

ORACLE EXPRESS 6.2 DELIVERS UNPARALLELED INTEGRATION, EASE OF USE AND PLATFORM SUPPORT

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New Release Provides Integrated Decision Support Capabilities to All Users-From the Novice to the Power Analyst

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Oracle has announced availability, within 30 days, of Oracle Express 6.2, a key component of Oracle's integrated decision support strategy. The decision support requirements of today's organisations cover enterprise reporting, ad-hoc query and analysis and On-Line Analytical Processing (OLAP). With Oracle Reports, Oracle Discoverer and Oracle Express, Oracle is the only vendor providing a low cost solution for delivering fast answers to hard questions through the continuum of decision support needs.

Express is Oracle's industry-leading enterprise OLAP solution enabling users to analyse data in a structured or ad hoc form using a multidimensional data model that includes support for "what-if" scenarios, forecasting and financial modelling.

Oracle Express 6.2 features tight integration with Oracle Discoverer, providing a complete decision support solution for today's businesses. Oracle Express 6.2 offers expanded platform support, improved client and server side tools, easy to use administration, enhanced Java support for Web-based OLAP applications and new versions of Oracle Financial Analyser and Oracle Sales Analyser, pre-built applications for financial and sales/marketing users.

"Oracle already offers the most powerful and complete family of decision support products," said John Watton, product marketing manager, DSS and Data Warehousing at Oracle UK. "Now we have made these products more integrated and easier to use, helping companies to reduce deployment costs and maximise benefits by extending analytical capabilities to more users."

Integration between Discoverer and Express enables users to seamlessly perform any level of analysis: from ad-hoc queries to sophisticated modelling, forecasting and "what-if" scenarios. A simple push of a button exports a Discoverer worksheet into an Express multidimensional cube for further in-depth analysis. This process requires no re-querying of the data or administrative set-up. Additionally, users analysing summary data in Express can seamlessly drill down to detailed data using Discoverer.

Oracle Express Server 6.2 features new intelligent caching which delivers major performance gains in Hybrid-OLAP and ROLAP environments. Companies that have already built a relational data warehouse or data mart can quickly and easily deploy Express OLAP applications, without having to redesign or rebuild their relational databases. Express Server 6.2 can also generate an OLAP-ready, relational warehouse schema for companies deploying a new data warehouse. Oracle is also making available, within 30 days, the version 6.2 upgrade to Personal Express, a single-user, stand-alone OLAP engine and tools with new 32-bit computing support.

Oracle Express 6.2 features a redesign of its OLAP server management tool, Express Administrator, providing a new graphical, wizard-driven interface that enables administrators to easily build and maintain Express databases. Express Administrator also includes sophisticated scheduling and batch processing capabilities providing complete control over administrative tasks.

Expanded Web deployment capabilities in Oracle Express 6.2 include powerful Java tables and graphs for displaying and manipulating multidimensional data.

Dynamic data selection enables Web users to change any of the information displayed in a report or chart. Drag-and-drop rotation and drillable tables and graphs allow users to directly manipulate the layout of data. In addition, new versions of the Express Objects and Express Analyser client tools are also available, offering improved performance and enhanced capabilities for developing and deploying custom OLAP applications.

Concurrent with the release of Oracle Express 6.2, Oracle announced new versions of its leading analytical applications-Oracle Financial Analyser and Oracle Sales Analyser. These applications leverage the power of Express Server to offer targeted OLAP capabilities in areas such as finance and sales/marketing. Financial Analyser 6.2 provides broad support for Web and spreadsheet-based clients, extending powerful financial analysis capabilities to more users throughout the enterprise. Sales Analyser 6.2 includes enhanced Web support, as well as new forecasting capabilities that allow users to project future patterns based on existing sales and marketing data.

Oracle Express Server 6.2 is available, within 30 days, for the leading UNIX platform, HP-UX followed by IBM AIX, Sun Solaris and Windows NT. Server-side and client-side tools are available for Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0. Personal Express 6.2 is available for Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0.

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