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## Upcoming Events

Oracle Audits  
 BrightTALK Webinar  
 1/25 | 11 :00 am CT  
[Register Now](#)

Straight Talk on  
 Business Critical  
 Apps in the Cloud  
 Infotec | Omaha, NE  
 3/27/2018

[Straight Talk on  
 Business Critical  
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[IOUG Collaborate](#)  
 4/25 | 1:15 pm

## News & Events

## On-Demand Webinars

A Guide for Enabling  
 Windows Automation  
 Using PowerShell  
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Enterprise Cloud  
 Adoption - Options,  
 Roadblocks,  
 Strategies and  
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Key Considerations  
 for Placing Tier 1  
 Workloads on SDS  
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## Connect with HoB



# Oracle Database Appliance: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

by Jonas Mason, Principal Architect

This blog covers the experiences House of Brick consultants have had with the Oracle Database Appliance (ODA) based on migrating to it, supporting it, and patching it. The title indicates our mixed feelings about this offering.

### ODA's Purpose

The ODA is an engineered system that includes hardware, networking, storage, and software preconfigured in an appliance.

[Read More](#)

## Meltdown and Spectre: What Customers Need to Know

by Nick Walter, Principal Architect

At House of Brick we've been closely following the latest news stories regarding the recently revealed Meltdown and Spectre vulnerabilities, which affect modern CPU architectures. Meltdown, as first widely reported by The Register, concerns a flaw in speculative execution in Intel CPUs that may allow user level code to access kernel level memory in certain cases. The similar Spectre vulnerability is more subtle, as it revolves around tampering with the contents of CPU level buffers, but so far has only been shown to be able to retrieve contents from user level memory and not kernel level memory.

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## CONFIGURING AWS FOR X-WINDOWS

by Andy Kerber ( [@dbakerber](#) ), Senior Consultant

As an Oracle DBA, I often find it necessary to use X-Windows. For unknown reasons, Oracle has chosen to standardize on X-Windows as the normal installer for their software. Because of this requirement for Oracle, those who want to install Oracle products in AWS need to be able to run X-Windows on their EC2 instances. In this post, we will cover the process of installing the required software on the EC2 instance and configuring PuTTY on your desktop for use with X-Windows on the AWS EC2 instance.

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## WHY WE VIRTUALIZE - A PRACTICAL EXAMPLE

by Joe Grant ( [@dba\\_jedi](#) ), Principal Architect

This summer I was involved with a large-scale datacenter move for one of our clients. Rather than maintaining their own datacenters, they utilize a co-location facility. The datacenter where their workloads were hosted was being decommissioned, so their provider required a move.

### Last Time

While working with this same client several years ago, I was involved with their initial migration to a virtualized platform.

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## Industry News

### Veeam invests in AWS disaster recovery with \$42.5m N2WS acquisition

Backup, disaster recovery, and virtualisation management firm Veeam has announced the acquisition of N2WS, a Florida-based enterprise backup and disaster recovery firm focused on Amazon Web Services (AWS) workloads.

The acquisition is expected to position Veeam as providing availability for 'any app across any cloud'.

[Read the article](#)

### Amazon Web Services reportedly named its cloud database RedShift in order to tweak Oracle

Oracle has been the loudest of the legacy enterprise tech vendors when it comes to attacking the leader of the new guard over the past few years, and Amazon Web Services has definitely taken notice.

[Read the article](#)

### Amazon, Salesforce Shifting Business Away From Oracle: Report

Amazon.com Inc. and Salesforce.com Inc., two of Oracle Corp.'s biggest customers, are actively working to replace Oracle software running on crucial business systems with lower cost open-source database software, the Information reported, citing people familiar with the discussions.

[Read the article](#)