

Re: Oracle goes Free

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<http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Delphi/borland.public.delphi.non-technical/2006-04/msg03257.html>

- *From:* "Brett Watters" <blwatters@xxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 20 Apr 2006 21:12:50 -0700
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Folks,

I have 3 words: W.O.W!!!!

Hardly, that exciting.

First, MS SQL has had a developer edition for a long time.

Second, you could join the Oracle partners program (free) and get access to licenses for developing with Oracle since what 7.x? Fill out a form.

Third, it really only affects developers. Easy to install isn't really too much of a benefit.

a) Any software company not actually installing the real version on a separate server and testing against that is nuts. i.e. it doesn't save you from having to install manage and deal with the real version. We have personal MS SQL. Sure. However, that doesn't stop us from also having the real version on an actual server so we can honestly test and develop against.

b) You need to support the real version anyway. That will be the only version which the client/deployment will support. You need to be able to install, backup, trouble-shoot, document, etc. issues in the copy which clients will be using. You might as well work with the copy that clients will using.

c) No client is going to accept an installation of this. Try asking an IT department to install 'Personal Oracle' on a desktop and you'll be laughed out of the room. Issues of support, maintenance, security, backup, data security, reliability, etc. are typically non-starters for real companies. It might be easier for you to install and maintain a personal DB, but for the IT department it is easier to maintain a half-dozen Oracle servers next door than hundreds of 'personal' databases across the organization. Any client using Oracle has the real thing, on real servers. Actual applications running on local SQL machines won't fly and 160MB downloads and

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installations will not be accepted for training, demos, evaluations, etc.

d) It isn't great from demos or real world development use. Put personal MS SQL or Oracle on a notebook and all you have demonstrated is that your app runs slowly. Try using it to trouble shoot a problem with a large client database, develop an import, run large reports against, an internet application, etc. and the poor workstation is going to be in serious trouble. These DBs were honestly designed to be run client-server. Put Oracle or MS SQL on even a cheap 1GHz box and it will run rings around even a 3GHz workstation trying to run Delphi, IIS, and the DB all at once.