Licensing Assessments

Nothing goes to the core of Zione's focus on QoS and TCO as directly as a discussion of Licensing. If your organization licenses Oracle software, then you must be familiar with the tightrope walking act that must be engaged in on a regular basis.

When Oracle's customers try to optimize their licensing they must engage in a balancing act in which the more CPU cores the better the performance, the more servers in production, for example supporting RAC, the higher the availability, the more servers in DR, for example supporting physical standbys, the greater the insurance against catastrophic failure ... but all of those servers have CPU cores that must be licensed. An Oracle customer must always be mindful of controlling costs to remain competitive and within their budget.

Most of the organizations that claim to be able to help Oracle's customers with licensing are non-technical and that lack of technical expertise puts them at a decided disadvantage. These organizations can ask questions like: "What software do you have installed", "What options are you using" and "How many CPU cores are in the servers running Oracle." Simple questions that lead to simple answers that lead to much of the time writing a check to Oracle far larger than is actually necessary. Let's look at just one common reason why that is true.

The overwhelming majority of Oracle's customer purchase Enterprise Edition (EE) perpetual processor licenses because they don't really know what features they need on an instance-by-instance basis. Certainly, that is the safest solution ... but it is also the most expensive.

Oracle Database's EE allow for creation of bitmap indexes, but does your database actually use them? Most don't. It allows for purchasing options such as Partitioning, Compression, and Real Application Security, but does your database use them? Perpetual licenses will, in theory, be good until the earth is someday consumed by the sun when it becomes a red giant star, but will your organization still be paying 22% support to Oracle five-billion years from now? Processor licenses are essential for production databases used for e-commerce on the web, but Named User Plus (NUP) licenses are often the most cost-effective solution for development, testing, and production environments such as warehouses.

To find out how you can leverage Zione's deep technical expertise to inform your licensing decisions, and as a partner with that will not forget about QoS and TCO in the process, give us a call today.