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Go-Live: Optimizing Your Environment & Operations

By Jim Hannan (@HoBHannan), Principal Architect

At House of Brick, we specialize in virtualization and cloud computing for business critical applications. This gets us involved in many types of projects. For this blog in particular, I would like to discuss our projects that involve deploying a new application that refines how a company does business. I think a good example of this is Oracle E-Business Suite, a CRM application. With a vast amount of modules, EBS can have a positive impact on the way your company does business.

For IT employees, it can mean lots of long hours, learning, professional growth and strategic thinking to help your business. These are exciting and rewarding projects for me and my co-workers. The excitement comes from all of these opportunities for growth. Projects like these don't just redefine how a business operates, but they also redefine how the IT department should operate. [Read More](#)

Oracle Announces Standard Edition 2

by Nick Walter, Principal Architect & David Woodard, Principal Architect

It's been discussed and [speculated](#) about for a while, and on September 1st Oracle announced [Standard Edition 2 \(SE2\) in a blog post by Mike Dietrich](#). SE2 is the only Standard Edition product available starting with release 12.1.0.2. Oracle database version 12.1.0.1 is the terminal release for those who have licenses for the Standard Edition and Standard Edition One (SE/SE1) products. [Read More](#)

Laitram Improves Efficiency of Business Continuity Process by More Than 60%

CASE STUDY

Over time, Laitram's environment grew more and more complex. At the same time, they were working to simplify their non-ERP systems' Business Continuity processes by using existing storage and virtualization technologies. While they knew the value of using these same technologies for their Oracle ERP environment, they wanted validation of their proposed changes by experts in the field, House of Brick. [Read More](#)

Laitram

case STUDY

Client: Laitram Corporation
 Industry: Manufacturing
 Technologies: Oracle® Database
 Oracle® ERP
 VMware® vSphere
 VMware® Veeam

Challenge:
 Laitram's prior BC model for their Oracle ERP environment used hours of their IT resources. Over time, their environment grew more and more complex. At the same time, they were working to simplify their non-ERP systems' Business Continuity processes by using existing storage and virtualization technologies. While they knew the value of using these same technologies for their Oracle ERP environment, they wanted validation of their proposed changes by experts in the field.

Results:
 Oracle Information Technology Services assisted the reconfiguration of the Oracle E-Business Suite (EBS) application. Application reconfiguration was completed in one month and their existing back-to-back ERP site.

Key Takeaways:
 Laitram decided to use VMware vSphere as their primary Disaster Recovery (DR) environment. DR was enabled by Veeam's recovery tool with an extensive effort and reconfiguration and allowed their business to be back up and running in the event of an outage. In the event of an outage, Oracle ERP's continuous state of service at customers' sites, Oracle ERP DR will be enough to get their Oracle ERP systems back online.

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Changing a SA Account

by Shawn Meyers (@1dizzygoose),
 Principal Architect

I was at SQL Saturday #397 in Omaha earlier this month and sat in on an excellent session on "SQL Server Performance and Resiliency" by [Chris Shaw](#). In his session, Chris talked about the SA account and not giving it out. I shared a tip with the group during his session and Chris stated it was a brilliant idea and that I needed to blog about it, so I pulled a post together and here it is. [Read More](#)

Oracle Calibrate I/O - Part 2

by Jim Hannan (@HoBHannan), Principal Architect

In [Part 1](#) of this blog, published in June of last year, we discussed the value of having I/O baselines and some of the tools available to administrators and DBAs for testing I/O. Additionally, we detailed how to test IOPS using calibrate_io. In this blog, we will look at scheduling calibrate_io to run as a cron job. We will also record the calibrate_io results to a text file for future baseline analysis and I/O troubleshooting. [Read More](#)