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Case Study

$2m in cost avoidance with an Oracle Java ELP

Exec Summary

A technology and engineering business using perpetual Java licenses was concerned that it could be targeted by Oracle for an audit, without knowing its compliance position. It turned to Livingstone, who identified at risk Java deployments and gave remedial steps to protect the organization from having to pay up to $2m in additional license fees.

The challenge

The technology and engineering business had a long-standing relationship with Oracle using various on-premise products across a variety of functions within the organization. It is also an existing Livingstone client, having entered a multi-year managed service partnership focusing on tier one publishers like Oracle, Microsoft, and IBM.

The client owned some older perpetual Java licenses and after becoming aware of the changes in the licensing metrics, believed it could be targeted for a Java audit. But the client was unsure of its compliance position. Without this knowledge, it was at risk of paying unplanned license fees. It wanted clarity on where Java was in use, whether additional licenses were needed, or if alternative, solutions could be found. It engaged Livingstone to perform a compliance analysis of its Java consumption.

The solution

Step 1:

Livingstone performed a full effective license position (ELP) of the client's Java consumption. Initially performing a full review of the licenses the client had previously bought, Livingstone collaborated with the client's technical teams to extract the relevant inventory as well as environmental and infrastructural data needed for a comprehensive Java review.

Step 2:

The next step was data processing. Livingstone has designed and built a unique Java data processing engine which uses multivariate analysis to crunch through millions of lines of Java inventory data to accurately assign each installation of Java into its correct licensing scenario. Livingstone processed the client's data and was able to identify thousands of installations of Java.

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The solution

Step 3:
Livingstone's market leading Java solution provided in-depth analysis on these installations, mapping them to the existing Oracle products which contained Restricted Use rights for Oracle Java and 3rd Party products which possess a Java redistribution right. Subsequently, only a small number of deployments were discovered which would have required an additional commercial Java license.

Even though small in number, because those deployments sat on VMware, this could have resulted in a $2m commercial resolution being insisted on by Oracle. Despite the fact that most of the Java use from within the business was covered under existing licenses or the restricted use rights granted by other Oracle products, these few deployments would have resulted in a $2m bill had the auditors come knocking.

The result

The client was able to remove the small number of deployments of Java which were not covered by their existing licenses and, as they now understood how the risk had been created, they were able to implement policies to ensure that individuals couldn't download and install commercial releases of Java outside of core IT policy. This provided them with protection from any claims from Oracle for additional Java licensing.

MAIN STATS

30k Number of employees	**£8b** Revenues
Global Client location	**$2m** Cost avoidance

Concerned about your Java licensing position? Get peace of mind.

Contact us today.

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