

HPE Wins \$3bn in Damages from Oracle

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The San Jose, California court decides in favour of HPE as it declares Oracle should cough up \$3 billion in damages over a 2011 breach of contract.



The fight involves the Oracle decision to quit database software development for Intel Itanium processors. The company then known as HP used Itanium processors in a number of servers, and as such accused Oracle of trying to force customers to migrate to SPARC/Solaris systems--an Oracle-owned server line via the acquisition of Sun Microsystems.

The courts had already decided against Oracle in 2012, when judge James Kleinberg ruled a contract forced Oracle to continue supporting Itanium as long as HP used the processors. In turn Oracle denied any wrongdoing and launched (and lost) an appeal. Now it is ready to appeal yet again.

“Five years ago, Oracle made a software development announcement which accurately reflected the future of the Itanium microprocessor,” the company insists. “Two trials have now demonstrated clearly that the Itanium chip was nearing end of life, HP knew it, and was actively hiding that fact from its customers.”

The legal system hasn't been too kind to Oracle this year-- May saw the company lose to Alphabet, with a jury deciding Google's use of Java in mobile products does not violate copyright law.

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