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“Computers are good at swift, accurate computation and at storing great masses of information. The brain, on the other hand, is not as efficient a number cruncher and its memory is often highly fallible.”

**-Jeremy Campbell**

**Since 1983 the XeC team has installed 451 leasing systems in 22 countries.**

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## Oracle's CEO Larry Ellison Preaches Single Global Database to the Leasing Industry

Reported from the Equipment Leasing Association's Annual Conference

At the U.S. Equipment Leasing Association's Annual Conference in Palm Springs California, Larry Ellison was the keynote speaker.

Mr. Ellison's concept is that instead of time-consuming roll-ups and consolidation of disparate data structures across distributed global systems, a global corporation should have one central database accessed by all ( Oracle's of course ).

Oligopoly aside, his argument is solid. The costs of disparate data and systems are enormous, and worse, the time it takes to get useful, timely information is just too long. Just the cost of maintaining and backing up multiple systems wins the argument.

Add to that (1) a near instantaneous financial snapshot of the global enterprise at your fingertips and (2) the standardization of global data... and his logic is difficult to refute.

The few contrary points are (a) one size does not fit all when you dealing with 60 country operations, (b) exceptions to standards always arise, and c) processing time of this mass of data must be quite large.

You might ask “ Has this ever been attempted ?” Mr. Ellison's clear answer is ‘ yes, Oracle has done it itself.’ Better yet, it is documented that it has saved Oracle significantly.

### **XeC Opinion**

This can seem like a straightforward proposition, but the extreme effort is in the global database design. Serving 60 different countries requires careful, creative planning. And what is the global basis for financial transactions ? Accounting ? I think not.

## RFID Use Continues to Spread Like Wildfire

The use of Radio Frequency Identification tags continues to grow rapidly. They are now a part of airfinance as Airbus will use RFIDs in the A380 super-jumbo jet..

The RFIDs will carry serial numbers, manufacturers' codes, country of origin, date of installation, and maintenance histories of the parts, from seats to jet engines. As the applications mature, more data will be added.

The advantage of RFIDs over current stamped plates and bar codes is that they are updateable and reusable. They are accessible in real-time using handheld scanners and can carry large amounts of detail.

Boeing is planning on following suit on its Dreamliner.

### **XeC Opinion**

Is this useful ? Yes. Picture a routine pre-flight check to determine if all seats have their oxygen masks and lifejackets in place. The crewmember walks the plane with a scanner or laptop and instantly receives the data. Compare this to examining and counting by hand.

Leasing and finance companies can benefit from the inherent asset tracking to protect their investments.

## Patch Management for Software

Managing the sometimes numerous patches issued by software providers has risen on the list of critical problems in the U.S.'s government IT sector.

I think we all have experienced this, at minimum if one uses Microsoft products.

The U.S. issue is driven by Homeland Security and the concern that constant patches weaken the overall systems' infrastructure. Opportunity is knocking for someone.

