



Running Oracle Database 11g Release 2 on Linux® on IBM System z™ Servers: FAQ

September 30, 2011

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This document is designed to answer questions about the Oracle support for Oracle Database 11g Release 2 running on IBM System z.

1. What solution for IBM System z did Oracle announce on March 30th 2011?

Oracle announced the certification of Oracle Database 11g Release 2 (11.2.0.2) for Linux on IBM System z.

2. What was the experience of the Oracle 11gR2 early program?

Oracle had provided several customers with an early drop copy of the 11g Release 2 database for Linux running on IBM System z servers so they could have early experiences with this product. This program included many of the basic components of the database product. Feedback from these early drop customers was very positive. The feedback from customers using the production level code has been very positive as well.

3. Which new features will be of most interest to users?

Oracle 11g Release 2 has, along with the standard features, many new options that are detailed in the document Oracle® Database New Features Guide 11g Release 2 (11.2) E17128-04 which can be downloaded from http://download.oracle.com/docs/cd/E11882_01/server.112/e17128.pdf

Among those, we point out:

- Real Application Testing
- Huge page support
- Improved Install Process

4. Do Oracle Application Solutions support this level of the database?

Yes. 11g Release 2 for Linux on IBM System z is supported for Oracle E-Business Suite R12.1.3. In split tier mode, PeopleSoft and Siebel now support 11gR2 on Linux on z.

5. What are the migration paths for existing customers?

For a brand new installation, customers will need to do a base installation. For existing customers, we suggest to follow the options in Oracle® Database Upgrade Guide 11g Release 2 (11.2) E17222 found at http://download.oracle.com/docs/cd/E11882_01/server.112/e17222.pdf.

Oracle Database 11g Release 2 (11.2) supports the following tools and methods for upgrading a database to the new release:

- *Database Upgrade Assistant (DBUA)*



Provides a graphical user interface (GUI) that guides you through the upgrade of a database. DBUA can be launched during installation with the Oracle Universal Installer, or you can launch DBUA as a standalone tool at any time during the installation process.

- *Manual upgrade using SQL scripts and utilities*

Enables upgrades to be performed at the command line with SQL scripts and utilities.

- *Export and Import utilities*

Uses Oracle Data Pump utilities, or the native Export and Import features within Oracle Database. These utilities perform a full or partial export from your database, followed by a full or partial import into new Oracle Database 11g. Export/Import can copy a subset of the data, leaving the database unchanged.

Note: DBUA is the recommended method for performing a major release upgrade or patch release upgrade.

6. Which levels of Linux are supported?

This solution has been certified on SLES10 SP3, SLES11 SP1, and Red Hat 5.4 as the *minimum* levels certified (later service levels are also supported.) The detailed list of rpms (RPM Package Manager) for each distribution is available on Oracle's My Oracle Support website. See My Oracle Support Note Getting Started - 11g Release 2 Grid Infrastructure, ASM and DB (IBM: Linux on System z) (Doc ID 1306465.1) for more information. An Oracle user ID and password are required for access to My Oracle Support.

7. What are the plans for future patch set updates?

The patch set updates come out 4 (four) times a year for all platforms.

8. Are there any efforts underway to improve the projected Oracle Database availability dates for future releases on System z servers beyond Oracle Database 11g Release 2?

Yes, Oracle and IBM have increased investments in Linux on System z server-based solutions. There is a dedicated development team to port Oracle products to Linux on System z. The intent is to make products available for Linux on System z in a more timely fashion and recent deliveries of patch set updates have demonstrated this.

9. How can you size a configuration to run Oracle Database 11gR2 on IBM System z?

IBM and Oracle working together have developed a proven capacity-estimation capability to aid in designing an optimal configuration for each specific client environment. A detailed sizing estimate, customized for your environment by IBM's Solution Sizing Team, is accessible through your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner. IBM's Techline is the actual group that performs the sizing estimate. Techline is available worldwide.

10. How can I get more information on this solution?

Contact the IBM Oracle International Competency Center at ibmoracl@us.ibm.com.