



# Oracle Solaris

## Review From A Customer



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## Review by a Real User

Verified by IT Central Station



Oracle ACE - Specialized in Systems Technologies at a comms service provider with 10,001+ employees

**Diego E. Aguirre**

### **WHAT IS OUR PRIMARY USE CASE?**

I work with Solaris Operating systems since a lot of years, every day, as technical support specialist

### **HOW HAS IT HELPED MY ORGANIZATION?**

I've worked with different flavors of Unix, but I chose Solaris. I like the constant innovation in the software and hardware. I've worked with servers E10k, E25k, T7-2, T5, M5, M5-32 and some other older servers. All of them have excellent performance in virtualization, zones, and LDOMs. Solaris lets you isolate zones and migrate them to other servers. You can also move old releases of OS's from obsolete hardware to containers installed in new hardware.

### **WHAT IS MOST VALUABLE?**

The most valuable features for me are: Virtualization (Containers, Zones, Security, PDOM's, LDOM's) Performance, ZFS, Debugging with Dtrace

### **WHAT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT?**

There are some areas that could use some improvement. As with Solaris 10, you can install Solaris 11 on SPARC and x86 systems, but the number of non-Oracle x86 systems certified up to this point is less that with the previous version. In spite of that, you can still install Solaris 11 on a varied number of systems as 'bare metal' or you can resort to virtualization via many of the softwares available for that in the market. The certification of third-party hardware is usually a lengthy process and requires a lot of resources, so it would be understandable if this takes a long time.

### **FOR HOW LONG HAVE I USED THE SOLUTION?**

More than ten years.



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### **WHAT DO I THINK ABOUT THE STABILITY OF THE SOLUTION?**

Solaris is very stable, and most of the "panics" are caused by third-parties, generally when information security applications add modules into the kernel or when some hardware failure occurs.

### **WHAT DO I THINK ABOUT THE SCALABILITY OF THE SOLUTION?**

Oracle Sparc servers are the best for scalability. With Solaris, for example ZFS, it's a filesystem of 128 bits that allows storage of 256 trillion zettabytes, metadata are assigned dynamically, so it's not necessary to assign nodes beforehand or to limit the filesystem scalability when it's created. The directory can have up to 256 billion entries and there isn't a limit to the number of filesystem or file that may be in ZFS.

### **HOW ARE CUSTOMER SERVICE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT?**

Customer Service: Customer Service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, by phone and web service where you can open a case, upload files, and an engineer can be assigned in less 3 hours depending on severity of the case. Technical Support: The technical staff and field engineers who interact with customers are really professional, capable, have very good dispositions and they work with a high level of excellence.

### **WHICH SOLUTION DID I USE PREVIOUSLY AND WHY DID I SWITCH?**

I worked on various Unix systems, but I feel very comfortable working on Solaris. I'm aware of the evolution of Linux systems in the world because of the cost, but I don't feel the need to change for the time because this OS offers me compatibility and scalability that the company needs where I work.

### **HOW WAS THE INITIAL SETUP?**

When I decided the work on the Solaris platform, it was a personal decision. I didn't stop other Unix systems because of the complexity of these OS's, but rather by a timely challenge I had to build a cluster between 2 nodes of SunFire 6800. After that the E25k servers arrived and then the virtualization, and I liked working on Solaris more each time.

### **WHAT ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION TEAM?**

When we do an implementation, we work together with an Oracle team and my colleague, Nicolas, and I start by connecting the power cords to the installation and configure the OS. We also provide support to development teams to this applications. About the level of technicians, the level is excellent and they all provide great value with their experience

### **WHAT WAS OUR ROI?**

The economic investment is not my area of expertise, but I can talk about investment if I think about everyday learning working on this OS which return me the invest time on the initial installation and the low administrative maintenance, so I can spend less time to solve problems that software and hardware can have.



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#### **WHAT'S MY EXPERIENCE WITH PRICING, SETUP COST, AND LICENSING?**

I can't talk about prices. Solaris is free for final users, and in the case of OEM licenses, you should visit [www.oracle.com](http://www.oracle.com).

#### **WHICH OTHER SOLUTIONS DID I EVALUATE?**

I always evaluate other options with Sparc. I analyze if one server is more convenient than another or what cards to add. At my company, one specific area evaluates the costs of an implementation and then it decides the direction to take, so when the road leads to Solaris, my evaluation can help them to make a decision.

#### **WHAT OTHER ADVICE DO I HAVE?**

I always recommend Solaris because of its robustness, high availability, scalability, virtualization, excellent support, security and very good hardware.

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