

Upgrade to Oracle Al Database 26ai Best Practices and Customer Experience

DOUG-day 2025, November 2025



Oracle

DBAs

run the world



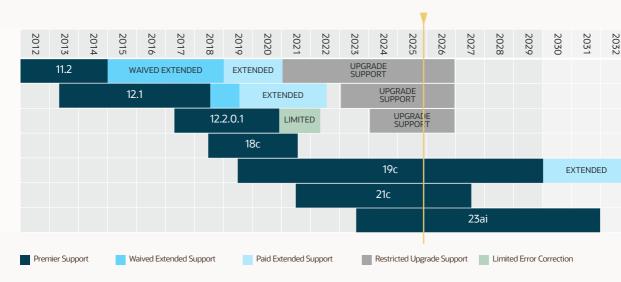


## Daniel Overby Hansen

Distinguished Product Manager

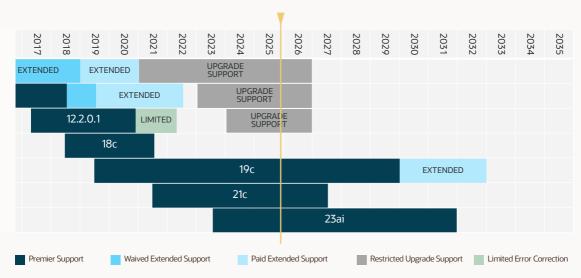
- in dohdatabase
- @dohdatabase.com
- https://dohdatabase.com

### **Lifetime Support Policy**

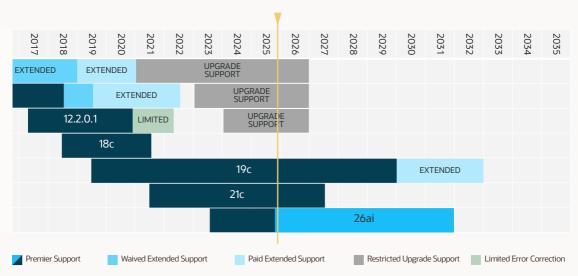




# Lifetime Support Policy



# Lifetime Support Policy





# Do you want to upgrade?

Oracle Database 11.2.0.4 Oracle Database 12.1.0.2 Oracle Database 12.2.0.1 Oracle Database 18c Oracle Database 11.2.0.4 Oracle Database 12.1.0.2 Oracle Database 12.2.0.1 Oracle Database 18c



Oracle Database 19c



Oracle Database 23ai



Oracle Database 11.2.0.4 Oracle Database 12.1.0.2 Oracle Database 12.2.0.1 Oracle Database 18c



Oracle Database 19c



**Oracle Al Database 26ai** 



# 26<sup>ai</sup>

When is a database upgrade required?

Oracle Database 19c → Oracle Database 23ai → Oracle Al Database 26ai

### **UPGRADE**



Oracle Database 19c



Oracle Al Database 26ai

### **UPGRADE**







Oracle Database 19c → Oracle Database 23ai → Oracle Al Database 26ai

### **UPDATE**



July 2025	Oracle Database 23ai	23.9.0.25.07



October 2025	Oracle Al Database 26ai	23.26.0.0.0



July 2025	Oracle Database 23ai	23.9.0.25.07
October 2025	Oracle Al Database 26ai	23.26.0.0.0
January 2026	Oracle Al Database 26ai	23.26.1.0.0



October 2025	Oracle Al Database 26ai	23.26.0.0.0
January 2026	Oracle Al Database 26ai	23.26.1.0.0



 July 2025
 Oracle Database 23ai
 23.9.0.25.07

 October 2025
 Oracle Al Database 26ai
 23.26.0.0.0

 January 2026
 Oracle Al Database 26ai
 23.26.1.0.0

 April 2026
 Oracle Al Database 26ai
 23.26.2.0.0

 July 2025
 Oracle Database 23ai
 23.9.0.25.07

 October 2025
 Oracle Al Database 26ai
 23.26.0.0.0

 January 2026
 Oracle Al Database 26ai
 23.26.1.0.0

 April 2026
 Oracle Al Database 26ai
 23.26.2.0.0



### SQL> select version, version\_full from v\$instance

VERSION	
23.0.0.0.0	



SQL> select version, version\_full from v\$instance

VERSION_FULL
23.26.0.0.0

This changes

Your Road to Oracle Al Database 26ai

## ANALYZE → UPGRADE → GO-LIVE





# Oracle Al Database 26ai supports the multitenant architecture only

You must convert your database to a PDB



- --Use up to 3 user-created PDBs
- --without a license for Multitenant option.
- --Applies to Oracle Database 19c and newer, including SE2

### alter system set max\_pdbs=3;



Update Exadata System Software to the latest version



#### **Further Information**

Exadata System Software

• Recommended to use latest version. However, minimum version is 25.1

MOS Note: 888828.1

Exadata Database Machine and Exadata Storage Server Supported Versions



# Upgrade to Oracle Grid Infrastructure 26ai

- Manages Oracle Database 19c and newer
- Upgrade older databases in advance



- --Grid Infrastructure 26ai requires a minimum compatible setting
- --Databases older than 19c may not use this disk group anymore

alter diskgroup DATA set attribute 'compatible.rdbms' = '19.0.0.0.0';





# Confirm your clients can connect to Oracle Al Database 26ai

Upgrade your clients well in advance of the upgrade





Client		Server Version						
Version	26ai	21c	19c	18c	12.2.0	12.1.0	11.2.0	
26ai <sup>#11</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	
21c	Yes	Yes	Yes	Was	Was	Yes <u>#12</u>	No	
19c	Yes	Yes	Yes	Was	Was	Yes <u>#12</u>	Yes <u>#9</u>	
18c	No	Was	Was	Was	Was	Was	Was <sup>#9</sup>	
12.2.0	No	Was	Was	Was	Was	Was	Was	
12.1.0	No	Yes <u>#12</u>	Yes <u>#12</u>	Was	Was	Yes <u>#12</u>	Yes <u>#12</u>	
11.2.0	No	No	Yes <sup>#9</sup>	Was <sup>#9</sup>	Was	Yes <u>#12</u>	Yes <sup>#9</sup>	

MOS Note: 207303.1 - Client / Server Interoperability Support Matrix



Client		Server Version						
Version	26ai	21c	19c	18c	12.2.0	12.1.0	11.2.0	
26ai <sup>#11</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	
21c	Yes	Yes	Yes	Was	Was	Yes <u>#12</u>	No	
19c	Yes	Yes	Yes	Was	Was	Yes <u>#12</u>	Yes <u>#9</u>	
18c	No	Was	Was	Was	Was	Was	Was <sup>#9</sup>	
12.2.0	No	Was	Was	Was	Was	Was	Was	
12.1.0	No	Yes <u>#12</u>	Yes <u>#12</u>	Was	Was	Yes <u>#12</u>	Yes <u>#12</u>	
11.2.0	No	No	Yes <u>#9</u>	Was <sup>#9</sup>	Was	Yes <u>#12</u>	Yes <u>#9</u>	

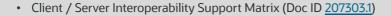
MOS Note: 207303.1 - Client / Server Interoperability Support Matrix

- --List current connections and their driver details --Join to gv\$session for more details.
- select \* from gv\$session\_connect\_info;

The same certification matrix applies to database links as well

#### **Further Information**

Client / Server Interoperability



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• Blog post: Are Your Oracle Database Clients Ready for the next Database Upgrade?





On important databases, execute a dictionary check before upgrade



```
upg1.sid=SALESDB
upg1.source_home=/u01/app/oracle/product/19c
upg1.target_home=/u01/app/oracle/product/26ai
upg1.target_cdb=CDB1
upg1.run_dictionary_health=full
```

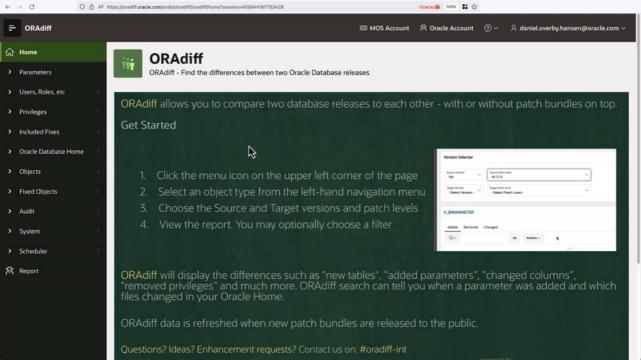
#To run only the critical checks #upg1.run\_dictionary\_health=critical



# Familiarize yourself with the changes in Oracle Al Database

• Check the <u>Upgrade Guide</u>





## **Further Information**

ORAdiff / Oracle Release Analyzer Diff Utility



- <u>Demo</u>
- http://oradiff.oracle.com



## Upgrade

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Non-CDB to PDB

3 Patching

**Upgrading** 

Non-CDB to PDB

Patching

Oracle Database 19c



Oracle Al Database 26ai



Upgrading

Non-CDB to PDB

Patching

Non-CDB





Multitenant





Upgrading

Non-CDB to PDB

**Patching** 





23.26.0









One single tool for everything - on all platforms

- -- Always use the latest version of AutoUpgrade
- -- Available as a direct download from oracle.com or MOS (Doc ID 2485457.1)

wget https://download.oracle.com/otn-pub/otn\_software/autoupgrade.jar



# Simplify downloading and installing Oracle software and patches

 Oracle Al Database 26ai comes as fully updated gold images

#### **DEMO**

Download patches Install Oracle home





```
$ cat get-software.cfg
```

```
global.global_log_dir=/home/oracle/autoupgrade/logs
global.keystore=/home/oracle/autoupgrade/keystore
install1.target_version=23
install1.patch=RECOMMENDED,37393792
install1.folder=/u01/app/oracle/software
```

```
$ cat get-software.cfg
```

global.global\_log\_dir=/home/oracle/autoupgrade/logs global.keystore=/home/oracle/autoupgrade/keystore install1.target\_version=23 install1.patch=RECOMMENDED,37393792,JDK install1.folder=/u01/app/oracle/software





## OJVM is embedded in Release Updates

- No separate download
- Complete RAC Rolling patching support

\$ cat get-software.cfg

global.global\_log\_dir=/home/oracle/autoupgrade/logs global.keystore=/home/oracle/autoupgrade/keystore install1.target\_version=23 install1.patch=RECOMMENDED,37393792,JDK install1.folder=/u01/app/oracle/software

java -jar autoupgrade.jar -config get-software.cfg -mode download

```
$ cat install-OH.cfg
```

```
global.global_log_dir=/home/oracle/autoupgrade/logs
install1.target_version=23
install1.patch=RECOMMENDED,37393792,JDK
install1.folder=/u01/app/oracle/software
install1.download=no
install1.target_home=/u01/app/oracle/product/dbhome_26
install1.home_settings.edition=EE
install1.home_settings.oracle_base=/u01/app/oracle
```

\$ cat install-OH.cfg

global.global\_log\_dir=/home/oracle/autoupgrade/logs
install1.target\_version=23
install1.patch=RECOMMENDED,37393792,JDK
install1.folder=/u01/app/oracle/software
install1.download=no
install1.target\_home=/u01/app/oracle/product/dbhome\_26
install1.home\_settings.edition=EE
install1.home\_settings.oracle\_base=/u01/app/oracle

java -jar autoupgrade.jar -config install-OH.cfg -mode create\_home





Create Container Database in advance









2 Components

COMPATIBLE

- 1 Character set
- Always choose AL32UTF8
- Allows PDBs with any character set
- **2** Components

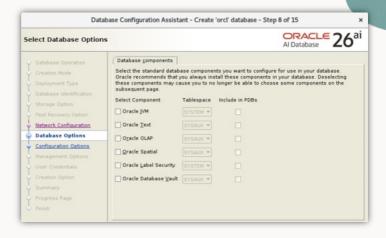
**3** COMPATIBLE





1 Character set

- 2 Components
- · Install as many as you need
- No more than that
- **3** COMPATIBLE

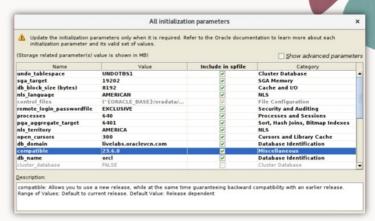




1 Character set

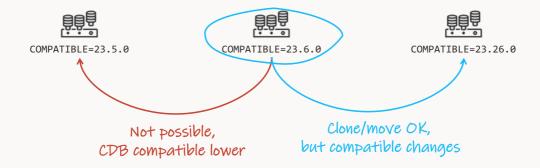
**2** Components

3 COMPATIBLE



- Keep at 23.6.0 to benefit from AI Vector Search features
- Unless you want the option of downgrade

## Compatible



- -- You can now update the COMPATIBLE parameter without a restart
- -- Works within a release, e.g., from 23.6.0 to 23.26.0
- -- Cross-release changes, e.g., 19.0.0 to 23.6.0, still requires a restart

alter database set downgrade compatibility to '23.6.0';

### **Further Information**

Container Database

YouTube: <u>Create CDB in Oracle Al Database</u>

i

- Blog post: <u>How I Think You Should Create Your Container Databases</u>
- Compatible Documentation
- Blog post: Online COMPATIBLE raise starting with 23.9

```
SQL> select con$name, comp_id, status from cdb_registry;
```

CON\$NAME COMP\_ID STATUS CDB\$ROOT CATALOG VALID CDB\$ROOT CATPROC VALID No information on CDB\$ROOT XDB VALID PDB\$SEED RED CATALOG **VALID** RED CATPROC VALID RED **XDB** VALID

alter system set "\_exclude\_seed\_cdb\_view"=false;



```
alter system set "_exclude_seed_cdb_view"=false;
SQL> select con$name, comp id, status from cdb registry;
CON$NAME COMP ID
                 STATUS
CDB$ROOT CATALOG
                 VALID
CDB$ROOT CATPROC
                 VALID
CDB$ROOT XDB
              VALID
PDB$SEED CATALOG
                VALID
PDB$SEED CATPROC
                 VALID
PDB$SEED XDB
              VALID
RED
        CATALOG
                  VALID
        CATPROC
RED
                  VALID
```

VALID

XDB

RED



Plug in Upgrade Convert

Trreversible!

Interversible good

Flashback no good









Ensure you have a recent backup and requires time to restore and recover

## Copy data files

Requires time and disk space to hold a copy of the data files



## **Upgrade via Refreshable Clone PDB**



#### **CREATE**

In CDB on Oracle Al Database 26ai, create a copy of PDB over a database link



#### **REFRESH**

Apply redo from source to keep PDB up-to-date



#### **OUTAGE**

Disconnect users and refresh PDB for the last time

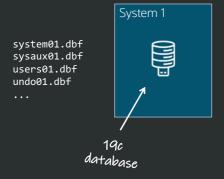


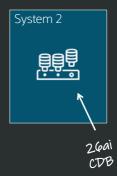
#### **UPGRADE**

Upgrade PDB to Oracle Al Database 26ai



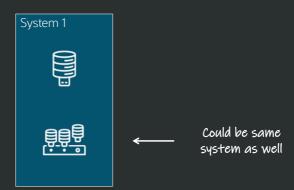
## **Upgrade via Refreshable Clone PDB**





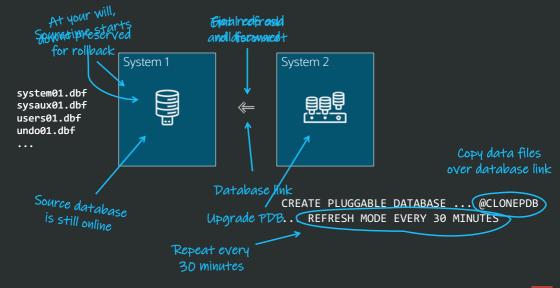
## **Upgrade via Refreshable Clone PDB**

system01.dbf
sysaux01.dbf
users01.dbf
und001.dbf
...





#### **Upgrade via Refreshable Clone PDB**





#### **DEMO**

Upgrade to Oracle Al Database 26ai







## You must restore the PDB on standby database after disconnect from non-CDB

 Refreshable clone works only with deferred recovery on standby database

#### **Key Benefits of Upgrade via Refreshable Clone PDB**



- 1 Less downtime
- 2 Excellent rollback option
- For PDBs and non-CDBs

We used AutoUpgrade and refreshable clone to move a mission-critical 76 TB database to Oracle Database 23ai in less than 45 minutes - while preserving the source as rollback option

**Portuguese Government Agency** 

# Works everywhere

### Works everywhere



- Base Database Service
- Exadata Database Service
- Exadata Cloud@Customer
- On-prem and other clouds
- Exascale migration
- Non-CDB to PDB migration
- PDB upgrade
- On-prem to cloud migration



In the cloud, upgrading Oracle databases is as easy as pressing a button



The easy approach



Upgrade entire CDB, including all PDBs



The fast approach



Upgrade single PDB





# You can also migrate with Data Pump or Transportable Tablespaces

- Suitable when direct upgrade is not possible
- Smaller databases
- Reorganizing data

#### Upgrading in the cloud

- Blog post: <u>Upgrade Pluggable Database to Oracle Database 23ai</u>
- Blog post: <u>Upgrade Oracle Base Database Service to Oracle Database 23ai</u>
- Blog post: <u>Upgrade from 19c to 23ai using AutoUpgrade ExaDB-D or ExaC@C Part 1</u>
- Blog post: When A Refreshable Clone Takes Over The Service
- Blog post: <u>Upgrade to Oracle Database 23ai</u>
- Documentation: Proceed command

### **Go Live**





#### Check your standby databases

• Check our webinar for details



- --Default value is for CDBs with many PDBs
- --Other places, it leads to concurrency issues
- -- Reset back to 12.1 default as described in MOS 2431353.1

alter system set "\_cursor\_obsolete\_threshold"=1024;

- --Default value is for CDBs with many PDBs
- --Other places, it leads to concurrency issues
- -- Reset back to 12.1 default as described in MOS 2431353.1

alter system set "\_cursor\_obsolete\_threshold"=1024
comment="Added 2025-11-03 - Advice from MOS Note: 2431353.1";

- --Database collects SQL Plan Directives even when adaptive
- --statistics are off.
- --If you do not use Adaptive Statistics (optimizer\_adaptive\_statistics)
- --then turn it completely off as described in MOS 2209560.1

alter system set "\_sql\_plan\_directive\_mgmt\_control"=0;

- --Database collects expression statistics for
- -- SQL Plan Directives and Auto-Indexing.
- --If you don't use any of these, then turn it to the 11.2 value of "1".
- --Tables being used in dictionary: EXP\_HEAD\$, EXP\_OBJ\$, EXP\_STAT\$
- --Doc ID 2674400.1, Value of "0" fully disables tracking.

alter system set "\_column\_tracking\_level"=1;

### **Real World Customer Case**

0



### Techniker Krankenkasse

Move hundreds of Oracle Database19c PDBs to Oracle Database 23ai with ExaScale-only



Large German Public Health Insurance

Projec

Constraints

Preparati

Upgrade

Success?

Remar

• **Founded**: 1884

**Legal Form**: Public Corporation

Headquarters: Hamburg, Germany

Members: 11.9 million

**Employees**: approx. 19,000

• Customer Service: 174 service centers

• **Budget 2024**: €62.5 billion

#### Customer

#### **Project**

Preparation Ungrado

Success?

Remarks

#### Move to Oracle Database 23ai with ExaScale

No ASM, no Oracle Database 19c anymore



Customer

COMPATIBLE=23.0.0

Project

No ASM, no Oracle Database 19c anymore

Constraints

Preparation

Upgrade

Success:

Remarks

Data Pump as rollback



Customer

Project

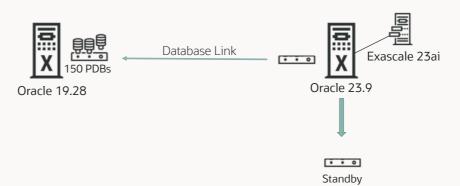
Constraints

#### Preparation

Upgrade

Success?

Remarks



#### **Upgrade**

Remarks





Oracle 19.28

upg1.target pdb copy option.PDBSOURCE=file name convert=NONE

global.autoupg\_log\_dir=/home/oracle/autoupgrade\_logs upg1.source\_home=/u01/app/oracle/product/19.0.0.0/dbhome\_1 upg1.target home=/u01/app/oracle/product/23.0.0.0/dbhome\_1 upg1.sid=CDB19



AutoUpgrade:

upe1.pdbs=PDBSOURCE upg1.target cdb=CDB23 upg1.target pdb name.PDBSOURCE=PDB23 upg1.source dblink.PDBSOURCE=COPYPDB PDB23 PREPARE 60

upg1.timezone upg=NO upg1.close\_source=NO upg1.keep source pdb=yes

10 PDBs in parallel



Oracle 23.9



0 0

• • 0 Standby

Customer

Project

Constraints

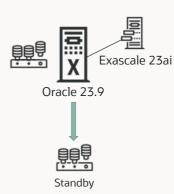
Preparation

#### Upgrade

Success?

Remarks





Custome

Project

Constraints

Preparation

Upgrade

**Success?** 

Remarks

#### Yes!!

- Migrated 150 PDBs from TEST & DEV within less than 4 weeks
- Migrated larger environments already
- ExaScale snapshots are super-fast

Custome

Projec

Constraints

Preparation

Upgrade

Success:

Remarks

#### Standby building

- · There were some issues
- Refreshable Clones don't propagate
- PDB recovery isolation doesn't work as expected

A number of SRs had to be opened for various areas

Optimizer works very well



# It's better to fail in our lab, than in production

Oracle LiveLabs: Hitchhiker's Guide for Upgrading to Oracle Al Database

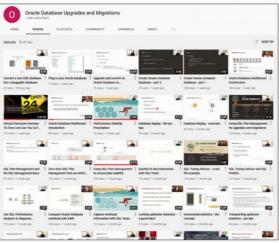


#### **Key Learnings**



- 1 Start preparing today
- 2 Use AutoUpgrade
- Caution with Data Guard and Multitenant conversion

#### **YouTube | Oracle Database Upgrades and Migrations**



https://www.youtube.com/@upgradenow

- 300+ videos
- New videos every week
- No marketing
- No buzzword
- · All tech



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#### Virtual Classroom Seminars

#### Slides

#### Episode 16

(replaces Episode 1 from Feb 2021)

Oracle Database Release and Patching Strategy for 19c and 23c

115 minutes - May 10, 2023



From SR to Patch – Insights into the Oracle Database Developmen

55 minutes - June 22, 2023



Cross Platform Migration – Transportable Tablespaces to the Extreme

145 min - February 22, 2024

#### Episode 19

Move to Oracle Database 23ai – Everything you need to know about

Multitenant PART 1

145 min - May 16, 2024

#### Episode 20

Move to Oracle Database 23ai – Everything you need to know about

.....

100 min - June 28, 2024











#### **Recorded Web Seminars**

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### ORACLE