Oracle's licensing model is complex. Users are required to factor into their license entitlement calculations the hardware processing power, details of whether expensive management packs and options have been enabled and the numbers of users requiring access – both directly and indirectly.

As a result organizations need to proactively manage their Oracle licenses and deployed software using a license management solution such as Snow's Oracle Management Option (which is an add-on module to Snow License Manager) so that they do not unnecessarily expose themselves to the risk of unbudgeted fees.

The Oracle Management Option gives organizations control of their Oracle estate thanks to its ability to collect data and report on all server hardware and configuration, database products and editions, database options and associated usage, management packs and associated usage, feature usage and named users. It also enables orders to be managed and assigned to specific servers within the Oracle estate.

In addition, the Oracle Management Option enables Oracle administrators and license owners to create on-demand and dynamically populated Oracle Server Worksheets (OSW) which are the vital pre-requisites of an Oracle Audit that provides an overview of the entire IT estate, showing what's installed and used as well as the number of users that access the Oracle database servers. This allows organizations to continually monitor and manage their Oracle estate to proactively drive down costs and risks.

Snow Software’s Oracle Management Option is the most effective way to optimize investment in Oracle databases, reducing the reliance on costly consultants by automating key data collection and consolidation tasks.
AVOIDING THE PITFALLS OF ORACLE LICENSING

According to industry analysts, the volume of customer audits performed by Oracle and its partners continues at a steady rate, with 15-20% of Oracle users being audited in 2014. Therefore SAM Managers need to get full visibility of their Oracle licensing and metrics to ensure control and avoid costly, unbudgeted license fees and the possibility of regular, repeat future audits.

Costs can quickly mount if the Oracle estate is unmanaged and not optimized. A small error in managing Oracle licenses can become financially embarrassing, with hefty back usage and true up fees. For example, on a single four-processor server, the cost difference between running a standard and enterprise edition of an Oracle database could easily be $120,000.

For an organization with just ten Oracle servers, that’s a potential overspend of $1.2 million. What’s more, an organization could have activated one or more Management Packs or Options – which are installed by default on enterprise editions – which could cost another $50,000, without even knowing it. Adding further unnecessary expense.

Snow’s Oracle Management Option provides organizations with the means to independently assess their Oracle software usage and licensing obligations, providing an accurate customer view on software installs, Management Pack and Option activation and actual usage levels.
KEY FEATURES AND BUSINESS BENEFITS

**IMMEDIATELY OPERATIONAL**
The Oracle Management Option is quick to implement, no matter the size or complexity of the IT environment. The solution offers extensive platform support, including IBM AIX, Solaris, Linux, Windows and HP-UX.

**PROACTIVE LICENSE MANAGEMENT REDUCES COSTS**
Compliance is assured by managing Oracle Agreements and Orders in Snow License Manager. Alerts can be set for when an agreement is about to expire, avoiding the risk of having to repurchase licenses. All Oracle Orders can be connected to specific Oracle servers to get an instant overview of an organization's Oracle license coverage.

**SAVE TIME AND RESOURCES WITH AUTOMATED OSW**
An accurate and transparent view of an organization's investment in Oracle databases is made available without complicated and time consuming work. The Oracle Server Worksheet (OSW) Report is automatically populated with the required information, including hardware details, partitioning technology, database products, Options, Management Packs and users. The OSW is one of several built-in standard reports available within the Oracle Management Option.

**AVOID OVERSPEND ON OPTIONS AND MANAGEMENT PACKS**
At-a-glance reports are generated with precise data on all the metrics that affect Oracle licensing, including Options, Management Packs, feature usage and database settings. Costs can be optimized as the organization only licenses used Options and Management Packs.

**MINIMIZE RISK IN CLUSTERED ENVIRONMENTS**
The Oracle Management Option automatically reports and visualizes when an Oracle Server is added to a cluster. This gives the organization the ability to manage changes and avoid costs associated with out-of-the-box functionality.

**UNIFIED VIEW OF MULTI-PLATFORM, MULTI-SITE NETWORKS**
Snow License Manager provides a consolidated view on all assets across the network and beyond, enabling staff to use just one interface to manage multiple software vendors, device types and locations. Audit data can be imported from more than one inventory source to cover the full range of enterprise computing platforms (Windows, Mac, Linux, Unix).

**CALCULATE CORE FACTORS AUTOMATICALLY**
The Oracle Management Option automatically displays the core factor of hardware which has Oracle databases installed. This enables the administrator to calculate the number of licensable cores required and to check whether they are over- or under-licensed.

**VISUALIZE ORACLE DATABASES IN THE DATACENTER**
In a large, dynamic datacenter it can be difficult to identify all software installed. The Oracle Management Option highlights where Oracle databases are installed. This allows the administrator to minimize financial risk of situations where, for example, a full datacenter has to be licensed even though it contains only a small number of VMs running Oracle. This in turn improves how prepared an organization is at the point of audit.

“Software asset managers must proactively prepare for Oracle audits by ensuring that their organization has all purchasing records and complete inventories of licensed and deployed software.

**SNOw LICENSE MANAGER**
Snow License Manager enables organizations worldwide to optimize their software licensing, providing full visibility of software usage and entitlements to reduce costs and minimize compliance risks for all commercial software publishers. As the hub of Snow’s SAM platform, Snow License Manager provides a unified view of all the software and hardware assets (for all the major software vendors such as Microsoft, Adobe, IBM and SAP), license entitlements and application usage metrics, in use across the across all platforms – desktop, datacenter, mobile and cloud – in an organization’s network.

Role-specific ‘Snowboard’ management dashboards can be tailored to different authorized users from across the enterprise (IT, finance, procurement, compliance, HR etc.) enabling stakeholders to be productive and reducing the administrative burden on the SAM program administrators.

SNOW SAM PLATFORM

SNOW LICENSE MANAGER
With millions of licenses sold, Snow License Manager is the world’s leading SAM solution.

SOFTWARE RECOGNITION SERVICE
Recognize commercially-licensable applications across the network.

ORACLE MANAGEMENT OPTION
Cut the costs of managing complex Oracle licenses.

VIRTUALIZATION MANAGEMENT
Identify and manage virtual assets across the network.

SNOW DEVICE MANAGER
A complete enterprise mobility management solution that handles the full lifecycle of mobile devices.

SNOW INVENTORY
The true multi-platform audit solution designed to find devices, audit software installs and track usage.

SNOW INTEGRATION CONNECTORS
Integrate Snow’s SAM platform with existing Inventory, ITAM and Service Management solutions.

SNOW OPTIMIZER FOR SAP® SOFTWARE
Manage SAP licensing to optimize one of the enterprise’s largest software costs.

SNOW AUTOMATION PLATFORM
Define and implement automated process to support software optimization.

ABOUT SNOW SOFTWARE
Snow Software’s Mission: To stop organizations paying too much for the software they consume.

Whether it’s through lack of control, lack of understanding or lack of compliance, Snow Software believes that most organizations today end up paying too high a price for their software.

To address this, Snow Software provides Software Asset Management (SAM) solutions designed to ensure that the $326 billion spent every year on enterprise software is money well spent – ensuring organizations have the appropriate licenses for the software they use – not too many, not too few.

Today, more than 4,500 organizations around the world rely on Snow Software’s on-premise and cloud-based SAM platforms to manage software licensing across more than eleven million devices, from mobile to desktop, datacenter to the cloud.

Headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden, Snow Software is the largest dedicated developer of Software Asset Management solutions, with more local offices and regional support centers than any other vendor.