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### About Us

The professionals at House of Brick are skilled at all forms of managed consulting services, scalable architecture, project planning and component integration, and backup and disaster recovery.

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## Managing Oracle Licensing in a Shared Storage Environment

By Dave Welch, CTO and Chief Evangelist (@OraVBCA)

About a year ago, some joint customers of Oracle, VMware, and House of Brick began to be informed they needed to purchase Oracle licenses for all nodes sharing storage.

### ORACLE CONTRACT BASICS

Let's start by looking at what the Oracle License and Services Agreement (the contract) says you have to do. We'll use the **City of Oceanside's November 2011 OLSA**, as it's publicly available and scanned reliably through our OCR software, for reference (or pull this scannable **December 2012 OLSA** if you don't want to bother with OCR). [Read More](#)

## Client Success Story - Sheetz Distribution Services

### Migrating and Virtualizing Oracle and SQL Server to Increase Performance and Improve Efficiency

Their previous platform didn't offer Sheetz Distribution Services (SDS) the stability that they required. It was cumbersome and expensive to maintain and it required the frequent attention of their administrators.

With guidance from House of Brick, SDS increased performance while decreasing hardware costs and complexity. [Read More](#)

**case STUDY** SHEETZ

**Clear Share Distribution Services, Industry Consolidation, Oracle® Database, Microsoft® SQL Server, VMware® vSphere**

**Sheetz Distribution Services Increases Performance While Decreasing Hardware Costs & Complexity**

**The Challenge:** Established in 2001, Sheetz Distribution Services is the supply chain operator for Oracle, the use of Oracle® Database, Oracle® SQL Server and VMware vSphere. The use of Oracle Database and Oracle SQL Server required the purchase of Oracle licenses for all nodes sharing storage. The challenge was to find a way to reduce the number of Oracle licenses required while maintaining performance and availability. Sheetz Distribution Services needed fresh, quality products to drive SDS growth from \$50M to \$100M.

**The Solution:** House of Brick had a level of expertise that made us the right partner for this project. We worked with the client to identify the areas of the environment that were most critical to their business. We then designed a solution that would allow the client to consolidate their Oracle and SQL Server workloads onto a single platform, reducing the number of licenses required and increasing performance. The client is now able to drive growth while maintaining performance and availability.

### CTO Discusses the Drivers for Virtualization



Dave Welch, CTO & Chief Evangelist, talks about the drivers for virtualization, including being efficient and competing, live inside theCUBE with Silicon ANGLE's John Furrier and Jeff Frick from the floor of Oracle OpenWorld 2014 in San Francisco, CA. [Watch the video](#)

### Check out another video from OOW:

House of Brick's Dave Welch discusses the advantages of Cisco UCS for Oracle workloads. [Watch the video](#)



**Oracle Ksplice**  
**By Jim Hannan, Principal Architect**  
**[@HoBHannan](#)**

Oracle Ksplice (also referred to as uptrack or Ksplice uptrack)

<http://www.ksplice.com> is a kernel patching tool for Linux that does not require a reboot after applying a patch.

*"On July 21, 2011, Oracle announced that it has acquired Ksplice, a privately-held company based in Cambridge, MA. Ksplice is the creator of innovative zero downtime update technology for Linux."*

**[Read More](#)**

**Disabling Transparent HugePages Using Tuned**  
**By Jeff Stonacek, Principal Architect**

If you are reading this post then you probably already know about HugePages in Linux. If not, then read [this previous blog post, which describes HugePages](#). In newer versions of Linux, specifically RHEL/OEL 6.x and SLES 11, transparent HugePages were introduced in an attempt to improve memory management. Transparent HugePages allow the kernel to dynamically allocate HugePages as needed.

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