Upgrade to Oracle Al Database 26ai

Best Practices and Customer Experience



Oracle

DBAs

run the world





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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











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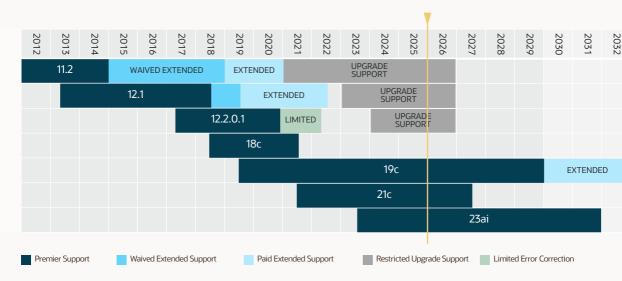


Release Strategy

Lifetime Support Policy and Upgrade Path

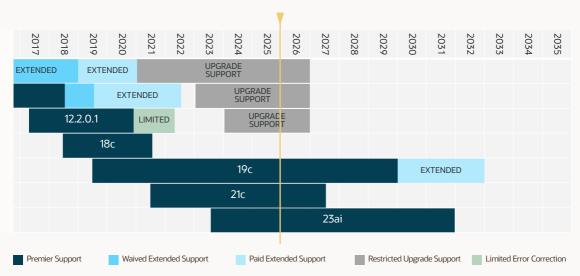


Lifetime Support Policy

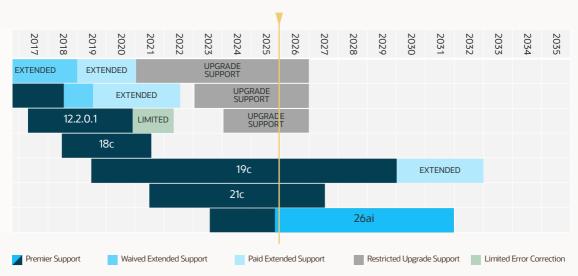




Lifetime Support Policy



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^{ai}

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

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
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 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

26^{a1}

There is no need to re-certify your app

 Certification for Oracle Database 23ai applies to Oracle Al Database 26ai



Before Upgrade

Considerations and tasks



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

i

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 Version	Server Version								
	26ai	21c	19c	18c	12.2.0	12.1.0	11.2.0		
26ai ^{#11}	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 ^{#9}		
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 ^{#9}	Was ^{#9}	Was	Yes <u>#12</u>	Yes <u>#9</u>		

MOS Note: 207303.1 - Client / Server Interoperability Support Matrix



Client Version	Server Version									
	26ai	21c	19c	18c	12.2.0	12.1.0	11.2.0			
26ai ^{#11}	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 ^{#9}			
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 ^{#9}	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

Client / Server Interoperability Support Matrix (Doc ID 207303.1)

Blog post:

<u>Are Your Oracle Database Clients Ready for the next Database Upgrade?</u>



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

Watch the demo

http://oradiff.oracle.com

Upgrade

AutoUpgrade and more





Only supported method for upgrading to Oracle Al Database 26ai







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

23.9.0













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



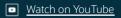


Simplify downloading and installing Oracle software and patches

 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





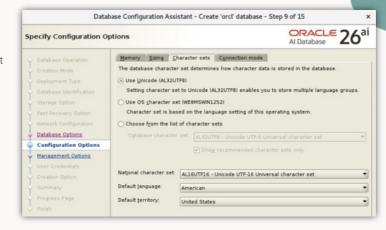


2 Components

COMPATIBLE

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

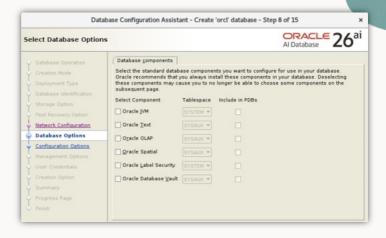
3 COMPATIBLE





1 Character set

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

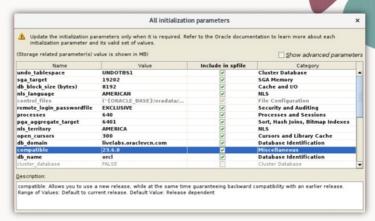




1 Character set

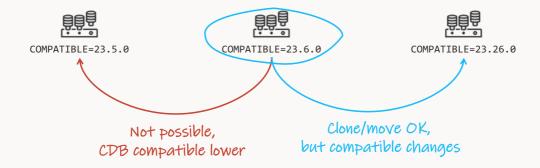
2 Components

3 COMPATIBLE



- Keep at 23.6.0 to benefit from Al 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:

Create CDB in Oracle Al Database

Blog post:

How I Think You Should Create Your Container Databases

COMPATIBLE Parameter - 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

Refreshable Clone PDBs

From non-CDB or PDB directly into Oracle AI Database 26ai





Plug in Upgrade Convert

Trreversiblel

Trreversiblel

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





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

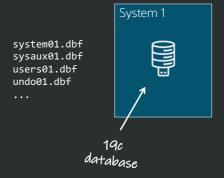
Disconnect users and refresh PDB for the last time

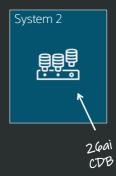


UPGRADE

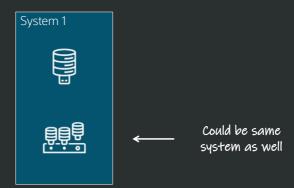
Upgrade PDB to Oracle Al Database 26ai

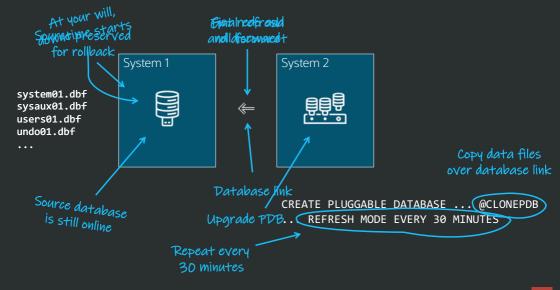






system01.dbf
sysaux01.dbf
users01.dbf
und001.dbf
...





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



Upgrade Pluggable Database to Oracle Database 23ai

Blog post:

Upgrade Oracle Base Database Service to Oracle Database 23ai

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:

Upgrade to Oracle Database 23ai

Documentation: Proceed command

Go-Live

Considerations and parameter recommendations





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 Cases





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

Ungrade

Success?

Remarks

Move to Oracle Database 23ai with ExaScale

No ASM, no Oracle Database 19c anymore



Customer

COMPATIBLE=23.0.0

Project

Constraints No ASM, no Oracle Database 19c anymore

Preparation

Upgrade

Success

Remarks

Data Pump as rollback



Customer

Projec

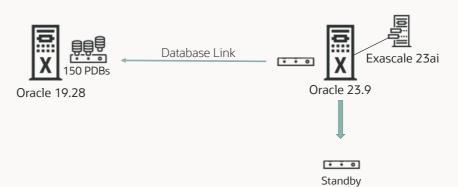
Constraints

Preparation

Upgrade

Success?

Remarks



Upgrade

Remarks



Oracle 19.28



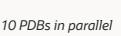
AutoUpgrade:

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





. . 0



Oracle 23.9



Standby

Customer

Project

Constraints

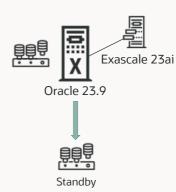
Preparation

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



Portuguese Government Agency

Move from 19c PDB to 23ai on-prem with very large databases and very little downtime



Customer

Project Constraints

Preparation

Upgrade

Success?

Remarks

Financial services in public sector



Customer

Project

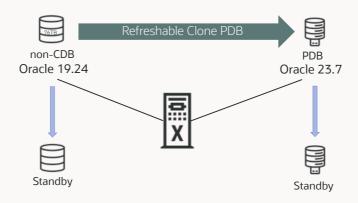
Constraints
Preparation

Upgrade

Success?

Remarks

Upgrade and migrate 76TB Data Lake



Customer

Project

Constraints

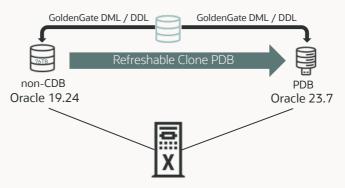
Preparation

Upgrade

Success?

Remarks

Upgrade and migrate 76TB Data Lake



Customer

Project

Constraints

Preparation

Upgrade

Success?

Remarks

Downtime less 1 hour

Rebuild Standby environment

Keep operational:

- Oracle GoldenGate
- · Audit Vault and Database Firewall

Customer

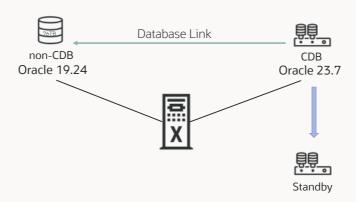
Project

Constraints

Preparation

Upgrade

Success?



Customer

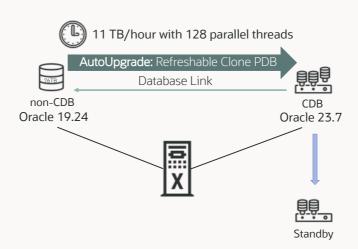
Project

Constraints

Preparation

Upgrade

Success?



Customer

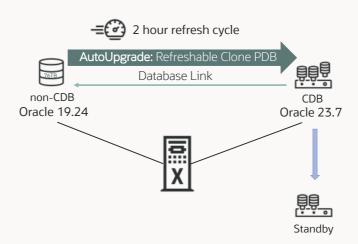
Project

Constraints

Preparation

Upgrade

Success?





Customer

Project

Constraints

Preparation

Upgrade

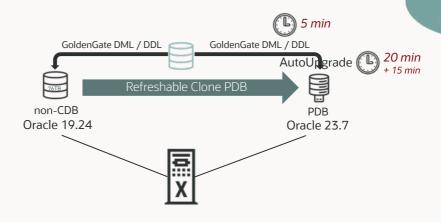
Success?

Remarks

AutoUpgrade proceed feature

- Define START_TIME in the future, e.g. upg1.START_TIME=31/10/2025 13:00:00
- 2. Run the clone operation until it completes and refreshes
- Then adjust AutoUpgrade and set a new START_TIME:
 - proceed -job 100 -newStartTime 15/10/2025 15:45:00

Customer
Project
Constraints
Preparation
Upgrade
Success?



Customer

Project

Constraints

Preparation

Upgrade

Success

Remarks

Massive success!!

Downtime less than 45 minutes

Kickoff for future projects

- More upgrades into PDBs in Oracle Database 23ai
- AutoUpgrade proven to be THE solution
- 80TB DWH
- Migrations from legacy zLinux

Customer

Project

Constraints

Preparation

Upgrade

Success?

Remarks

Standby building

Oracle GoldenGate move to 23ai

· Schema cleanout needed

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

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

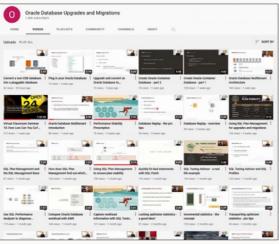


Key Learnings



- 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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