ORACLE ANNOUNCES GENERAL AVAILABILITY OF ORACLE DISCOVERER RELEASE 3.1

Submitted by: Bite Communications

Friday, 29 May 1998

New Release Features Enhanced Integration Offering an End-to-End Decision Support Solution, Open Gateway to Meta-Data Sources and ODBC Support

PR439 / Friday 29 May 1998

Oracle today announced the general availability of Oracle Discoverer 3.1, 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 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.

Oracle Discoverer is Oracle's ad-hoc query and analysis tool, enabling business users at all levels of the organisation to access data warehouses, data marts and on-line transaction processing systems. Oracle Discoverer, whose user interface has been designed from the ground up by Oracle's own usability labs, delivers award-winning ease of use and leading query performance.

Oracle Discoverer 3.1 features integration with Oracle Reports and Oracle Express, end user query prediction, connectivity to any datasource through ODBC, connectivity to any meta-data source through an End User Layer (EUL) Gateway and MAPI support.

"With the integration of Oracle Discoverer, Oracle Reports and Oracle Express, Oracle leads the industry with an end-to-end decision support solution for the enterprise," said John Watton, product marketing manager, DSS and Data Warehousing at Oracle UK. "The ease of use and exceptional performance of Discoverer 3.1 further demonstrates Oracle's commitment to delivering fast answers to hard questions for today's businesses."

Integration of Oracle Discoverer with Oracle Express Integration between Discoverer and Express Server 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 an Oracle Discoverer worksheet into an Express multidimensional cube for further in-depth analysis. Additionally, users analysing summary data in Express can seamlessly drill down to detailed data using Oracle Discoverer. This process requires no re-querying of the data or administrative set-up.

Oracle Discoverer 3.1 is integrated with Oracle's recently introduced enterprise reporting tool, Oracle Reports. Oracle Discoverer end-users slice and dice data looking for answers to ad-hoc questions. These answers can be instantly transformed from static worksheets to dynamic Web reports, based on Oracle Reports, and published to the whole organisation.

Discoverer uniquely delivers query prediction capabilities through the ability to tell a user how long a query is going to take before it runs. This query prediction technology takes advantage of the Oracle database cost-based optimiser in conjunction with historical statistics on query time.

Discoverer 3.1 is a completely open product supporting access to any database through ODBC, MAPI and an End-User Layer (EUL) Gateway to provide access to any meta-data source. Oracle Discoverer 3.1 delivers the fastest, easiest to use ad-hoc query and analysis solution on the market today. Discoverer 3.0 recently won a competitive usability test conducted by the American Institutes for Research (AIR) in which more than 80 percent of the study participants named Oracle Discoverer the best for usability in its category. AIR concluded, "In over a decade of usability testing, AIR has rarely seen a product that is so superior in usability to its competitors." Discoverer also won PC Week's Analyst Choice Award for its ease-of-use, capabilities and manageability.

Discoverer 3.1 is priced at £780 for the base client edition and at £1,560 for the administrator edition. Both are licensed on a named user basis and are currently available on Windows 95, Windows NT and Windows 3.1.

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