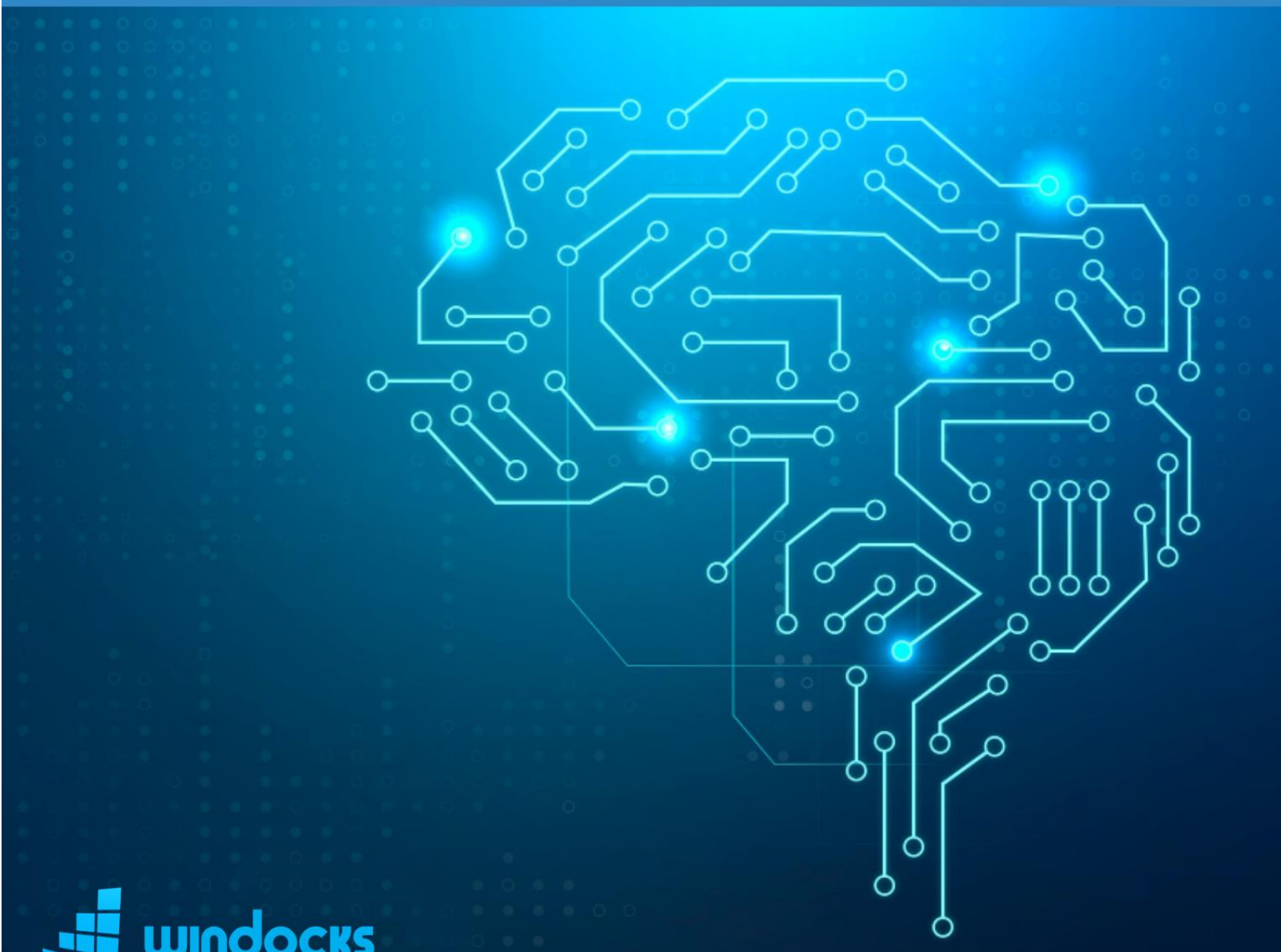
Database Virtualization in the AI Age



windocks

Database Virtualization in the AI Age

Introduction

For over a decade, Delphix has been the best-known name in database virtualization. Its platform allowed enterprises to provision virtual databases quickly and with improved storage efficiency. But much has changed since Delphix first came to market in 2008.

Cloud native architectures, containerization, and DevOps have reshaped the way data teams deliver value. CIOs and engineering leaders now face the question of how to apply AI to power enterprise data. Storage-based proprietary appliances and lengthy implementations are recognized as hindrances when addressing the need for agile, AI-powered strategies.

That is why modern teams are turning to Windocks. Founded in 2015, Windocks has reimagined database virtualization for today's cloud-first world. Recognized by Gartner for innovation in synthetic data and Agentic AI-powered analytics, Windocks delivers everything Delphix offers, faster, easier, and at half the cost, and with an AI-ready solution.

As one CIO put it, "Cloud computing defines the modern IT. It relies on standard servers and scales with pay-as-you-go economics. Expensive, proprietary storage for database virtualization is outdated."

What is Windocks?

Windocks is a modern database virtualization and automation platform that is AI-ready.

- Like Delphix, Windocks delivers writable virtualized (cloned) database environments in seconds, reducing the time needed for test, development, and analytics.
- Database virtualization delivers Oracle, Oracle EBS, SQL Server, PostgreSQL, MySQL, MongoDB, NoSQL, and unstructured data.
- Synthetic data is generated to protect sensitive data, for compliance with GDPR, HIPAA, and other regulatory requirements.
- Database subsetting with optional bias controls is used to trim large environments to smaller, purpose-built environments for QA or testing.

- Windocks is also AI-ready, working with MCP servers. AI is expected to deliver a full range of additional enterprise data operations, including data and database joins, data cleansing and normalization steps, and the addition of statistical measures and ML features across a range of common enterprise data stores. These data stores include Oracle, Oracle EBS, SQL Server, Snowflake, Aurora, AWS RDS, Azure SQL, Azure managed instances, and PostgreSQL, MySQL, and flat files.
- Windocks is also an open, extensible platform with support for in-house and third-party synthetic data and masking, varied backup and storage systems, and extensibility to incorporate added data tools into the enterprise MCP server.

Windocks runs on Linux and Windows servers with no proprietary hardware. It also supports Windock's unique Windows SQL Server containers, something Delphix cannot do. With Windocks, teams can leverage commodity infrastructure, scale in the cloud, integrate seamlessly with DevOps toolchains, and take the lead in the race to power enterprise data with AI.

AI-powered Data

A strategy to apply AI to enterprise data is top-of-mind for CIOs and CTOs today. While there is a lot of news, there is a lot of noise and hype. Cutting through the noise is the fact that AI-powered data requires an enterprise-class Model Context Protocol (MCP) server. The MCP server exposes the structure of enterprise data (tables and column-level relationships), and tools and functionality needed for AI to automate data engineering, analytics, and other data operational needs.

Not surprisingly, Microsoft, Oracle, and other vendors are releasing MCP servers, but these early releases fall far short of enterprise needs. Oracle's MCP server provides an interface to run Oracle database CLI commands. Microsoft's MCP server provides a limited set of functionalities for SQL Server. What is needed are enterprise capabilities that include:

- Support for a full range of enterprise data, including Oracle, Oracle EBS, SQL Server, Snowflake, Aurora, Postgres, MySQL, AWS RDS, Azure SQL, Azure Managed Instances, along with flat files, and NoSQL data.
- Tools to process and deliver enterprise data, including the ability to identify data needed across tables and databases, join data from tables and between databases, cleanse and normalize data, protect sensitive data with synthetic data and masking, and add statistical measures and features needed for analytics and Machine Learning.

- Flexibility to deliver enterprise data sets and databases to the source platform (i.e., Oracle, Snowflake, etc.), or to flat files, or write the data to another platform (i.e., from SQL Server to Snowflake).
- AI Agent developers need access to production databases for development and testing, such as those delivered through Windocks database virtualization
- Finally, the data operations and pipelines need to be persisted, repeatable, transparent, and easily reviewable and maintainable. These operations or pipelines become the artifact of the AI-powered data.

Why Windocks Outperforms Delphix

Faster Deployment and Lower Cost

Windocks deploys in days rather than months, without the overhead of proprietary storage appliances. Customers report cost savings of 50% and more compared to Delphix, with faster time to value.

Broader Platform Support

While Delphix supports Oracle, PostgreSQL, MySQL, DB2, and SAP, it lacks support for SQL Server containers and modern environments such as Hive. Windocks works across Oracle, SQL Server, PostgreSQL, MySQL, Mongo, NoSQL, and text, covering the diverse environments of modern enterprises.

DevOps Ready Architecture

Windocks orchestrates the delivery of virtualized databases to Docker containers and fixed instances, supporting CI/CD and agile development. Delphix delivers to fixed infrastructure and has limited support for containerized workflows.

Accessibility for More Teams

Delphix has historically targeted large enterprises with dedicated system administrators. Windocks is designed for a broader audience, from small organizations to business units and large enterprises. It is deployed and managed by DBAs and DevOps engineers, enabling self-service and democratized access to data.

Superior Support Model

Windocks provides 24/7 support, including live Zoom sessions with engineers. Customers get hands-on guidance during critical implementations and migrations.

Windocks vs. Delphix

Feature / Capability	Windocks	Delphix
Deployment	Linux and Windows server-based, no proprietary hardware	Proprietary storage appliance
Capabilities	Virtualization, containerization, masking, subsetting, synthetic data, Agentic AI for ML	Database virtualization and masking
Data Platforms	Oracle, Oracle EBS, SQL Server, PostgreSQL, MySQL, MongoDB, NoSQL, textual	Adds support for z/OS DB2, and SAP
Virtualization	Point in time and near real-time cloning, timeline roll forward/backward	Similar functionality
DevOps/Docker	Orchestrates the delivery of databases to Docker containers, fixed instances, and unique Windows SQL Server containers	Mountable volumes for containers, no Windows SQL Server container support
Audience	Large enterprises, SMBs, business units, DBAs, and DevOps engineers	Large enterprises with dedicated system admins
Cost	Typically ranges from 20 to 50% of Delphix	Average license cost estimated at $500K/yr and up
Support	24/7 with live Zoom engineer sessions	24/7 with electronic support, Zoom escalations only

How to Migrate from Delphix to Windocks

Migration from Delphix to Windocks is straightforward because Windocks uses standard infrastructure and integrates easily into DevOps pipelines. A typical migration includes:

Discovery: Identify workloads currently virtualized through Delphix and their dependencies.

Deployment: Install Windocks on Linux or Windows servers in the cloud or on premises.

Clone Creation: Recreate database clones using Windocks' virtualization engine.

Pipeline Integration: Connect Windocks with CI/CD workflows for automated provisioning.

Validation: Test masking and synthetic data features to ensure compliance.

Cutover: Transition users to Windocks-managed clones and decommission Delphix appliances.

Most organizations complete migration in days to weeks, compared to the months often required with Delphix.

ROI of Moving to Windocks

The financial and operational benefits of switching to Windocks are clear:

Cost Savings: Deploy at half the cost of Delphix, with no proprietary hardware.

Time Savings: Clones provisioned in seconds, enabling faster sprints and shorter release cycles.

Agility: Self-service cloning empowers development and analytics teams.

Compliance and Security: Built-in masking, subsetting, and synthetic data support regulatory requirements.

AI Enablement: Production native feature data supports retraining, A/B testing, and safe ML development.

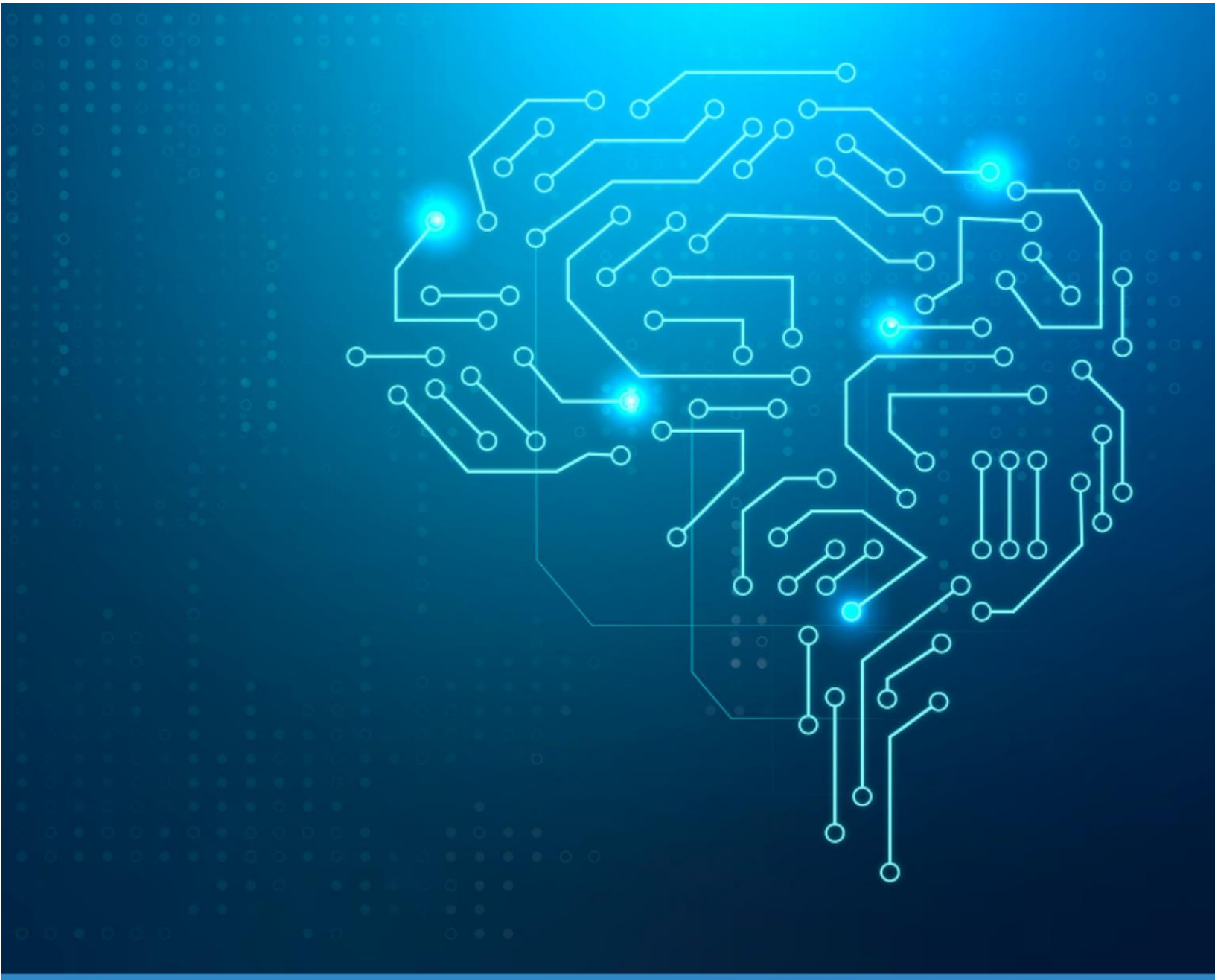
"We evaluated Delphix, but Windocks gave us the same capabilities in a fraction of the time and cost. Our teams are now shipping features faster, with compliant data that supports both DevOps and machine learning initiatives." – CIO, Global Financial Services Firm

Conclusion

The database virtualization market has entered a new era. Enterprises no longer accept expensive, proprietary appliances that lock them into slow, rigid processes. Teams need solutions that are cloud-ready, container-friendly, affordable, and compliant.

Windocks delivers on all these requirements. With faster deployment, broader platform support, DevOps integration, and advanced compliance features, Windocks is the modern choice for organizations ready to move beyond Delphix.

In the battle for database virtualization, modern teams are making their choice clear. They are joining the Clone Wars and choosing Windocks.



Windocks, Inc.
www.windocks.com
info@windocks.com