



September 27<sup>th</sup> 2006, Maria Girone

## ORACLE database update policy at Tier 0

### Introduction

Since 2005 (following the Security alert #68), Critical Patch Updates (CPU) are the primary means of releasing security fixes for Oracle products. They are released on the Tuesday closest to the 15th day of January, April, July and October<sup>1</sup>.

The physics database services at CERN Tier 0 follow the practice of regularly applying those patches in a timely manner, depending on the security vulnerability. The proposed date for this planned intervention is announced and negotiated with the user community.

### Security policy proposal

Oracle recommends that each CPU is first deployed on a test system<sup>2</sup>. In order to achieve timely deployment on the production systems we propose:

- That the patch delivery schedule is routinely made available to the application owners and the LCG SCM;
- That critical patch updates are applied at CERN Tier 0 as soon as possible and typically within two weeks from the publishing date;
- A validation period of typically one week is available for testing by application owners.

### Software upgrade policy proposal

Oracle software upgrades are typically performed once or twice per year. We propose that the new version is installed on the validation RAC and tested by the application owners and Tier 1 sites, typically over a period of one month.

It is important to stress that Oracle patches – security or otherwise – are only made for recent versions and therefore it is essential to update accordingly.

Given the recent experience, we propose that the schedule for minor upgrades is discussed in the LCG SCM and 3D meetings, whereas the decision on major version updates is deferred to the MB.

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.oracle.com/security/critical-patch-update.html>

<sup>2</sup> See white paper [http://www.oracle.com/technology/deploy/security/pdf/cpu\\_whitepaper.pdf](http://www.oracle.com/technology/deploy/security/pdf/cpu_whitepaper.pdf)