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Oracle Hardening

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Requirements

Oracle Database software is one of the market leaders for mainframe databases. Oracle Database 12 version is designed for full integration and optimization for Oracle Cloud Platform.

The challenge at the customer in Hamburg was to migrate all existing Oracle databases to the new version Oracle 12c. In doing so, it had to be ensured that the hardening of the new installations could be carried out according to the Hardening Guide.

Implementation

After a thorough analysis, we started to carry out the automatic hardening with the "Hardening Framework for Oracle Databases". In doing so, we had to ensure that the security scans with the programme "DBSEC for Oracle Databases" were complied with. We implemented the recommendations from the Oracle DB Security Guide. However, since the software leaves some gaps, we had to manually harden it in order to completely secure the systems. Passwords were reset, passive functions, user accounts and passwords were deactivated. The requirements of the Hardening Guide were met without any problems.

Backup in productive operation is an absolute necessity. We set up a backup strategy for our customer with the Recovery Manager (RMAN). The difficulty here is that with an RMAN only the database and all the files saved with it are backed up, but not the software. Therefore, we outsourced the software to another drive or RAID system.

Conclusion & outlook

Due to the successful combination of automatic and manual hardening, we were able to customise the security level and thus create a basis for future customer-specific database hardening.

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