

Advantage™ Database Server vs. Oracle vs. Microsoft Cost Comparison

OBJECTIVE

To compare the financial cost of ownership between three competing relational database management system (RDMS) products: Oracle Standard Edition, Microsoft SQL Server and Advantage Database Server from Extended Systems.

This comparison assumes a 25-50 user network environment using a client/server database application. This comparison also assumes that the development application tool used is the same between the three products. The costs reflect the financial impact on the application users' environment. This study is based on North American domestic pricing; prices may vary worldwide.

ADVANTAGE DATABASE SERVER

Training Costs:

A free* two-day Certification Seminar for Advantage Database Server is offered to Advantage partners throughout the year. Due to the embedded design of Advantage, it requires no DBA or advanced network administrator experience, which minimizes ongoing administration as well as training costs.

Deployment Costs:

There are no hidden costs when deploying Advantage Database Server. Advantage installs in minutes and uses existing network file systems and hardware.

Operating System Requirements:

Advantage Database Server provides support for developers deploying applications in Novell NetWare, Microsoft Windows NT/2000/2003, Windows 98/ME, and Linux environments.

ORACLE STANDARD EDITION

Training Costs:

A large cost component when using Oracle is the training necessary for users to operate and maintain an Oracle environment. Oracle recommends development organizations have a minimum of one Oracle Certified Database Administrator (DBA). DBA Professional Certification consists of Introduction to Oracle, DBA Fundamentals I and II, PL/SQL and Database Tuning. Total training time is 20 days at a cost of \$10,000.

Deployment Costs:

The process to fully deploy Oracle Standard Edition is extensive. In addition to initial product installation, an experienced DBA or network administrator must also be responsible for the configuration of user accounts, network tuning, testing and backup, loading of the data and the setup of DBA procedures. The total number of hours needed to deploy Oracle is approximately 40 hours. At an installation rate of \$120 per hour, the total installation costs are \$4,800.

Operating System Requirements:

In a 50-user environment, Oracle Standard Edition users are urged to upgrade to a UNIX server to maintain performance. The cost of running UNIX on an Intel machine is approximately \$5,000.

MICROSOFT SQL SERVER

Training Costs:

Microsoft provides an extensive array of training as part of their Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer program. The core training classes recommended are Database Implementation, Database Administration, and Performance Tuning and Optimization. The cost of each course is approximately \$2,000 for a total cost of \$6,000, plus \$2,000 of additional classes to equal \$8,000 total training costs.

Deployment Costs:

Deploying Microsoft SQL Server is very similar to that of Oracle. Configuration, network administration and data loading all add to the total installation setup time at a cost of approximately \$4,800.

Operating System Requirements:

Assuming current users are in a non-Windows environment, deploying Microsoft SQL Server will require a Windows NT/2000/2003 network operating system. The total cost of installing and implementing a Windows operating system is approximately \$5,000. Microsoft SQL Server does not support non-Windows environments.

CONCLUSION:

Advantage Database Server provides the high performance and data integrity of an RDBMS at a total cost well below that of Oracle Standard Edition and Microsoft SQL Server. These benefits make Advantage the most cost-effective solution for easy deployment into diverse environments.

25-USER PRICING	Advantage	Oracle	Microsoft SQL*
Software	\$2,620	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,445
Hardware	0	5,000	5,000
Installation	240	4,800	4,800
Administration	0	60,000	20,000
Training	0	10,000	8,000
TOTAL	\$ 2,860	\$ 87,300	\$ 45,245

50-USER PRICING	Advantage	Oracle	Microsoft SQL*
Software	\$3,670	\$ 15,000	\$ 9,998
Hardware	0	5,000	5,000
Installation	240	4,800	4,800
Administration	0	60,000	25,000
Training	0	10,000	10,000
TOTAL	\$3,910	\$94,800	\$54,798

This chart quantifies a 12-month cost of ownership analysis between Oracle Standard Edition, Microsoft SQL Server and Advantage Database Server. A full-time DBA for Oracle and a part-time DBA for Microsoft are assumed. In a 50-user environment, the hardware cost for the Oracle solution includes a UNIX hardware server to maintain performance.

* Based on Client Access License pricing (CALs).

**Microsoft pricing is based on per processor pricing with two processors to accommodate a 50-user server.

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