

Cash-Rich Oracle Scoops Up Bargains

It's a buyer's market... Anyone who is sitting on a nest egg, big or small, cash, or IRA that has melted to a fraction of its value, needs to wake-up and take advantage of the exceptional investment opportunities now available to them for the first time....

While most Americans are pinching pennies, Larry Ellison is on a shopping spree. His software giant, Oracle, completed 10 acquisitions this past year, ranging from a maker of insurance-policy-writing tools, to a designer of software used by stores to maximize shelf space use. Mr. Ellison's last 10 deals combined cost less than \$750 million. A fraction of their real-time value amid the worst economy in a generation.



"Cash is king, queen, and the royal family" in a recession, said John Chambers, Cisco's chief executive, in a recent interview. Microsoft Corp. executive Chris Liddell said in a January conference call that **"buying opportunities have probably never been better."**

Emerging Source for Private Equity

Based on an article By: Paul Hodkinson FEBRUARY 10, 2009

Despite the declining economy, **Private-Equity fund raising** -which is about equity investments in growing companies- **rose last year by 12% to \$553.8 billion**, up \$66.5 billion from the year prior.

Alternative Investing

The Private-Money World Opens Up...

Small investors now have more ways to win like the bigwigs.

Based on an article By ELEANOR LAISE and IANTHE JEANNE DUGAN

Small investors are getting new ways to invest like Wall Street bigwigs. For a long time, the average investor has been shut out of one of the hottest sectors around: private money. This category usually takes a minimum investment of hundreds of thousands of dollars, beyond the reach of most individuals. Now, as little as \$35,000 provides the astute and savvy small investor a way into the club, **and the potential to recapture ill-fated "Market" losses.**



Peter and Maria Hoey

The appeal of private-money investments is simple: They tend to zig when the broad stock market zags, reducing a portfolio's overall risk and potentially boosting returns....The amount of money pouring into these investments is staggering. **Private-equity firms now control more than \$2 trillion worldwide outpacing major stock-market indexes by a wide margin**, according to Thomson Financial and the National Venture Capital Association.