

Our Services

Compliance Check & Optimization

Discover your compliance risks and ways to optimize your Oracle license inventory.

Audit Defense

Get expert help at any stage of an Oracle license audit from our team of ex-Oracle auditors.

ULA Service

Get the maximum value out of your ULA throughout its lifecycle – from initial sizing to certification.

Contracts & Advisory

Whether negotiating a contract, virtualizing or doing DR/backup, our advisory service can be tailored to meet any Oracle licensing need.

Redwood Compliance LLC
2225 E. Bayshore Road
Suite 200
Palo Alto, CA 94303
1-888-252-2506
www.redwoodcompliance.com

Compliance risks – what are the primary causes of Oracle non-compliance?

Below is a very condensed version of a recent blog post. For the full post, head over to www.redwoodcompliance.com/pro-tip-blog/.

Oracle makes it easy for its customers to deploy Oracle software with little or no restrictions. Moreover, Oracle programs are often times available in fully bundled versions and a user has to take care to not use features and product editions they have not paid for.

Case in point, Oracle Database. The different editions of the product – Enterprise and Standard – are packaged into the same installer file. By default, the installer defaults to “Enterprise”. If you purchased Standard Edition, you must take care not to accidentally install “Enterprise” edition. That’s just one hurdle. Then there are Options and Packs that are also included in the product even though they need to be licensed separately. Some of these features, like Diagnostics and Tuning, are easily and unknowingly triggered!

This is just one example of the common mistakes leading to use of non- or under-licensed software – i.e., non-compliance. There are several other risk factors that enhances the likelihood of non-compliance, including the following:

- Mixed metrics. Having a greater variety of licensing metrics, including legacy ones, enhances the risk factor.
- Large mix of Oracle programs – this makes it very difficult to track compliance across all products.
- Environment size. Larger numbers of servers entail higher compliance risk since tracking and monitoring usage becomes more difficult.
- Not understanding Oracle’s approach to licensing DR/Backup environments.
- Virtualization – including VMware, Hyper-V, as well as IBM LPARs not setup up correctly.
- Mergers and acquisitions add risks of over use as well as lack of entity coverage (that is, your contracts may not extend to acquired companies).
- Divestitures. Carving out Oracle licenses from your divested entity without due diligence is risky.
- High growth in your company. As your company adds more servers and people, keeping track of licensing requirements can sometimes end up on the back burner.
- Use of Oracle Applications without matching Oracle Tech/Middleware footprint.
- Use of third party software like SAP that runs on Oracle.
- Using Oracle software in a hosted environment to service customer needs. Unlimited License Agreements (ULAs). “Unlimited” can lull customers into a false sense of security. The ULAs only cover explicitly mentioned products. So while Database Enterprise Edition may be covered, the Options/Packs may well not be!

These are just some of the commonly encountered risk factors for Oracle non-compliance. Things vary on a case by case basis. It is best to get expert assistance to ensure compliance and optimization of your Oracle investment.