

Oracle Database Appliance X5-2 Frequently Asked Questions

Introduction

The Oracle Database Appliance X5-2 saves time and money by simplifying deployment, maintenance, and support of high availability database solutions. Built with the world's most popular database—Oracle Database—it offers customers a fully integrated system of software, servers, storage, and networking that delivers high availability database services for a wide range of custom and packaged online transaction processing (OLTP), data warehousing, and In-Memory Database (IMDB) applications. All hardware and software components are supported by a single vendor—Oracle—and offer customers unique capacity-on-demand software licensing to quickly scale from 2 to 72 processor cores without incurring the costs and downtime usually associated with hardware upgrades.

Q: What is the Oracle Database Appliance X5-2?

A: The Oracle Database Appliance X5-2 is the 4th generation of the Oracle Database Appliance hardware. It is a high availability clustered database system that includes software, servers, storage, and networking, all engineered to work together.

Q: What database version does the Oracle Database Appliance support?

A: The Oracle Database Appliance supports Oracle Database 11g Enterprise Edition Release 2 and Oracle Database 12c Enterprise Edition.

Q: What is the Oracle Database Appliance X5-2 hardware configuration?

A: The Oracle Database Appliance X5-2 is a 6U rack-mountable system with two servers and one storage shelf. The two servers each contain two 18-core Intel Xeon Processors E5-2699 v3 and 256 GB of memory (expandable up to 768 GB) for a total of 72 processor cores and up to 1.5 TB of memory per appliance.

Q: What are the networking components of the Oracle Database Appliance X5-2?

A: The two servers in the system are connected via a redundant InfiniBand interconnect for cluster communication, and two bonded 10GBase-T (copper) external networking interfaces. An optional 10GbE SFP+ fiber external connection is available.

Q: What is the storage capacity of the Oracle Database Appliance X5-2?

A: The Oracle Database Appliance X5-2 base configuration contains 64 TB of raw SAS storage, offering 32 TB double-mirrored or 21.3 TB triple-mirrored of resilient usable database storage. There are also four 200 GB solid state drives for high performance processing of database redo logs and four 400 GB solid state drives for frequently accessed data.

Q: Can I purchase different hardware configurations of the Oracle Database Appliance X5-2?

A: No. While the Oracle Database Appliance X5-2 is a one-size base hardware configuration, it supports an optional storage expansion shelf that doubles the storage capacity of the appliance.

Q: Can I expand the storage capacity outside of the Oracle Database Appliance?

A: Yes. NFS external storage is supported for both read and write operations on the Oracle Database Appliance.

Q: What high availability hardware features are engineered into the Oracle Database Appliance?

A: The Oracle Database Appliance was engineered with mission-critical requirements in mind. It contains redundant components including servers, networking, storage, power and cooling, and many hot swappable components.

- Q:** What Oracle database workloads are suitable for the Oracle Database Appliance?
- A:** The Oracle Database Appliance can run OLTP and Data Warehouse, and In-Memory Database workloads.
- Q:** What Oracle database options are recommended with the Oracle Database Appliance?
- A:** All database options are available to run on databases deployed on the Oracle Database Appliance. To complement redundancy built into the Oracle Database Appliance hardware components, Oracle Real Application Clusters or Oracle Real Application Clusters One Node are highly recommended for Active-Active or Active-Passive server failover, respectively. The appliance also supports all other Oracle Database Enterprise Edition database options.
- Q:** What software comes standard with the Oracle Database Appliance?
- A:** Oracle Linux has been certified, and comes pre-installed on the Oracle Database Appliance along with Appliance Manager software to simplify deployment, maintenance, and support.
- Q:** How do I install and configure Oracle databases?
- A:** Installation and configuration of databases on the Oracle Database Appliance is extremely simple: Cable the servers and storage together, plug in the power and network cables, and then run the Appliance Manager software. This will install, configure, and size databases based on Oracle best-practices.
- Q:** What is the Appliance Manager software that comes with the Oracle Database Appliance?
- A:** The Appliance Manager provides automation for the entire database stack. It simplifies and automates the manual tasks typically associated with deploying, managing and supporting Oracle Database environments.
- Q:** Can I use the Appliance Manager to patch the Oracle Database Appliance?
- A:** Yes. The Appliance Manager software also automates patching the entire stack including the database, operating system, and firmware in a simple process.
- Q:** What different high availability software configurations are available for the Oracle Database Appliance?
- A:** Customers can configure single instance (with Oracle Database Enterprise Edition) or clustered database instances (with Oracle Real Application Clusters or Oracle Real Application Clusters One Node).
- Q:** What database licenses are required for the Oracle Database Appliance?
- A:** The Oracle Database Appliance enables customers to purchase database licenses using a capacity-on-demand licensing model. Therefore, customers are only required to license processor cores that they plan to use.
- Q:** What is capacity-on-demand database licensing?
- A:** Oracle Database Appliance customers can purchase database and database option licenses starting from a minimum of 2 processor cores, up to the Oracle Database Appliance X5-2 system maximum of 72 processor cores. Customers can start small, licensing only the processor cores they use and purchase additional licenses as their business demand grows.
- Q:** Can I reuse database licenses that I already own for the Oracle Database Appliance?
- A:** Yes. Provided that the existing Oracle databases licenses are current they can be used with the appliance.
- Q:** Is Oracle VM supported on the Oracle Database Appliance?
- A:** Yes. The Oracle Database Appliance supports Oracle VM so customers can host both databases and applications on the appliance. The Oracle Database Appliance Virtualized Platform enables application template support, efficient use of all available resources by databases and applications, and flexible capacity-on-demand licensing.
- Q:** What are the benefits of the Oracle Database Appliance Virtualized Platform?
- A:** The Oracle Database Appliance Virtual Platform provides isolation between database and application workloads, utilization of the full Oracle Database Appliance processor core capacity, regardless of the database processor core usage, and capacity-on-demand licensing for both databases and applications.
- Q:** What is the Oracle Database Appliance solution-in-a-box?
- A:** The Oracle Database Appliance enables customers and ISVs to quickly deploy both database and application workloads in a single appliance on a virtualized platform, based on Oracle VM. Customers can deploy a solution-in-a-box for Oracle Applications such as E-Business Suite, PeopleSoft, Siebel CRM, JD Edwards EnterpriseOne, and a multitude of 3rd party horizontal and industry specific applications from Oracle's partners.

Q: Does the Oracle Database Appliance support database and VM snapshots?

A: The Oracle Database Appliance supports database and VM snapshots with Appliance Manager 12.1.2.

Q: Where can I find more information about the Oracle Database Appliance X5-2?





A: You can contact your Oracle sales representative directly or call 1-800-Oracle1. For more information about the Oracle Database Appliance X5-2 on the web, go to: oracle.com/goto/databaseappliance.



Oracle Corporation, World Headquarters
500 Oracle Parkway
Redwood Shores, CA 94065, USA

Worldwide Inquiries
Phone: +1.650.506.7000
Fax: +1.650.506.7200

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