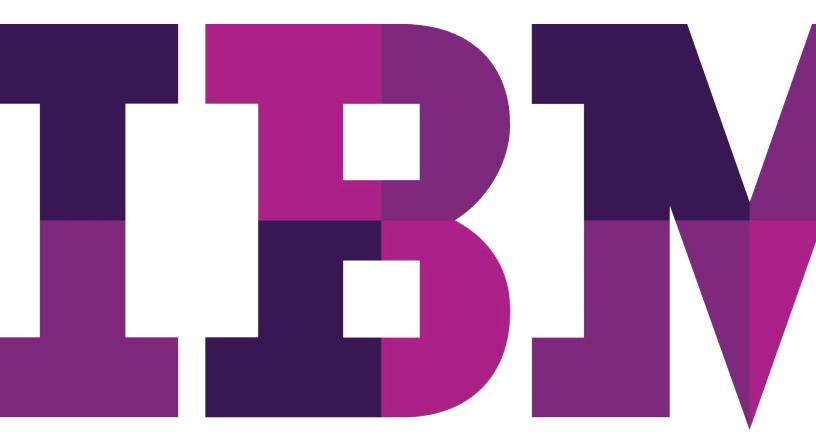# IBM Informix software
# product family: Version 12.1

*Simply powerful data management software*

**Highlights**

- **Fast, always-on transactions:** IBM® Informix® is proven database management software that provides fast, always-on access to data in a platform-independent environment

- **Real-time analytics:** Informix is a single platform that can power online transaction processing (OLTP) and online analytical processing (OLAP) workloads and help your organization successfully meet service-level agreements for each

- **Easy to use:** Informix runs virtually unattended with self-configuring, self-managing and self-healing capabilities

- **Best-of-breed embeddability:** Provides an embedded data management platform for independent software vendors (ISVs) and original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to deliver integrated, world-class solutions, enabling use on multiple platforms

IBM Informix is one of the world's most widely used database servers, deployed by some of the world's largest corporations as well as new start-ups. Informix incorporates design concepts that are significantly different from traditional relational platforms, resulting in extremely high levels of performance and availability, distinctive capabilities in data replication and scalability, and minimal administrative overhead.

For application developers, Informix offers a variety of options and tools to accelerate a new generation of mobile and cloud-based applications. Developers can choose their favorite language or integrated development environment (IDE) with support for PHP, Ruby and Microsoft .NET. Informix also includes compatibility features that make it easy to port applications to the database. It is available in a variety of editions and supports a wide range of operating systems to power OLTP and OLAP workloads.

Informix 12.1 delivers unprecedented advantages: superior performance, availability and efficiency, minimal complexity and lower computing costs.

## Fast, always-on transactions

Informix was built from the ground up for performance. Its multithreaded architecture optimizes available hardware to achieve very high throughput levels and outstanding transaction performance, even when using low-cost commodity servers. Comprehensive compression technology for data, binary large objects (blobs) and indexes can produce up to 80 percent savings on disk space and up to 30 percent improved throughput.[1] With less data volume to process, businesses can achieve faster response times, use hardware more efficiently and reduce backup and recovery times.

Informix provides continuous access to data, including zero downtime for routine maintenance, through a wide set of options at varying price points for keeping data available at all times. In addition, Informix Flexible Grid enables the use of different hardware and operating systems—and even different versions of Informix—from cluster to cluster throughout a grid. This capability allows organizations to leverage existing investments and avoid vendor lock-in.

Informix also makes it easy to manage clustered grid environments, regardless of how widely distributed a deployment may be. Whether servers are located down the hall or around the world, DBAs can manage Informix from a single "cockpit" location to scale capacity when and where needed, bring data online or offline, or change the data schema and automatically update database schemas throughout the grid—all without any downtime. All of these characteristics and more make Informix ideal for private cloud deployments.

## Real-time analytics

Informix offers a complete infrastructure for creating data warehouse applications plus the ability to perform speed-of-thought analytics for rapid business decisions. Deep integration and transparency between its OLTP and OLAP environments means Informix can power both types of applications and successfully meet service-level agreements for each.

For businesses seeking speed-of-thought analysis of warehouse data and/or operational data, Informix offers patent-pending software known as Informix Warehouse Accelerator (IWA) that helps exponentially accelerate even the most complex queries. IWA loads data completely into system memory in a compressed form, using a special columnar scheme developed by IBM. As queries come in, the Informix database passes them to IWA, which can scan billions of rows of data in seconds to return immediate results.

*"The performance and reliability of Informix 12.1 gives our ERP software the ability to simultaneously meet the demands of OLTP and OLAP workloads in mission-critical environments."*

—Chad Gates, Development Manager, Pronto Software

IWA is designed to be completely transparent to business applications, so no application changes are needed to take advantage of accelerated query performance. Users can employ front-end analysis and reporting tools such as IBM Cognos® Business Intelligence, or develop their own mash-ups and dashboards.

## Easy to use

Informix is designed from the ground up for easy, scalable administration and includes features that allow Informix to "disappear" within an application. Thanks to the many self-monitoring and self-healing features built into Informix, such as automated storage and memory management, the database software can be customized to proactively track and react to business thresholds—and resolve them before they become an issue.

Small companies love Informix because they do not need a large technical staff to run their data processing environment. As companies grow, Informix has them covered: customers with large deployments are able to manage an average of 2,000 Informix databases with a single DBA. Informix also enables growing businesses to scale and manage their databases no matter where they are—on demand and with no downtime.

## Best-of-breed embeddability

More than 3,000 IBM Business Partners collectively have millions of Informix deployments around the world, most of which are completely transparent to customers. For example, Informix is in thousands of worldwide retailers, 20 of the top 25 US supermarkets and 95 percent of telecom service delivery providers.[2] Market innovators such as Cisco Systems, China Mobile, Verizon, Lazare Kaplan International, DHL Express and Trafficmaster rely on Informix to deliver seamless and superior service to their customers.

Informix is available on multiple versions of Windows, Linux, UNIX and Mac operating systems—which means that OEMs, ISVs and value-added resellers (VARs) are not locked into a single platform and can pursue more market opportunities. Informix is standards-based and supports a wide variety of IDEs and application development languages. The same installer can be used on all platforms and can be easily customized and hidden within an embedded solution. The software's small footprint and self-managing capabilities make it an ideal choice for embedded data management solutions. Plus, Informix can be up and running in minutes, not days, and requires virtually zero administration.

*"It's very, very important to us that what we have is of high quality, what we have has the power behind it to make sure that it has both the longevity and the support that we need. Cisco is taking advantage of the fact that Informix is easily embeddable, and also, the redundant capabilities allow us to use our distributed architecture to scale for our customers."*

—Phil Harris, Senior Director of Engineering, Cisco Systems

Informix is also widely deployed in virtualized environments, with a profile and feature set that lends itself well to virtualization. Customers can reduce costs through server consolidation and can prepare for moving to a true cloud-computing environment, where additional economies of scale are available when supporting customers in a service-oriented architecture.

## Informix: A complete data management solution for all types of workloads

While Informix has a long record of being low-cost and easy to use, it is now more powerful than ever with a comprehensive range of data management capabilities. In addition to those already described, Informix offers many other features, such as:

- **Application development options and tools:** Accelerates a new generation of mobile and cloud-based apps, and enables developers to choose their favorite language or IDE; includes support for PHP, Ruby and Microsoft .NET, plus other compatibility features that make it easy to port applications to Informix.
- **OpenAdmin Tool:** Provides a no-cost graphical administration tool to administer all of your Informix environments from a single console, plus the ability to monitor servers from a mobile device (tablets, phones and so on).
- **Native support for advanced data types:** Offers the built-in ability to efficiently manage spatial and time-series data used in time-based and space-based applications and analysis.

Want to learn more about how companies of all sizes are using Informix to drive real results? Check out the library of success stories at **ibm.com**/informix/success

## Informix editions

Informix offers many editions, including no-cost editions and for-purchase editions, to meet multiple departmental, enterprise, ISV, VAR and OEM needs.

### No-cost editions

- **Developer Edition:** This edition provides nearly all features of Informix for individual application development, testing and proofs-of-concept. Available on a wide variety of platforms, the Developer Edition has some processing and storage limitations. Community support is available.
- **Innovator-C Edition:** This edition eliminates the up-front licensing costs of developing popular database functionality for use in production (redistribution requires a separate license). The Innovator-C Edition is available on Linux, Windows and Mac platforms and is limited to one core and 2 GB of memory. Selected support at Elite level is available as an optional purchase.

## For-purchase editions

- **Advanced Enterprise Edition:** This edition represents the ultimate in data warehouse performance and scalability and includes all Informix features on all supported platforms,[3] plus IWA for development and deployment with near-limitless scalability. It includes full grid and replication capabilities, as well as comprehensive storage compression. Value-added packaging includes access to select IBM SPSS® and IBM Cognos software.
- **Enterprise Edition:** With the exception of IWA, this edition includes all Informix features on all supported platforms for development and deployment with unlimited scalability. It includes full grid and replication capabilities. Storage compression is available as an optional feature. Value-added packaging includes access to select Cognos software.
- **Advanced Workgroup Edition:** This edition represents the ultimate in data warehouse performance for small-to-midsize businesses or partners looking to create a turnkey data warehousing solution. It includes IWA, unlimited replication cluster nodes and up to two high-availability cluster nodes of any type. This edition is limited to 16 cores with up to 48 GB of memory. Value-added packaging includes access to select Cognos software.

- **Workgroup Edition:** This edition provides powerful data management capabilities (not including IWA) for departmental solutions or small-to-midsize businesses, including unlimited replication cluster nodes, and up to two high-availability cluster nodes of any type. It is limited to 16 cores over a maximum of four sockets and 16 GB of memory and is available on all supported platforms.
- **Express Edition:** This edition is ideal for application and third-party developers looking to embed a database within their application. It can also be used in customer environments that need only basic functionality and minimal scalability. Available on all supported platforms, this edition is limited to four cores and a total of 8 GB of RAM. Enterprise replication is limited to two nodes (root nodes only) and one secondary high-availability cluster of any type.

In addition, IBM offers the Informix Enterprise Hypervisor Edition, which is based on Open Virtualization Format (OVF) and optimized for the IBM PureApplication™ System or IBM Workload Deployer. The Enterprise Hypervisor Edition provides preconfigured and optimized Informix instances in a cloud environment without the need to install an operating system or the IBM Informix server. For more information about Informix Enterprise Hypervisor Edition, visit: http://ibm.co/YaWcMP

## Informix Editions summary table

This table represents an overview of the Informix software family and may not be inclusive of all features among all editions. Contact IBM for detailed information.

| Edition | Licensing/ access | Support options | Resource limits (per install) | Capabilities | Added-value software access |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Advanced Enterprise Edition** Linux/UNIX/Windows/ Mac (IWA requires Linux or Solaris) | • Licensing via AUSI, PVU • Passport Advantage | Includes Support and Subscription in first year | • Unlimited | All-inclusive | Cognos BI, SPSS Modeler, SPSS Statistics |
| **Enterprise Edition** Linux/UNIX/ Windows/Mac | • Licensing via AUSI, PVU • Passport Advantage | Includes Support and Subscription in first year | • Unlimited | **Features unavailable:** IWA  **Optional feature:** Storage Optimization (Compression) | |
| **Advanced Workgroup Edition** Linux/UNIX/ Windows/Mac (IWA requires Linux) | • Licensing via PVU • Passport Advantage | Includes Support and Subscription in first year | • 48 GB memory • 4 sockets • Total 16 cores | ER, HDR/SDS/RSS up to 2 secondary nodes  **Features unavailable:** Compression, parallel operations, distributed operations, private memory cache for VP, HPL, partitioning | Cognos BI |
| **Workgroup Edition** Linux/UNIX/ Windows/Mac | • Licensing via AUSI, PVU, LU socket • Passport Advantage | Includes Support and Subscription in first year | • 16 GB memory • 4 sockets • Total 16 cores | ER, HDR/SDS/RSS up to 2 secondary nodes  **Features unavailable:** IWA, compression, parallel operations, distributed operations, private memory cache for VP, HPL, partitioning | |
| **Express Edition** Linux/UNIX/Windows/ Mac | • Licensing via LU socket, AUSI • Passport Advantage | Includes Support and Subscription in first year | • 8 GB memory • 2 sockets • Total 4 cores | ER up to 2 root nodes; HDR/SDS/ RSS up to 1 secondary node  **Features unavailable:** IWA, compression, parallel operations, distributed operations, private memory cache for VP, HPL, partitioning | |
| **Innovator-C Edition** Linux/Windows/Mac | • No cost to develop and deploy (distribution requires commercial license) • Passport Advantage | Optional: Selected Support charged per install/year | • 2 GB memory • Total 1 core • 8 GB storage limit | **Features unavailable:** ER, IWA, compression, parallel operations, distributed operations, private memory cache for VP, HPL, partitioning | |
| **Developer Edition** Linux/UNIX/ Windows/Mac | • No cost for one developer license; no distribution • Passport Advantage | Community | • 1 GB memory • 1 core • 8 GB storage limit | **Features unavailable:** IWA | |

**Note:** PVU: Processor Value Unit; AUSI: Authorized User Single Install; LU: Limited Use; ER: Enterprise Replication; HDR: High-Availability Data Replication; SDS: Shared Disk Secondary, RSS: Remote Standalone Secondary; IWA: Informix Warehouse Accelerator; VP: Virtual Processor; HPL: High-Performance Loader

# For more information

To learn more about Informix and its capabilities, including a complete list of supported platforms and operating systems, please contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner or visit: **ibm.com**/informix