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FAQ about Oracle Corporation

\$Date: 26-Jul-2003 \$

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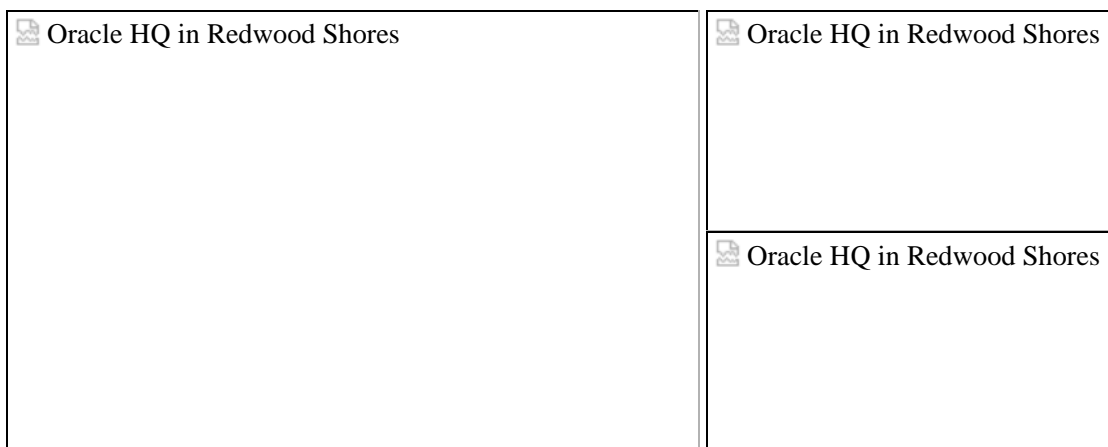
\$Author: [Frank Naudé](#) \$

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Who is Oracle and where do they come from?



Oracle's Head HQ buildings in Redwood Shores - also featured in the movie [Bicentennial Man \(1999\)](#)

Oracle Corporation was founded in 1977 in Redwood, California. They introduced the first Relational Database Management System based on the **IBM System/R** model and the first database management system utilizing IBM's Structured Query Language (**SQL**) technology.

Today, the Oracle DBMS is supported on over 80 different operating environments, ranging from IBM mainframes, DEC VAX minicomputers, UNIX-based minicomputers, Windows NT and several proprietary hardware-operating system platforms, and is clearly the world's largest RDBMS vendor.

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Who is the man behind Oracle Corporation?

Lawrence J. Ellison (Born: 1944, Chicago) is president and CEO of Oracle corporation.

He's the Oracle worlds hero, and he should be. Oracle Corporation, the company he founded with Robert N. (Bob) Miner and Ed Oates back in 1977, has emerged as the world's largest vendor of software that helps large corporations and governments better manage their information.

Check out the book: [What's the difference between God and Larry Ellison](#)". It's really a great book, and is pretty even handed with who Larry Ellison is with lots of interesting stories from the early days of Oracle. The name of the book came from a funny e-mail message that went around the company. The answer to the question is: "God doesn't think he's Larry..."

Also read these articles about him:

- [Q and A with Oracle's Larry Ellison!!!](#)
 - [Executive Bio: Larry Ellison](#)
 - [Larry Ellison - Man of the Week](#)
 - [The grand obsessions of Larry Ellison](#)
-
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Where did the word Oracle originate from?

The word **Oracle** means:

Prophecy or prediction; answer to a question believed to come from the gods; a statement believed to be infallible and authoritative; a shrine at which these answers are given

There is, however, more to the word Oracle: used for the name of the database engine, and then later for the company itself. Larry Ellison and Bob Miner were working on a consulting project for the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency in USA) where the CIA wanted to use this new SQL language that IBM had written a white paper about. The code name for the project was **Oracle** (the CIA saw this as the system to give all answers to all questions or something such ;-).

The project eventually died (of sorts) but Larry and Bob saw the opportunity to take what they had started and market it. So they used that project's codename of Oracle to name their new RDBMS engine. Funny thing is, that one of Oracle's first customers was the CIA...

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How can I get in touch with Oracle Corporation?

Home Page: <http://www.oracle.com/>

FAQ: <http://www.orafaq.org/>

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CA 94065
United States of America

Phone: (650) 506-7000
Fax: (650) 506-7200

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Who are Oracle's main competitors?

Oracle's main competitors in the database business are:

CA with Ingres	Home Page FAQ
IBM with DB/2	Home Page FAQ
Informix with the Informix DB	Home Page FAQ
Microsoft with Access and SQL Server	Home Page FAQ
Software AG with ADABAS	Home Page FAQ
Sybase with their Sybase System	Home Page FAQ
PostgreSQL (free open source database)	Home Page FAQ

Oracle's main competitors in the applications business are:

SAP (R/2 and R/3)	Home Page FAQ
Baan	Home Page FAQ

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How strong is Oracle as a company?

Oracle is the number one developer of database management systems (DBMS) software in the world. But don't believe me, look at Oracle's recent performance on the stock market (**NASDAQ:ORCL**):

- [Silicon Investor](#)
- [Yahoo Quotes](#)
- [Island.com](#)

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What is Oracle's history?

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1980

Oracle V2 released on DEC PDP-11 machine. Still written in PDP-11 assembly language, but now ran under Vax/VMS.

1982

Oracle V3 released, Oracle became the first DBMS to run on mainframes, minicomputers, and PC's. First release to employ transactional processing. Oracle V3's server code was written in C.

1983

Relational Software Inc. changed its name to Oracle Corporation.

1984

Oracle V4 released, introduced read consistency, was ported to multiple platforms, first interoperability between PC and server.

1986

Oracle V5 released. Featured true client/server, VAX-cluster support, and distributed queries. (first DBMS with distributed capabilities).

1988

Oracle V6 released.

1989

Released Oracle 6.2 with Symmetric cluster access using the Oracle Parallel Server

1991

Reached power of 1,000 TPS on a parallel computing machine.
First database to run on a massively parallel computer.

1992

Released Oracle7 for Unix

1993

Rollout of Oracle's Cooperative Development Environment (CDE).
Introduction of Oracle Industries and the Oracle Media Server.

1994

Headquarters moved to present location.
Released Oracle7 for the PC.

1995

Reported gross revenues of almost \$3 billion.

1997

Oracle8 released (supports more users, more data, higher availability)

1998

Oracle announces support for the Intel Linux operating system

1999

Oracle8i or Oracle 8.1.5 with Java integration

2000

Oracle8i Release 2
Oracle now not only the number one in Databases but also in ERP Applications

2001

Oracle9i Release 1

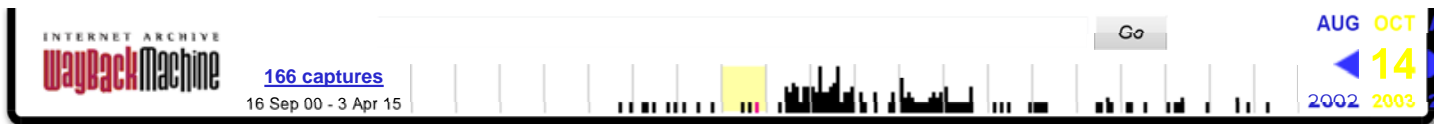
2002

Oracle9i Release 2

2003

Oracle10G released

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Some performance related links can be found in the [Dare to Compare](#) section on this FAQ.

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How does one obtain support?

When you buy Oracle products you will receive a period of free support to get you started. Based on your needs you should negotiate a support contract. Oracle offers 3 levels of support, OracleBronze, OracleSilver and OracleGold.

When you are registered as a support customer, you will receive a CSI (Customer Support Identification) number. Quote this number whenever you call for assistance.

When you log a call, Oracle will open a TAR (Technical Assistance Request) to identify and track your problem. TAR's can be logged with the following severity levels:

1. Priority 1: Critical Business Impact
2. Priority 2: Serious Business Impact
3. Priority 3: Minor Business Impact
4. Priority 4: No Business Impact
5. Priority 5: Information Request

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Where can one find more info about Oracle (the company)?

- [Oracle Corporation - Business and Financial Profile](#)
- [The Anti-Oracle Page](#) - for the few that don't like Oracle
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