

Uninstalling Oracle 10g Manually from Windows XP

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: THE MATERIAL BELOW WAS ADAPTED FROM A BLOG POST BY ORACLE CONSULTANT ARIC FRIESEN FROM GILBERT, ARIZONA

Oracle's installation utility has a nasty habit of leaving a lot of items behind. I wrote this up to document what I've found you need to do to uninstall Oracle 10g manually. This is specific to 10g and Windows XP. Note: removing earlier Oracle versions is very similar.

The first thing you should do, is go ahead and run the installation tool, the Oracle Universal Installer, and choose the option to do an "uninstall". It probably will leave some things behind, but it's worth running. Then go through this list and remove anything it missed. This list is detailed enough though, that I believe even if you did not run the uninstallation tool, this would fully uninstall Oracle.

The most commonly missed item is to make sure you remove everything from the GAC because the uninstaller doesn't appear to. I get to that later, but if you wanted to know the largest source of uninstallation problems, it's libraries remaining in the GAC.

After running the supplied Oracle uninstallation utility (which may or may not do some or all of the following):

- Stop any Oracle services that have been left running.

Start->Settings->Control Panel->Services

Look for any services with names starting with 'Oracle' and stop them.

□ *Run regedit and delete the following keys (some may have slightly different names in your registry):*

HKEY_CURRENT_USER\SOFTWARE\ORACLE

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\ORACLE

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\EventLog\Application\Oracle.oracle

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\OracleDBConsole

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\Oracle10g_home

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\OracleService

Note that the services control panel will still show the old services until you reboot.

□ *Delete the Oracle home directory*

C:\Oracle

□ *Delete the Oracle Program Files directory:*

C:\Program Files\Oracle

□ *Delete the Oracle Start Menu shortcuts directory:*

*C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Start Menu\Programs\Oracle**
*Where * indicates the name of your install. Look for and remove all Oracle directories from that location.*

□ *Remove Oracle references from the path. To edit your path go to: Start->Settings->Control Panel->System->Advanced->Environment Variables*

Edit both of the environment variables user PATH and system PATH. Remove any Oracle references in them.

□ *Remove Oracle.DataAccess and any Polic.Oracle files from the GAC which is at:*

C:\Windows\assembly

There, now your system is Oracle free. If you are installing a new instance of Oracle (and not just an additional DB) I recommend you do this before any new Oracle installation.
