

Quarterly Updates Aren't a

Technical Exercise

Every quarter is a business change event. Treat it with the same governance as any other release — not a patch window.



Oracle Quarterly Updates Are Not a Technical Exercise

Oracle Cloud is continuously evolving. The organisations that gain the most value are those that govern change, not just apply updates.

One of the greatest advantages of Oracle Cloud is that innovation never stops.

Every quarter, Oracle delivers new capabilities, security enhancements, regulatory updates, performance improvements and product innovations across Oracle Fusion, Oracle Integration Cloud (OIC) and Oracle Enterprise Performance Management (EPM).

Unlike traditional on-premise ERP systems, customers no longer wait years for new functionality.

Innovation arrives every three months.

Yet despite this significant shift, many organisations still approach Oracle quarterly updates as though they were simply another infrastructure patch.

They schedule a maintenance window.

- Apply the update.
- Execute a handful of regression tests.
- Move into Production.
- Then hope everything works.

Unfortunately, Oracle quarterly updates are far more significant than a technical deployment.

They are business change events.

Oracle Is Continuously Delivering Business Change

Every quarterly update has the potential to affect the way an organisation operates.

- Business processes may evolve.
- Approval workflows may change.
- Reports may require validation.
- Integrations may be impacted.
- Security behaviour can change.
- New capabilities become available that improve automation, productivity and compliance.

Treating these updates purely as technical maintenance overlooks their real purpose.

Oracle is not simply updating software.

It is continuously evolving your business platform.

The Biggest Risk Isn't Applying the Update

Many organisations believe the primary challenge is installing Oracle's quarterly release.

In reality, Oracle performs the technical update.

The greater challenge belongs to the customer.

- Understanding what has changed.
- Assessing the impact on business processes.
- Validating integrations.
- Confirming security.
- Testing operational scenarios.
- Preparing users.
- Determining whether new functionality should be adopted immediately or planned into a future release.

These are governance decisions.

Not technical ones.

Quarterly Updates Should Follow the Same Governance as Any Other Release

One of the most common mistakes Oracle programmes make is creating a separate process for quarterly updates.

Successful organisations do the opposite.

They apply exactly the same governance principles used throughout the implementation lifecycle.

- Every quarterly release should progress through a controlled sequence.
- Review Oracle's release documentation and assess business impact.
- Identify affected business processes, integrations, reports and security configurations.
- Apply the update in Development and validate the technical baseline.
- Execute integration, regression and security testing in System Integration Testing.
- Confirm business processes through User Acceptance Testing.
- Obtain formal business approval before Production deployment.
- Complete post-deployment validation before returning to normal operations.

The update may be supplied by Oracle.

The governance remains entirely the customer's responsibility.

Every Team Has a Role to Play

Quarterly updates are often viewed as an IT responsibility.

In reality, successful adoption requires collaboration across the entire organisation.

- Functional teams assess how business processes are affected.
- Technical specialists validate configuration, extensions and integrations.
- Security administrators confirm access controls continue to operate as intended.
- Business users execute operational scenarios and approve the solution.
- Change Advisory Boards review deployment readiness and approve the Production release.

When one of these groups is missing from the process, risk increases significantly.

Quarterly updates become successful when they are treated as a shared business responsibility rather than an isolated technical activity.

Testing Is Only Part of the Story

Regression testing is essential.

But testing alone does not create confidence.

Successful organisations also ask broader questions.

- Should new Oracle capabilities be enabled immediately?
- Do current business processes still represent best practice?
- Can manual activities now be automated?
- Should existing customisations be retired because Oracle now provides native functionality?

Every quarterly update presents an opportunity to optimise the platform.

Organisations focused solely on regression testing often miss the innovation Oracle is delivering.

Quarterly Updates Should Accelerate Business Value

Too many organisations approach Oracle's quarterly releases with one objective.

- "Don't break anything."

While stability is critical, this mindset can prevent organisations from realising the full value of their Oracle investment.

Each update introduces new capabilities that can improve operational efficiency, strengthen governance and enhance the user experience.

- Artificial intelligence.
- Redwood user interface enhancements.
- Improved reporting.
- Automation.
- Workflow improvements.
- Security enhancements.

The organisations that benefit most from Oracle Cloud are not those that avoid change.

They are those that adopt innovation in a controlled and governed manner.

Governance Creates Confidence

When quarterly updates are managed through a structured governance framework, they become predictable rather than disruptive.

- Programme teams understand what needs to be validated.
- Business users know when they need to participate.
- Technical teams follow established deployment procedures.
- Leadership gains visibility of progress and deployment readiness.
- Most importantly, the organisation develops confidence that Oracle innovation can be adopted without introducing unnecessary operational risk.

Quarterly updates stop being events that people fear.

They become part of normal business operations.

Continuous Innovation Requires Continuous Governance

Oracle Cloud is designed to evolve continuously.

That evolution should be matched by an equally mature governance model.

Successful organisations establish repeatable processes for assessing change, validating impacts, testing business scenarios and approving Production deployments.

Over time, quarterly updates become another controlled release within the organisation's wider delivery governance framework.

Innovation is no longer disruptive.

It becomes routine.

Final Thoughts

Oracle quarterly updates are not technical maintenance windows.

They are recurring business change programmes.

Every release has the potential to improve business processes, strengthen governance and deliver greater value from Oracle Cloud, but only if organisations manage those updates through a structured and repeatable governance process.

The most successful Oracle Cloud customers understand that quarterly updates are not simply about keeping systems current.

They are about continuously improving the business platform.

When organisations treat quarterly updates as governed business change rather than technical patching, they reduce risk, improve user confidence and unlock the full value of Oracle's continuous innovation model.

Because in Oracle Cloud, staying current is no longer the objective.

Continuously improving the business is.

About Sarrisco

At Sarrisco, we help organisations transform Oracle quarterly updates from technical maintenance activities into governed business change programmes. Our Oracle Cloud Delivery Governance Framework provides a structured lifecycle for assessing Oracle release content, analysing business impact, validating integrations and security, executing regression testing, obtaining business approval and deploying updates through controlled release governance. Rather than simply keeping Oracle Cloud current, we help organisations adopt new capabilities with confidence, minimise operational risk and maximise the ongoing value of their Oracle Cloud investment.

Contact us to learn how Oracle Cloud Delivery Governance Framework can support your long-term Oracle Cloud success.

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