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Updating your Oracle E-Business ERP solution

Oracle E-Business R12.1 support has ended in December 2021. In addition, from January 2022, Oracle no longer provides new fixes and security updates. As a result, customers running Oracle E-Business R12.1 now face a gap in their Oracle support services, even where they continue to pay Oracle's support fees. Oracle E-Business R12.1 Support ended. In addition, from January 2022, Oracle will no longer provide new fixes and security updates.

For customers using Oracle E-Business R12.1 post-2021, they now have gaps left from Oracle's Sustaining Support. To fill them, we suggest migrating their Oracle E-Business Suite to 12.2 functionality, and at the same time migrate to Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI). They can also Add/Delete Nodes, review integration requirements (e.g., Oracle Hyperion, and Oracle Business Intelligence Enterprise Edition (OBIEE)).

This will help organisations to consolidate infrastructure, leverage the automation available in the cloud to reduce risk and error, and help improve agility through provisioning.

To ensure continuous support, it is imperative for organisations to upgrade their EBS instances to version 12.2.7 or above.



Baseline Upgrade:

Baseline upgrade of the application tier change to R12.2. This may also include upgrading the underlying database, installing the required patches and updates, and addressing any compatibility issues.

As an example, for businesses operating on below Oracle E-Business Suite version 12.2.7, a critical update is scheduled for July 2024. To ensure continuous support, access to essential patches, and adherence to Oracle's best practices, it is imperative for organisations to upgrade their EBS instances to version 12.2.7 or above. This measure not only protects against potential vulnerabilities but also enables businesses to harness the latest features, security enhancements, and optimisations offered by Oracle as part of their ongoing commitment to EBS.

This is an important preparatory step, as in June 2018, Oracle introduced a "Continuous Innovation" approach for Oracle E-Business Suite 12.2 to ensure continuous enhancements to both applications and technology stack updates for 12.2, eliminating the need for major upgrades. Additionally, Oracle has designated 12.2 as the long-term support release for Oracle E-Business Suite, guaranteeing Premier Support availability until at least 2030.



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So, how can you start?

Oracle has officially released 12.2.13, the latest update for EBS. Release 12.2.13. This is a cumulative release, meaning that as well as providing new updates for this release, it also includes updates that were originally made available as one-off patches for earlier 12.2 releases. So, one way to start, is upgrade to 12.2.13.

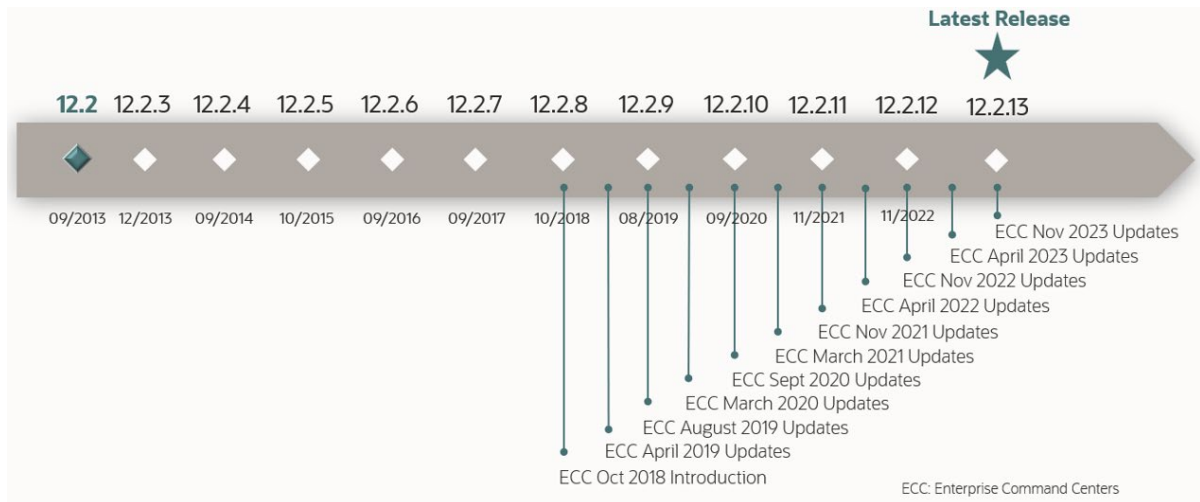


Figure 1 Release timeline for Oracle E-Business Suite (EBS)

EBS Upgrade Blueprinting

Organisations can develop a Blueprint to cover build principles, systems configuration, report specifications, interface specifications, functional design, changed/new processes, job/organisational impacts, testing, training needs analysis, role definitions, data migration, cut-over and go-live requirements.

Upgrade Planning will consider such factors as testing cycles, business needs, new features to be used and post-upgrade support. The upgrade process begins with a thorough assessment of your existing E-Business Suite (EBS) environment. This includes analysing your current configuration, identifying customisations and extensions, and evaluating any third-party integrations. This assessment helps in understanding the scope of the upgrade and formulating a tailored upgrade strategy. Part of this stage involves:

The benefit of this Blueprint will be a clear vision of goals, expected benefits and the detailed steps and milestones to achieve them, covering: **(a)** CEMLI inventory, **(b)** System & Architectural review, and **(c)** Service management systems & process review.

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Introduction of V11 Enterprise Command Centres (ECCs)

Oracle Enterprise Command Centres (ECCs) are a significant benefit of the upgrade to release for Oracle E-Business Suite (EBS) R12.2 as they come 'free' with the move to Oracle E-Business R12.2. As a result, there are no additional license costs.

So, by making the transition to EBS 12.2.13, organisations not only unlock the full potential of V11 ECCs but also position themselves to embrace the latest innovations, security enhancements, and performance improvements. They provide dashboard-style reporting and intelligence and the ability to drill into specific areas to see a more detailed view of transactional data.

The following provides an overview of the potential benefits of V11 ECCs to align their upgrade plans with the system requirements.

- **Financial Management:** General Ledger, Receivables, Payables, Employee Expenses (Internet Expenses), Assets, Cash Management, Lease Contracts (Financials), Lease and Finance Management
- **Order Management and Logistics:** Order Management, Inventory Management, Advanced Pricing, Landed Cost Management, Channel Revenue Management, Incentive Compensation
- **Asset Lifecycle and Service:** Enterprise Asset Management, Asset Tracking, Service Contracts, Service (TeleService), Field Service, Depot Repair.
- **Procurement and Projects:** Procurement, Projects, Project Procurement, Contract Lifecycle Management for Public Sector.
- **Manufacturing:** Discrete Manufacturing, Process Manufacturing, Outsourced Manufacturing, Project Manufacturing, Cost Management, Quality, Bills of Material.
- **Human Capital Management:** Human Resources, Payroll.
- **Employee Expenses and Cash Management:** Internet Expenses

Benefits of migrating to the Oracle E-Business Suite on the Cloud

Oracle Application Management Suite provides the capability to migrate changes across your organisation's Oracle E-Business Suite instances from Oracle Cloud Infrastructure Compute to on-premises and vice versa.

You can clone your on-premises instances to the cloud to create a complete Oracle E-Business Suite development and testing environment that uses your organisation's own existing data. You can also automate, which enables your organisation to shift your existing installation of Oracle E-Business Suite Release to Oracle E-Business Suite 12.2 or 12.1.3, with the database hosted on an Oracle Cloud Infrastructure 1-Node or 2-Node VM DB System and the application tier hosted on Oracle Cloud Infrastructure Compute.



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EBS Upgrade Methodology Statement

- **Prerequisites**

Ensure that your organisation has a correctly provisioned environment that has load balancing configured.

NOTE: If your organisation's Oracle E-Business Suite environment is already on Oracle Cloud Infrastructure, we will confirm that New Load Balancer (LBaaS) or Manually Configured Load Balancer as the Web Entry Point for the primary zone. If an environment has the Web Entry Point defined as Application Tier Node, then only one application tier node is possible for that zone, so you cannot add more nodes.

- **Create a Backup** of an On-Premises Oracle E-Business Suite Environment on Oracle Cloud Infrastructure as a Pre-Production Test Environment instance.

- **Migrate to Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI) and add requested nodes.**

Migrate your Oracle E-Business Suite to Oracle Cloud Infrastructure, thereafter, use the Cloud Manager to perform the following actions when adding a node to application tier:

- Run generic validations:
 - E.g., AD Online Patching, Administration Server setup, Oracle HTTP Server (OHS) custom directives, WLS domain configuration lock.
 - Create the VM infrastructure required for the additional node (e.g., extend Logical Volume Management (LVM), modify the load balancer backend set to accommodate the new application tier node).
 - Perform pre-configuration tasks.
 - Create the Add Node pairs file.
 - Perform pre-cloning steps.
 - Configure the newly added application tier node.
 - Perform post-provisioning steps after adding a node (e.g., update the TNS Listener Service, Source the run file system, Run AutoConfig, update the APPL_TOP IDs correctly, Stop and Start the OHS Service).
- **Clone your organisation's existing Oracle E-Business Suite Environment** (the primary application tier node) with the Database on Exadata Database Service on dedicated infrastructure utilising Exadata snapshots (using Compute VM) to Sandby environment for testing.



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Post-Provisioning and Post-Cloning Tasks

After you provision or clone an environment, you can perform the tasks below to configure access and secure the environment.

- Implement Workaround for Oracle Databases on Exadata Database Service Dedicated
- Update Profile Options
- Update Web Entry Host and Domain Name
- Upload TLS Certificate
- Manually Enable TLS When Using Load Balancer as a Service (LBaaS) as an Alternate Termination Point
- Enable TLS for Manually Configured Load Balancer
- Manually Enable TLS When Using Oracle HTTP Server on the Application Tier Node as the Web Entry Point
- Manually Configure Firewall When Using Oracle HTTP Server or an On-Premises Load Balancer as the Web Entry Point
- Configure Security and Firewall Rules for Secure Access to the Fusion Middleware Control and WebLogic Server Administration Console
- Set EBS_SYSTEM Password
- Enable and Set Oracle E-Business Account Passwords
- Apply Oracle E-Business Suite and Database Patches
- Configure Enterprise Command Centres after One-Click Provisioning
- Review Secure Configuration Recommendations for Oracle E-Business Suite

NOTE: These tasks apply for new environments created through either One-Click Provisioning or Advanced Provisioning, for environments created from a backup through Advanced Provisioning, and for environments created through cloning in Oracle E-Business Suite Cloud Manager. We can optionally use the Extensibility Framework to automate some of these tasks by adding them to custom provisioning and cloning job definitions.

Figure 2 A Standby Environment Promoted to Production

