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SQL Saturday #492 Availability Groups: Monitoring and Alerting
Apr. 16, 2016 | 3300 W. Camelback Road, Phoenix, AZ

Heartland Oracle User Group
April 28, 2016
Omaha, NE | The Gallup Campus

EMC World 2016
May 2-5, 2016
Las Vegas, NV
Schedule a Meeting

Connect with HoB

Death, Taxes... and Oracle Support

By Cameron Cameron, Senior Consultant

"*In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.*" - Benjamin Franklin

If your enterprise is running on an Oracle database, here's another certainty - you need to maintain Oracle Support.

Full disclaimer: I really, really, really hate to deal with Oracle Support. Just like what I suspect is the overwhelming majority of seasoned Oracle professionals out there, I will exhaust every other option that I can think of before opening a SR. But the reason why you need Oracle Support isn't for the SRs; rather it's because you need access to the My Oracle Support (MoS) notes and patches.

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Giving Away Free SQL Server Licenses... Wait What?

By Shawn Meyers (**@1dizzygoose**), Principal Architect

On March 10, 2016 Microsoft held a #DataDriven event touting all the really cool and neat features of SQL Server 2016. One of the topics covered was that Microsoft is going to be giving away *free SQL Server licenses* to Oracle customers to motivate them to switch to a SQL Server platform. This set Twitter ablaze within the SQL Server community and the #DataDriven steam. Everyone wants to know what is the catch?

I requested more information, as House of Brick has multiple customers who are annoyed by the licensing shenanigans of Oracle and want to change platforms. Here is what I found.

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Oracle Licensing for DR

*by Joe Grant (**@dba_jedi**) , Principal Architect*

A frequent question that we receive from customers is "do I have to license the DR site?" As with most things in IT, the answer is "it depends." It depends on how DR is being implemented and what technologies are being used to manage DR. Since maintaining a DR site is a huge expense, it is very understandable that one would not want to license it unless absolutely necessary.

So first off, as a quick review, a software license is required for any server that Oracle software is "installed and/or running" on. There are two additional clauses that potentially add confusion when applying this concept to a DR site.

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An Oracle Licensing Story

by Jonas Mason, Senior Consultant

House of Brick consultants have a unique perspective into organizational cultures, their Oracle database environments, and the impact this has on the ability to emerge from an Oracle audit unscathed or wounded.

We understand the competing demands associated with the roles and duties of the DBA, System Administrator, Developer, Technical Manager, CTO and CEO; and how this internal dynamic impacts an organization's relationships with Oracle.

In this blog post, I will present a story that illustrates the impact of these internal dynamics on Oracle performance and licensing costs.

Read Part 1 | **Read Part 2**