

GUIDE

Reclaim 60% of your Oracle Licensing Costs

How a change in infrastructure design can fundamentally reduce Oracle spend.

A joint initiative from Covenco and RDB Concepts



Who this relates to:

Organisations running Oracle-heavy environments where licensing has become a significant operating cost, particularly those using x86, VMware, or ageing Solaris and SPARC infrastructure.

What this guide covers:

- > Why Oracle costs keep rising
- > How IBM Power can reduce licence requirements
- > The role of hard partitioning
- > How Covenco and RDB Concepts work together
- > A practical route to lower Oracle spend

Solutions discussed:

- > Oracle licence analysis
- > IBM Power infrastructure
- > Migration planning
- > On-premise, hybrid and managed deployment options

The problem is the infrastructure, not the database

For most organisations running Oracle workloads, licensing costs have become one of the most significant and least controllable items on the IT budget.

Support fees increase annually, Oracle ULA renewals create pressure and audit activity is unpredictable. And yet the root cause is rarely examined: in many cases, Oracle costs are inflated by the infrastructure model underneath the database, not the database itself.

Organisations running Oracle on x86 servers or VMware virtualisation platforms frequently end up paying for far more capacity than they are actively using. Workloads are over-provisioned, boundaries are unclear and features become enabled through architectural habit rather than deliberate intent. The result is an Oracle estate that drifts upward in cost, year on year, without a clear mechanism to reverse it.

Covenco and RDB Concepts have developed a joint approach that addresses this directly. By combining Oracle licence analysis with IBM Power infrastructure expertise, the two businesses help organisations reduce Oracle licensing costs by up to 60% through better evidence, a more efficient platform, and a clearer commercial model.

Comparison of savings between x86 and IBM Power for Oracle Licenses

Metric	x86 / VMware	IBM Power
Licence Boundary	Soft partitioning - full cluster may be in scope	Hard partitioning - capped cores only
Core Efficiency	1.0x (baseline)	3.0x to 4.0x
Compliance Risk	High - audit exposure from unclear boundaries	Low - Oracle-recognised hard partition
Typical Saving	None - costs rise annually	Up to 60% reduction

Indicative comparison. Savings depend on current estate configuration.



RDB Concepts helps organisations regain control of Oracle licensing cost and risk by providing a clear view of what is licensed, what is being used, and where unnecessary spend or audit exposure exists.

Working with Covenco, that insight can be used to shape smarter infrastructure decisions, including IBM Power options that reduce Oracle licence overhead and improve control.



Why Oracle costs keep rising

Oracle environments rarely become expensive overnight. The costs accumulate incrementally, driven by operational decisions that seem reasonable at the time.

Core counts increase during hardware refresh cycles. Virtualisation introduces ambiguity around workload boundaries. Features are enabled at the infrastructure layer, creating licence obligations that were never explicitly approved.

Environments are sized conservatively, adding unnecessary capacity. Annual support renewals compound each of these inefficiencies at 8% per year.

Over time, the cumulative effect is substantial. Organisations end up paying for Oracle entitlement that significantly exceeds actual demand. The licence position becomes difficult to assess internally - the audit risk becomes harder to quantify - and the budget impact grows harder to justify at board level.

The issue is familiar across enterprise Oracle environments. Licensing exposure is often the product of normal operational behaviour, not deliberate misuse. But that makes it no less costly.

Where the saving comes from

Moving Oracle workloads from x86 to IBM Power creates a licensing saving through two mechanisms that work together.

Core efficiency

IBM Power cores deliver significantly greater performance per core than typical x86 platforms. In practice, one Power core can often do the work of three to four x86 cores.

Where the same Oracle workload can be supported with fewer cores, fewer Oracle licences are required. The technical team gains a denser and more efficient platform. Finance gains a materially smaller licensing footprint.

Hard partitioning

Oracle does not recognise VMware as a hard partition. In a VMware environment, the full physical cluster can be considered in scope for licensing purposes, regardless of how workloads are distributed. IBM Power LPARs, by contrast, are explicitly recognised by Oracle as hard partitioning. Workloads can be capped to the specific cores assigned, creating a defensible and clearly bounded licence position.

Together, these two advantages give organisations a practical route to a smaller, more controlled Oracle estate with lower cost and reduced audit exposure.

Oracle costs can be inflated by the infrastructure model underneath the database, not the database itself.

The triggers that make this relevant now

A number of pressures are currently driving Oracle conversations across UK enterprise environments. Any one of them is sufficient reason to establish a clearer picture of the current licence position.

› ULA renewal approaching

The negotiation position depends on understanding actual usage before entering discussions.

› Pending or recent audit

A clear and defensible licence position reduces risk and removes uncertainty.

› Oracle spend under budget scrutiny

When licensing is a significant P&L line, evidence of efficiency is expected at board level.

› VMware exit planning

Following the Broadcom acquisition, many UK organisations are reviewing VMware dependencies. A move to IBM Power LPARs resolves the virtualisation question and the licensing exposure simultaneously.

› Ageing x86 or Solaris infrastructure

A hardware refresh is a natural opportunity to reconsider the platform and its commercial implications.

› Cloud repatriation

Oracle on public cloud frequently generates unexpected cost and performance issues. Returning workloads on-premises or to a UK-sovereign private cloud creates an opportunity to reset the licence model at the same time.

In most cases, the underlying question is the same:

"Is the organisation carrying an inherited cost structure - or one that reflects genuine need?"

Over time, the cumulative effect is substantial. Organisations can often end up paying for Oracle entitlement that significantly exceeds actual demand.





How the engagement works

The process is deliberately lightweight. It does not begin with a complex consultancy exercise or a migration commitment.

The first priority is establishing a clear and accurate view of the current Oracle position.

Step 1: Licence baseline

With your engagement, RDB Concepts works to obtain a formal view of your current Oracle licence entitlement. This creates a defined starting point and removes ambiguity around what has been purchased and what is in scope.

Step 2: Evidence gathering

A small set of secure, read-only scripts is run against the Oracle environment to gather data on feature usage, workload behaviour, and infrastructure use.

The process requires no system changes, creates no performance impact, and involves no external access to production systems.

Step 3: Analysis and recommendations

RDB Concepts analyses the evidence to establish the gap between licence entitlement and actual usage, identifying where Oracle spend is increasing unnecessarily, and assessing where cost exposure can be reduced safely.

Where relevant, Covenco evaluates where a license migration to IBM Power would materially reduce the licensing footprint and what that would involve.

Step 4: Remediation roadmap

Where an opportunity exists, Covenco and RDB Concepts provide a high-level remediation roadmap together with an optional scope of work for the next stage.

The objective is not to drive a particular outcome, but to give you a reliable basis for making a commercial decision.

What the engagement delivers

The output is concise and decision-ready. It provides:

- A clear view of current Oracle licence entitlement against real usage.
- Identification of unnecessary cost drivers and areas of audit exposure.
- An assessment of where spend can be reduced without operational risk.
- Where applicable, an outline of how IBM Power could reduce the licensing footprint.
- A high-level remediation roadmap and an optional defined scope of work.

If no material risk or inefficiency is identified, there is no charge and no ongoing engagement is needed. If exposure or saving potential is found, you will receive a clear proposal with a practical path to an achievable solution.

The executive case

Oracle cost reduction is not only an infrastructure matter. It affects decisions at budget and board level across several dimensions.

- Cost predictability: a well-defined licence position removes the uncertainty associated with annual support increases and audit exposure.
- Audit defensibility: hard partitioning and a clearly bounded Oracle estate significantly reduce compliance risk.
- Negotiation leverage: entering a ULA or renewal discussion with an accurate usage baseline changes the commercial dynamic.
- Investment capacity: licensing cost released from an over-provisioned Oracle estate can be redirected towards resilience, modernisation, or other operational priorities.

Covenco and RDB Concepts

This is a joint approach in which both parties bring a distinct and complementary capability.

RDB Concepts provides Oracle licensing analysis and database optimisation expertise. Their role is to establish exactly where spend is being wasted, where exposure exists, and where savings can be achieved safely. They create a clear picture of what is licensed, what is being used, and where inefficiency or risk has accumulated.

Covenco provides IBM Power infrastructure expertise, migration planning, and delivery capability across on-premise, hybrid, and managed deployment models. Our role is to translate the analysis into a practical infrastructure response.

Together, we offer a route from Oracle cost analysis to infrastructure optimisation. RDB establishes the evidence, while Covenco delivers the solution.

Next steps

If Oracle licensing has become a significant recurring cost, the starting point is straightforward: establish whether the current estate reflects genuine need, or simply an inherited cost structure that has never been challenged.

A Licence and Infrastructure Review with Covenco and RDB Concepts provides that clarity. It requires minimal effort from your team, carries no obligation beyond the initial engagement, and delivers a clear view of the commercial opportunity within a matter of weeks.

Talk to us about your Oracle license review:

Call: +44 (0)1753 732 000

Email: enquiries@covenco.com

Web: covenco.com/oracle-review



About Covenco

Covenco is a modern private-cloud backup and recovery service provider, connecting data management services with robust IT hardware supply and support.

Drawing on over 35 years of experience, our team provides strategic expertise for Security and IT Leaders navigating complex data landscapes.

We support business leadership by addressing sophisticated compliance demands and delivering recovery strategies that ensure operational continuity while improving overall business resiliency. We provide world-class data protection solutions with a distinct advantage: unmatched speed in disaster recovery and hardware deployment.

Our UK data centres have over two Petabytes of customer data under management at any time, and we are fully ISO27001 and Cyber Essentials accredited for data security.

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