



Oracle CPU, PSU, RU and RUR

Understand CPU, PSU, RU and RUR

<https://digitalksystems.com>

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCGTnI9vvF_ETMhGUXGdFWw

CPU – Critical Patch Update

CPU = Security fixes only

- Released quarterly (Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct)
- Includes **only security patches**
- No functional/bug fixes
- Very conservative: Minimal change

PSU – Patch Set Update

PSU = Security fixes + important bug fixes

- Also released quarterly
- Includes:
 - All CPU fixes
 - Additional **high-priority regression & functional fixes**
- More changes than CPU, but still conservative
- Does **not** include optimizer changes by default
- **Used in:**
 - 11g
 - 12.1
- **Replaced by RU starting 12.2**

PSU **cannot** be installed with **opatchauto**. You must use **opatch** manually.

RU – Release Update (current system)

RU = CPU + PSU + additional improvements

- The modern replacement for PSU
- Released quarterly
- Includes:
 - Security fixes
 - Functional fixes
 - Optimizer fixes (may be turned on or off)
 - New features or adjustments (small)
- **Used in:**
 - 12.2 onwards

Supported by **opatchauto**. Can patch GI + DB homes together (RAC)



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RUR – Release Update Revision (optional)

RUR = Very small fixes on top of an RU (security + regression fixes only)

- Released twice for each RU - means each Quarter (RUR-1 and RUR-2)
- Only includes:
 - Security updates
 - Regression fixes
- No new optimizer/functional changes
- Allows very stable environments to stay on the same RU longer

Important:

- Many customers skip RURs and apply only the next RU.
- **Used in:**
 - 12.2 onwards

Summary Table

Patch Type	Security Fixes	Bug Fixes	Optimizer Changes	New Features	Used In	opatchauto Support
CPU	✓	✗	✗	✗	10g, 11g	✗
PSU	✓	✓ (limited)	✗	✗	11g, 12.1	✗
RU	✓	✓	✓ (some)	✓ (small)	12.2+, 19c	✓
RUR	✓	✓ (regressions only)	✗	✗	12.2+, 19c	✓

Practical recommendations

- If you're on **12.2+ versions**, always apply **RU** (RUR only if required by strict change policies).
- If you're on **11g / 12.1**, apply **PSU** (CPU only if extremely conservative).
- If you need automated GI + DB patching, then you must be on **RU/RUR (12.2+)**. PSU is unsupported.