

COST COMPARISON

Advantage vs. Oracle vs. Microsoft



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ADVANTAGE™ DATABASE SERVER

Objective: To compare the financial cost of ownership between three competing SQL products: Oracle for Workgroups, Microsoft SQL Server and Advantage Database Server from Extended Systems.

Background: This comparison assumes a 25-50 user network environment using a database application on a Novell NetWare network. 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. Time and cost estimates were prepared from a study by ComputerLand.

Oracle for Workgroups

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 Database Administrator (DBA). DBA training consists of DBA Levels I and II, PL/SQL and Database Tuning. Total training time is 15 to 18 days at a cost of \$10,000.

Deployment Costs: The process to fully deploy Oracle for Workgroups 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 for Workgroups users are required to upgrade to a UNIX box 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 \$4,000 of additional classes to equal \$10,000 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 NetWare environment, deploying Microsoft SQL Server will require a Windows NT operating system. The total cost of installing and implementing a Windows NT operating system is approximately \$5,000.



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Conclusion: Advantage Database Server provides the high performance of SQL at a total cost well below that of Oracle for Workgroups and Microsoft SQL Server.

Advantage Database Server

Training Costs: A free two-day training course for Advantage Database Server is offered to Advantage partners throughout the year. Advantage 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. In addition, for many applications, no rewriting of existing applications is required. Therefore, ongoing training and administration are not required.

Operating System Requirements: Advantage Database Server provides support for developers deploying applications in both Novell NetWare and Microsoft Windows NT environments.

25-User Pricing	Advantage	Oracle	Microsoft SQL
Software	\$ 2,495	\$ 7,375	\$ 3,999
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	\$2,735	\$87,175	\$48,799

50-User Pricing	Advantage	Oracle	Microsoft SQL
Software	\$ 3,495	\$14,750	\$ 7,107
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	\$3,735	\$94,550	\$51,907

This chart quantifies a 12-month cost of ownership analysis between Oracle for Workgroups, 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 box to maintain performance.

For additional product information, visit www.AdvantageDatabase.com or call: 800-235-7576 ext. 5030



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