover and standby:

It is not necessary to double up the licensing in an active / passive failover environment. The machine that takes over when the original primary node fails can be unlicensed when in use in this capacity for up to ten separate days per calendar year.

A standby machine that is maintained in a constant state of readiness to take over for disaster recovery purposes (active / active) must be fully licensed.

Development and Test:

Free downloads are available for most Oracle products for development purposes from the Oracle Technology Network. These may not be used for testing .