

## Oracle Applications Release 11i Newsletter

The contents of this newsletter were contributed by **Solution Beacon** consultants who have accumulated extensive experience during the numerous installations, implementations, and upgrades of Release 11i that we have performed for our clients. Other articles are contributed by our partners and clients. We also welcome your participation in this newsletter. If you would like to contribute on any Release 11i topic, please send your contact information, topic, and a short abstract to [mweiss@solutionbeacon.com](mailto:mweiss@solutionbeacon.com).

*Mary Lou Weiss and Randy Giefer, Editors, Solution Beacon*

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## Event Announcement – Release 11i Workshops OAUG Connection Point 2003 in San Diego

As an official OAUG Training Provider, **Solution Beacon** is joining OAUG to once again sponsor the highly acclaimed Oracle Applications Release 11i Workshops at the OAUG Connection Point 2003 in San Diego September 15-16, 2003. The focus of the Workshops is to share "real-world" experience as well as tips and techniques to manage the complex Oracle Application environment delivered with Release 11i. These unique, two-day Workshops are offered at no additional charge to OAUG conference attendees. Attendance is on a first come, first served basis and pre-registration will not be available. OAUG will be providing the meeting room and venue for the Workshops, while **Solution Beacon** will be providing the session leaders with extensive technical expertise on Implementations and Upgrades along with the Release 11i knowledgebase for download distribution from the Solution Beacon website, <http://www.solutionbeacon.com>.

OAUG has recently announced that the Advanced Registration price for the conference has now been extended until the beginning of the Conference. This is the OAUG Board's way of recognizing and allowing for the current economic situation facing many companies today.

If you have not registered, please do so at this reduced rate.

*Mary Lou Weiss, Solution Beacon*

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## 11.5.9 Rapid Install Version Update

The current version of the Rapid Install Wizard is 11.5.9.20. The latest Rapid Install patch (3016867), is available on Oracle *MetaLink* under the Rapid Install product.

*John Stouffer, Solution Beacon*

## Oracle Applications Security Patches & Alerts

An important component of maintaining your Applications security is to make sure that you have applied all of the Oracle-supplied patches that address the known security alerts. The list of security alerts can be found in numerous locations on the internet, but we prefer to use the following from the Oracle Technology Network:

<http://otn.oracle.com/deploy/security/alerts.htm>

Under MetaLink, in the Oracle E-Business Suite Release 11i Info Center section, there is also an Alerts page that addresses not only database and product alerts, but E-Business Suite Alerts as well. It can be found at:

[http://metalink.oracle.com/metalink/plsql/ml2\\_documents.showNOT?p\\_id=165519.1](http://metalink.oracle.com/metalink/plsql/ml2_documents.showNOT?p_id=165519.1)

Recent Alerts that should be reviewed to see if they need to be applied your system include:

**Buffer Overflow in the XML Database of Oracle9i Database Server**  
*Alert #58, Rev 1, 18 August 2003*

**Buffer Overflows in EXTPROC of Oracle Database Server**  
*Alert #57, Rev 2, 07 August 2003*

**Buffer Overflow Vulnerability in Oracle E-Business Suite**  
*Alert #56, Rev 1, 23 July 2003*

**Unauthorized Disclosure of Information in Oracle E-Business Suite**  
*Alert #55, Rev 1, 23 July 2003*

*Randy Giefer, Solution Beacon*

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## New Book: "Installing, Upgrading and Maintaining Oracle Applications 11i" is Available!

The experts at Solution Beacon and OnCallDBA collaborated to write a new book [Installing, Upgrading and Maintaining Oracle Applications 11i](#) or "[When Old Dogs Herd Cats – Care and Feeding of Release 11i](#)". The book provides an in depth coverage about administering Oracle Applications Release 11i. Topics include 11i Concepts and Architecture, 11i New Administration Features, 11i Installation, Upgrading or Migrating to 11i, Maintaining 11i, Administering 11i, Setting Up the Concurrent Manager, Using the Concurrent Manager, Workflow Setup, Using Workflow Builder, Workflow Care and Feeding, and Tuning & Troubleshooting. You can pick up a copy at the OAUG Bookstore at the upcoming Connection Point 2003, or order a copy now from [www.solutionbeacon.com](http://www.solutionbeacon.com).

The following is an excerpt from the book:

## Versioning Issue – Adding Attributes to Existing Workflows

Every time you save a workflow definition to the database, it creates a new version. Unfortunately, not all aspects of the workflow support versioning. Specifically, there is no versioning for Item Attributes, Messages, Lookup Types, and PL/SQL procedures. This can lead to issues if you make changes to a workflow that has been in production for some time. Suppose you add a new attribute to an approval workflow and include that attribute in an existing PL/SQL procedure. Workflows that were already in progress before the new version was saved do not have this attribute defined, nor do they have a value for the attribute. But they will execute the new PL/SQL procedure that references this new attribute and they will error out. There are two methods for overcoming this problem. One is a script that adds the attribute definition (with a default value) to all active workflows. This would be performed just prior to saving the new version of the workflow and the new PL/SQL procedures. The following code would be put in a script and run:

```
CURSOR get_active_work_items_cur IS
  SELECT Item Type, itemkey
  FROM wf_item
  WHERE end_date IS NULL;
get_active_work_items_rec get_active_work_items_cur%ROWTYPE
FOR get_active_work_items_rec IN get_active_work_items_cur
LOOP
  wf_engine.AddItemAttr(Item Type,
    ItemKey,
    '<new_attribute_name>',
    '<default value if text>',
    '<default value if number>',
    '<default value if date>');
END LOOP;
```

The other method makes the new procedures that reference the attribute do the work. The Workflow Engine raises the error 'WFENG\_ITEM\_ATTR' whenever an attribute is referenced that is not defined. So you can add an EXCEPTION routine to your procedures:

```
ON EXCEPTION
  WHEN OTHERS
    IF wf_core.error_name = 'WFENG_ITEM_ATTR'
    THEN
      wf_engine.AddItemAttr(Item Type,
        ItemKey,
        '<new_attribute_name>',
        '<default value if text>',
        '<default value if number>',
        '<default value if date>');
    ELSE
      RAISE
    END IF;
```

*Barbara Matthews, OnCallDBA, Karen Brownfield, John Stouffer and Randy Giefer, Solution Beacon*

## Utilizing and Troubleshooting Accounts Receivable Consolidated Invoices

Trying to decide what's best for your business, between utilizing Oracle Receivable Statements or Consolidated invoices? Listed below is a list of the major documented differences between the 2 approaches.

- *Statements*
  - Statements are generated at the customer level
  - Customers uses are for informational purposes only
  - Itemizes adjustments, credit memos, debit memos, invoices, charge backs, deposits, receipts on account
  - Includes aging on statement
  - Customers are selected by payment cycle
- *Consolidated Billing Invoices*
  - Generated a the Bill to level
  - Customers pay by the invoice
  - Only itemizes the invoices, credit memos, adjustments and receipts are summed.
  - Does not include aging
  - Customers are selected by cut off date and payment terms

After deciding what approach your company is going to pursue, verify that the following major setup steps have been completed.

### *Major Setup Steps*

- ✓ Define proxima payment terms
- ✓ Define new or update existing customer profile
- ✓ Select correct parameters when printing the consolidated invoice
- ✓ Reminder: Verify that the system option has been enabled for consolidated billing

Finally you are ready to print a consolidated invoice. Make sure that the invoices included in the selection are new invoices entered after the consolidation process was setup. Otherwise the invoices will not be included in the printed consolidated invoices. If you encounter any issues please refer to the list below for additional assistance.

### *Verify the Printing Order*

- Print Draft consolidated billing invoices
- Accept consolidated invoices
- Reject consolidated billing invoices
- Print new consolidated billing invoices
- Reprint consolidated billing invoices

## Additional Troubleshooting Tips

- ✓ Data not generated, verify that consolidated billing option is enabled in system options. Go to tab Trans and Customers see Show billing number, make sure it is enabled.
- ✓ Verify that proxima terms are setup correctly
- ✓ Verify that terms are attached to a profile
- ✓ Verify that profile or terms are attached to the Customer
- ✓ Data will not generate if CBI is rejected or previously processed. Review rejected CBI's or run reprint consolidated billing invoices
- ✓ Make sure that the document print type selected at the time of the report submission of summary or detail is the same as what was set at the customer level called document profile printing.

*Ronda Ellis, Solution Beacon*

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## Electronic Versions of Technical Reference Manuals – eTRM's and 11.5.9

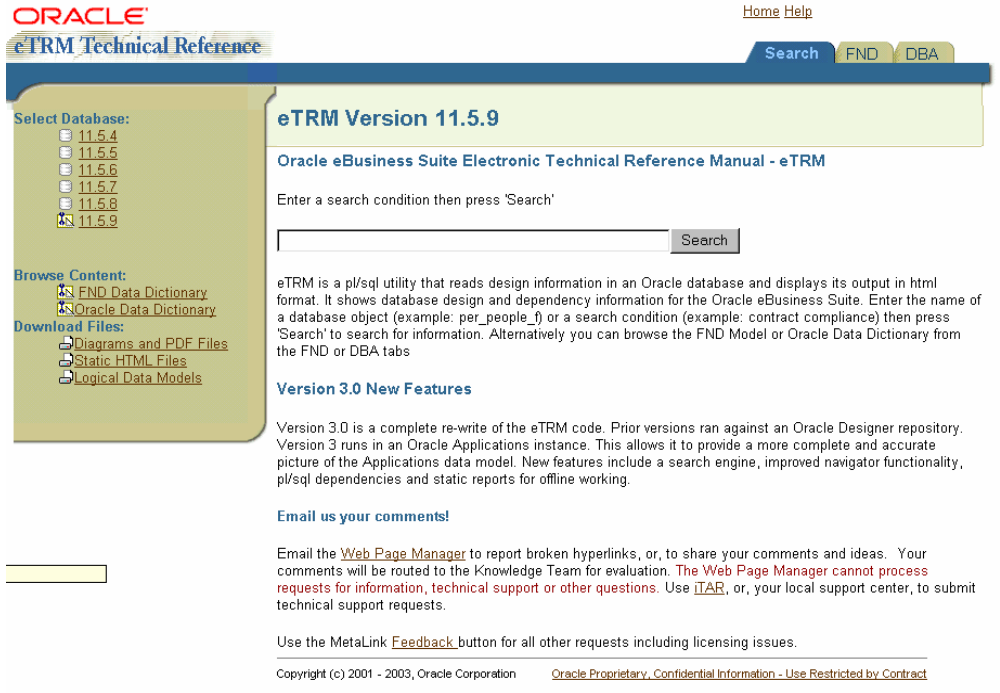
### TRM

As of June 2001, E-Business Suite Technical Reference Manuals are available electronically via eTRM. Registered customers can [access eTRM via Oracle MetaLink](#). On this tab you will find Technical Reference Manuals for only those Oracle Applications products not represented in eTRM.

### Figure 1 – Announcement on Oracle Applications 11.5.8 Documentation CD

When 11i was released in June of 2000, users were overjoyed to find that the TRM's were now included free on the documentation CD. Provided in PDF format, these guides provided entity relationships, and a list of most of the tables in each application as well as foreign key references. In June, 2001, Oracle made these TRM's available on MetaLink.

As the diagram below shows, the TRM's are available for every point release of 11i from 11.5.4 through the new 11.5.9. eTRM's are found by clicking on the blue 'eBusiness 11i' button listed on the left when you first sign into MetaLink. Then click on the 'Electronic Technical Reference Manual (eTRM)' link at the top right.



**ORACLE** eTRM Technical Reference

Home Help Search FND DBA

Select Database:  
 11.5.4  
 11.5.5  
 11.5.6  
 11.5.7  
 11.5.8  
 11.5.9

Browse Content:  
 FND Data Dictionary  
 Oracle Data Dictionary

Download Files:  
 Diagrams and PDF Files  
 Static HTML Files  
 Logical Data Models

**eTRM Version 11.5.9**

Oracle eBusiness Suite Electronic Technical Reference Manual - eTRM

Enter a search condition then press 'Search'

Search

eTRM is a pl/sql utility that reads design information in an Oracle database and displays its output in html format. It shows database design and dependency information for the Oracle eBusiness Suite. Enter the name of a database object (example: per\_people\_f) or a search condition (example: contract compliance) then press 'Search' to search for information. Alternatively you can browse the FND Model or Oracle Data Dictionary from the FND or DBA tabs

**Version 3.0 New Features**

Version 3.0 is a complete re-write of the eTRM code. Prior versions ran against an Oracle Designer repository. Version 3 runs in an Oracle Applications instance. This allows it to provide a more complete and accurate picture of the Applications data model. New features include a search engine, improved navigator functionality, pl/sql dependencies and static reports for offline working.

**Email us your comments!**

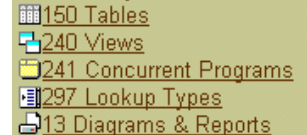
Email the [Web Page Manager](#) to report broken hyperlinks, or, to share your comments and ideas. Your comments will be routed to the Knowledge Team for evaluation. **The Web Page Manager cannot process requests for information, technical support or other questions.** Use [ITAR](#), or, your local support center, to submit technical support requests.

Use the MetaLink [Feedback](#) button for all other requests including licensing issues.

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Figure 2 – eTRM Search

After clicking on the point release you are using, you can keyword search for a file name. The search doesn't always return every object that matches, so be careful. But of the objects it does find, it gives a symbol indicating the type of object (see Figure to the right), the name of the object, and usually a brief description.



- 150 Tables
- 240 Views
- 241 Concurrent Programs
- 297 Lookup Types
- 13 Diagrams & Reports

*FND Design Data*

**Table: AP\_INV\_APRVL\_HIST\_ALL**

**Product:** AP - Oracle Payables  
**Description:** AP\_INV\_APRVL\_HIST\_ALL contains the approval and rejection history of each invoice that passes through the Invoice Approval Workflow process. The process inserts a record for each approver assigned to review an invoice.  
**Implementation/DBA Data:** [AP.AP\\_INV\\_APRVL\\_HIST\\_ALL](#)

**Foreign Keys**

Table	Foreign Table	Foreign Key Column
AP_INV_APRVL_HIST_ALL	AP_INVOICES_ALL	AP_INV_APRVL_HIST_ALL INVOICE_ID

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Figure 3 – Results of Clicking on one of the objects returned by the search

If you click on a table, MetaLink will list the foreign keys at which point you can click on either the Implementation DBA link or the Foreign Table link to see the indices, the description of each field in the table, as well as how to query the object and any dependencies.

[DBA Data](#)

[\[Dependency Information\]](#)

## TABLE: AP.AP\_INV\_APRVL\_HIST\_ALL

### Object Details

Object Name: AP\_INV\_APRVL\_HIST\_ALL  
 Object Type: TABLE  
 Owner: AP  
 FND Design Data: [SQLAP.AP\\_INV\\_APRVL\\_HIST\\_ALL](#)  
 Subobject Name:  
 Status: VALID

AP\_INV\_APRVL\_HIST\_ALL contains the approval and rejection history of each invoice that passes through the Invoice Approval Workflow process. The process inserts a record for each invoice. This table corresponds to the Invoice Approval History window.

### Storage Details

Tablespace: [APD](#)  
 PCT Free: 10  
 PCT Used: 60

### Indexes

Index	Type	Uniqueness	Tablespace	Column
AP_INV_APRVL_HIST_N1	NORMAL	NONUNIQUE	<a href="#">APX</a>	<a href="#">INVOICE_ID</a>

### Columns

Name	Datatype	Length	Mandatory	Comments
APPROVAL_HISTORY_ID	NUMBER	(15)	Yes	Approval history identifier
INVOICE_ID	NUMBER	(15)	Yes	Invoice identifier
ITERATION	NUMBER	(9)		Count of times invoice has passed through the Invoice Approval Workflow process
RESPONSE	VARCHAR2	(50)		Response from approver
APPROVER_ID	NUMBER	(15)		Approver identifier
APPROVER_NAME	VARCHAR2	(150)		Name of approver
AMOUNT_APPROVED	NUMBER			Invoice amount at time of approver response
APPROVER_COMMENTS	VARCHAR2	(240)		Comments of approver
CREATED_BY	NUMBER	(15)	Yes	Standard who column - user who created this row (foreign key to FND_USER.USER_ID).
CREATION_DATE	DATE		Yes	Standard who column - date when this row was created.
LAST_UPDATE_DATE	DATE		Yes	Standard Who column - date when a user last updated this row.
LAST_UPDATED_BY	NUMBER	(15)	Yes	Standard who column - user who last updated this row (foreign key to FND_USER.USER_ID).
LAST_UPDATE_LOGIN	NUMBER	(15)		Standard who column - operating system login of user who last updated this row (foreign key to FND_LOGINS.LOGIN_ID).

Figure 4 – Indices, fields in a table

Cut, paste (and edit) the following text to query this object:

```
SELECT APPROVAL_HISTORY_ID
,      INVOICE_ID
,      ITERATION
,      RESPONSE
,      APPROVER_ID
,      APPROVER_NAME
,      AMOUNT_APPROVED
,      APPROVER_COMMENTS
,      CREATED_BY
,      CREATION_DATE
,      LAST_UPDATE_DATE
,      LAST_UPDATED_BY
,      LAST_UPDATE_LOGIN
,      ORG_ID
FROM AP.AP_INV_APRVL_HIST_ALL;
```

## Dependencies

[\[top of page\]](#)

AP.AP\_INV\_APRVL\_HIST\_ALL does not reference any database object

**AP.AP\_INV\_APRVL\_HIST\_ALL is referenced by following:**

 **APPS**  
 [AP\\_INV\\_APRVL\\_HIST](#)

**Figure 5 – How to query object and dependencies**

If you click on the FND tab at the top, you will see a list of all the Application products (with their three-letter product identifier – very helpful list) and then you can search by product name, object name, or object type (File, Table, View, Concurrent, Lookup Event). Or you can click on the DBA tab where the Object list includes Cluster, Consumer Group, Context, Dimension, Directory, Evaluation Context, Function, Index, Index Partition, Index SubPartition, IndexType, Java Class, Java Data, Java Resource, Java Source, LOB, LOB Partition, LOB SubPartition, Location, Materialized View, Next Object, Operation, Package, Package Body, Procedure, Queue, Resource Plan, Rule, Rule Set, Security Profile, Sequence, Subscription, Synonym, Table, Table Partition, Table SubPartition, Type, Trigger, Type Body, Undefined, View XML Schema.

The only way to truly appreciate the depth of information available online is to use it. However, if you still need a copy of the TRM's in the traditional format, you can choose to download static copies of the TRM's in acrobat or HTML format, you can download the logical data models. So try eTRM – you'll like it!

*Karen Brownfield, Solution Beacon*

## RAID Thoughts

"A Case for Redundant Arrays of Inexpensive Disks (RAID)" written by David A. Patterson, Garth A. Gibson, and Randy H. Katz and presented during the ACM SIGMOD Conference on Management of Data in Chicago, Illinois was our first exposure to the concept of RAID. This brief article is not intended to be a tome on the subject, just a brief introduction to the RAID configurations common in our industry; followed by some encouragement to be creative when selecting RAID configurations for your environment(s).

### RAID 0: Striping

Data is spread over 2 or more disks. The theoretical data transfer rate is equivalent to the sum of the disk transfer rates less the data and controller overhead. The maximum size of a RAID 0 array is the number of disks multiplied by the smallest partition in the stripe set. There is no redundancy in a RAID 0 implementation (more like an AID implementation) – lose a disk, lose the data; and the chance of losing data is much higher in this configuration. One way to estimate the MTBF for RAID 0 is to take the minimum disk MTBF in the array and divide it by the number of disks. In short: highest storage efficiency, excellent read/write performance, highest risk of data loss.

### RAID 1: Mirroring (Duplexing)

Data is duplicated to a second set of drives. RAID 1 is often referred to as duplexing when each disk has a dedicated controller card. Storage capacity is half the total disk capacity (assumption here is that drives are the same size). In short: least storage efficiency, good write performance, fair read performance, excellent fault tolerance – especially if duplexing.

### RAID 10: Striped Mirrors

RAID 10 attempts to get the best of both RAID 1 fault tolerance and RAID 0 performance. Assume you have eight disks numbered 1 through 8 as shown in Figure 1. The first step would be to mirror 1 and 2 into array A, 3 and 4 into array B, 5 and 6 into array C, and 7 and 8 into array D as shown below:

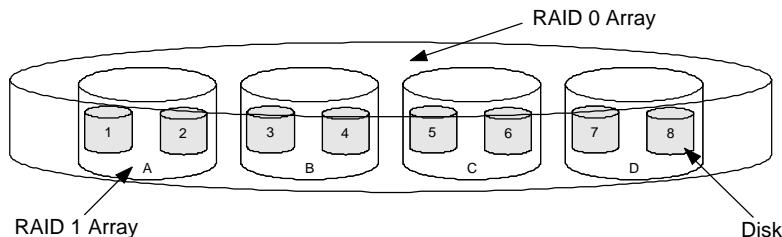


Figure 1. RAID 10 Array

The final RAID 10 array is constructed by striping arrays A, B, C, and D into the higher-level array. In short: RAID 1 fault tolerance, improved read/write performance over RAID 1, same storage efficiency as RAID 1.

## RAID 5: Block-Level Striping and Distributed Parity

Data and parity information is striped across three or more disks. Parity is error correction information based on a Boolean “exclusive or” function applied to the data as it is written to disk. Fault tolerance is obtained by storing the parity information for a given set of data on a different disk than the data itself.

The “exclusive or” also known as an “exclusive disjunction” yields a true result if one and only one condition is true but not both. As a result its truth table can be represented as follows:

A	B	A xor B
1	1	0
1	0	1
0	1	1
0	0	0

Table 1: Exclusive Or (xor) Truth Table

Using the parity bit we can easily calculate the original value for A or B if either is lost, but not both:

$$A = B \text{ xor } (A \text{ xor } B)$$

or

$$B = A \text{ xor } (A \text{ xor } B)$$

In order to have redundancy there must be at least 2 disks (i.e., RAID 1). With the introduction of parity in RAID 5\* to increase storage efficiency, a third disk is needed so that the parity information can be stored independently of the data it may ultimately have to rebuild. This is why a minimum of 3 disks is required to support a RAID 5 configuration:

Disk1	Disk2	Disk3
A <sub>1</sub>	B <sub>1</sub>	Parity <sub>1</sub>
A <sub>2</sub>	Parity <sub>2</sub>	C <sub>2</sub>
Parity <sub>3</sub>	B <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>

Table 2: RAID 5 Storage Strategy

A key behavior with the “exclusive or” when calculating parity is that any number of inputs can be used in the calculation. Keep in mind however, that one and only one input can be calculated if lost. For example:

When written to disk, parity is calculated (*represents a 5 disk configuration*):

$$\text{Parity}_1 = A_1 \text{ xor } B_1 \text{ xor } C_1 \text{ xor } D_1$$

If C is lost, it is possible to rebuild C as follows:

$$C_1 = A_1 \text{ xor } B_1 \text{ xor } D_1 \text{ xor } \text{Parity}_1$$

This is why a RAID 5 configuration can only lose a single disk. If more than one disk is lost, you will have to restore from backup.

Storage capacity for a RAID 5 configuration is calculated as follows: (smallest drive size in the array) x (the number of disks in the array – 1). In short: Very good read performance, fair write performance, good storage utilization.

## RAID Theory Applied

It is important to understand that there is no single RAID solution that is optimal for a complex transactional environment, such as an Oracle Applications installation. That is not to say that a single RAID solution is not acceptable. However you must understand that like many things in life, selection of a RAID solution or solutions is often a compromise.

If your environment is a mature instance then you should be familiar with its size, load level, I/O rates, and read/write ratios. You should base your decision for RAID levels on those things and not on the preconceived notions of RAID1 being good, RAID0 being risky, RAID10 being the best, and RAID5 being bad for databases. The penalty for RAID5 is slower write performance, but you get significantly better use of storage at n-1 vs. n/2 of RAID10. Software RAID5 is slow, hardware RAID5 is much better, and write-back cached RAID5 is virtually the same as RAID10 in transactional environments where read/write ratios are high. The EMC CLARiON CXn00 series can do a very good job with any of those RAID levels and you can mix and match to your needs. For example you may decide to run redo on RAID10, temp on RAID0, with the rest of your storage needs utilizing a combination that suits your particular environment. Be creative in coming up with an optimal RAID solution for your environment.

\* In reality parity was introduced in RAID 3. Both RAID 3 and RAID 4 use parity, but unlike RAID 5 the parity information is stored on a dedicated disk. Because of the parity disk, writing to the array often becomes a bottleneck. This is why RAID 3 and RAID 4 are not commonly seen outside of heavy read environments (i.e., video streaming).

*Rob Quiles, General Parts, Inc. and Will Cordle, BearingPoint*

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## Product Spotlight: RingMaster Software

### Helping You Manage Your Oracle Applications Systems since 1995?

You think you know what RingMaster Software does. You think we are a tool company that has a product to schedule patches. Well, we are not your father's old hand drill and we are not your father's Oldsmobile, either.

In the 7 years RingMaster has been around, we have never stood still. We developed the industry's first patch scheduler, and have evolved it, APM, into an entire management system that allows you to proactively marshal the change brought by the stream of Oracle Applications patches, and make it work for you. We have grown our company by focusing on you, the customer; we draw upon our experiences, frustrations and memories of chaos in our days as Oracle Applications consultants and work on the premise that "There must be a better way."

APM collaborates with your IT support team, both DBA's and functional business analysts to enforce your change management procedures, reduce the risk of change introduced by

patches, and provides you with information galore about what a patch changes before or after you apply it. APM works with you through a user-friendly web-based infrastructure to automate repetitive tasks in order to deliver both consistent results and savings in time and resources (and makes management happy too). And it does patch research and communicates for you too. Your time is important and scarce. Why do by hand what a machine can do?

An entire best-practice solution cannot be done by a machine alone, so we have sought the help of highly skilled resources—human ones—to offer it for patch management. We found Solutions Beacon to be the best candidate to team up with. Together we are offering workshops on “APM Patching – Best Practices” to help our customers implement best change management practices while leveraging their investment in APM.

Come visit us at booth #307 at OAUG Connections Point in San Diego, Sept 14 – 17.

We will be offering test-drives of our products that save time, resources, chaos and dollars allowing your company to do what it does best. Solution Beacon will be on hand to introduce “APM Patching – Best Practices” and more on change management at “Ask the Expert” sessions.

Or take a historic journey to Amsterdam for EOAug's Oracle Applications User Forum, October 2-3, 2003 to see a customer of RingMaster Software co-present “Fast and Furious—keeping the company running while keeping up with 11i patching requirements.”

Find us at [www.ringmastersw.com](http://www.ringmastersw.com) or contact [sales@ringmastersw.com](mailto:sales@ringmastersw.com).

*Susan Dorn, Ringmaster Software Corporation*

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## Linux Oracle Apps Client? Not Quite Yet.

Windows 95 is no longer a supported client for use with Oracle Applications. Fear not however, Larry still vigorously supports his sole-source client provider – Microsoft. The certified clients for Oracle Forms continue to be Windows-only:

- Windows 98
- Windows NT 4.0 (SP 3, 5, or later)
- Windows 2000
- Windows XP

To the chagrin of many, \*nux is still not on the list. However there are indications that something may be afoot – at least in the custom forms arena to start with. The following excerpt was taken from an article on the Oracle Technology Network:

*“Our long-term direction is to partner with Sun, such that we share the Enterprise-level, 24x7 support for all Oracle customers, which will result in the certification of*

*the JavaSoft standard Plug-in/JDK on Windows, as well as shorter certification paths to platforms like Solaris, Linux, and Macintosh."*

[http://otn.oracle.com/products/forms/htdocs/clientsod\\_forms6i.html](http://otn.oracle.com/products/forms/htdocs/clientsod_forms6i.html)

The Oracle E-Business Suite 11.5.9 Rapid Install technology stack utilizes Forms6i patchset 12. In a later section of the document referenced above is a certification matrix for Forms6i in which we see that the JavaSoft 1.4.1x Java Plug-in is certified for use with Netscape Navigator 4.7x and 7.0x for custom applications. We all know that Netscape is based on Mozilla and that Java is Java, right? So why not give it a try?

Another indication that Oracle is moving in this direction is the fact that the appsweb.cfg file contains several pieces of information that deal specifically with Sun JDK Plug-in parameters. There is a "plugin" parameter reference:

```
...
; Following are the accepted values:
; jinit - use the JInitiator plugin (default)
; jdk   - use the Sun's JDK plugin
plugin=jinit
...
```

There is also a section that records the Sun JDK Plug-in version:

```
...
; 4a) Sun JDK Plugin Parameters
; -----
; These parameters define the Sun's java plug-in to be used
sun_plugin_mimetype=application/x-java-applet;jpi-version=1.4.1
sun_plugin_classid=clsid:CAFEEFAC-0014-0001-0000-ABCDEFEDCBA
sun_plugin_url=http://www.javasoft.com/
sun_plugin_version=1.4.1
sun_plugin_legacy_lifecycle=false
;
...
```

For our testing purposes, it is this last section that needs updating. Our testbed is a Pentium III 733 Mhz running Red Hat 9, Mozilla 1.2.1 and Sun's Java Plug-in 1.4.1\_04 connecting to an 11.5.9 Vision instance. The following parameters in the appsweb\_<SID>\_<host>.cfg file were updated:

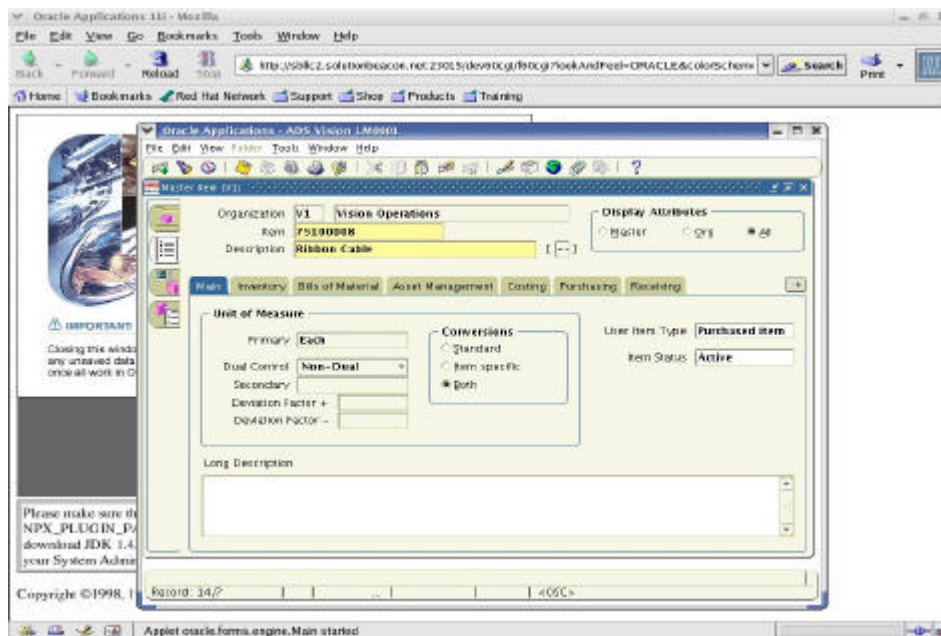
```
jpi-version=1.4.1_04
clsid: CAFEEFAC-0014-0001-0004-ABCDEFEDCBA
sun_plugin_version=1.4.1_04
```

(Although the CLSID parameter is only needed for Internet Explorer and Windows installations, we updated the value to reflect the newer plugin version.)

After the update, the forms server was bounced, and we were ready to begin. On initial connection we were greeted with the download dialog:



Once we selected "Yes" we were greeted by the normal login process. All in all it was rather anticlimactic, in that we were able to enter a standard requisition with an attachment and take it through the approval process (far from a rigorous certification process, but interesting, no?). A screenshot of the Master Items screen follows:



The good news is that Oracle is moving in the direction of supporting the Sun JDK Plug-in, ostensibly on multiple platforms; the bad news is that it is not yet certified for use with Oracle Applications. We are relegated to jinitiator on Windows 32-bit operating systems for the time being. Remember, patience is a virtue.

*John Stouffer, Solution Beacon, and Will Cordle, Bearing Point*

*This article was authored on OpenOffice.org 1.0.2 Writer running on Linux Redhat 9. 8^)*

## 11i ... On A Laptop?

Want to install Release 11i on a laptop? Here are lessons learned ...

First, go with RedHat AS on the Inspiron 8500. RedHat shows hardware compatibility for the 8000 and you should not expect any problems on a later machine. We have successfully installed Release 11.5.7 on a Sony Vaio with 512MB RAM, 60 GB HD, and a 2.0 Ghz processor. However, 60 GB was insufficient to install Release 11.5.8.

Recommendations:

- 2.0 Ghz processor ... minimum
- 1GB of memory ... minimum (more if you can afford it – or at least configure it to be able to add more later)
- External USB 2.0/Firewire drive – available in 200GB+ varieties from \$300-400. This will also allow you to stage the CDs which will save substantial time in the install.

*Jeff Linden, Solution Beacon*

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## Rollback Segment Sizing for 11.5.8 Upgrade

In upgrading from 10.7 to 11.5.8, upgrade with about 40 GB of data, the Oracle 11.5.8 Upgrade Manual recommends 1 segment per worker with an extent size of 1 MB and a minimum segment size of 60 MB. Does this recommendation work? What are your rollback settings for 11i upgrade, such as segment size, min\_extents, max\_extents, optimal and rollback tablespace size?

We typically use 20 rollbacks configured as shown below. We also increase our redo log size, db\_block buffers, shared\_pool, temporary tablespace and extent size (2x existing sizing minimum – must be LMT and uniform) and sort\_area\_size. We do not use the default batch commit for the AutoUpgrade. It is too small, so we use 10,000 for a minimum setting. We also use a minimum of 2xCPU for our workers and sometimes up it to 4x depending on the platform and # of CPUs with the UNIX environment).

RBS Config for Upgrade Only

20-50 Rollback Segments - dependent on server/database size/# of workers - minimum 1 rbs/worker

*John Stouffer, Solution Beacon*

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## One Voice. Many Benefits. OAUG Membership

The Oracle Applications Users Group (OAUG) is a global networking association that represents the interests of a global community of Oracle Applications users. OAUG's major function is to provide a forum that promotes communication, education, solutions, and the exchange of ideas among current and potential users of Oracle products.

With a wide range of activities, such as educational forums, an annual conference, publications, affiliated group events, and a variety of member services, the OAUG works to increase its members' knowledge and understanding of Oracle Applications and to communicate these issues and needs to Oracle Corporation.

We invite you to join the OAUG network and tap into unmatched information, education and networking opportunities. No other organization can connect you with a global community of thousands of active and informed Oracle Applications users.

Join online today at [www.oaug.org](http://www.oaug.org).

*Jonathan Dew, OAUG*

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## R10.7 De-Support

Please visit De-Support webpage on the OAUG Upgrade SIG's website for the latest de-support information: [www.oaug.org/upgdsig/](http://www.oaug.org/upgdsig/)

Also, please send an email to [desupport@solutionbeacon.com](mailto:desupport@solutionbeacon.com) if you would like to be added to the de-support distribution list.

*John Stouffer, Solution Beacon*

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## Solution Beacon Announcements

Solution Beacon's corporate headquarters' new mailing address is:

14419 Greenwood Ave N. #332  
Seattle, WA 98133

New telephone numbers are:

Phone: 206-366-6606  
Phone: 888-603-9243  
Fax: 206-365-4156

## We're growing!

Solution Beacon is proud to announce that Kevin Dahl has joined our consulting team. **Kevin** is a Senior Technical Consultant and Oracle Database Administrator. He has more than 20 years experience in information technology and over 16 years of experience as a database administrator. Kevin has also taught database and telecommunication courses at the university graduate level and undergraduate level. He has extensive experience with the architecture and administration of Oracle's e-Business Suite applications. Kevin has provided technical expertise for numerous upgrades and installations including versions 10.X, 10.7NCA, 11.0.X, and 11.5.X. He also has experience with advanced options such as Real Application Clusters. He has experience implementing and configuring internet applications using Apache, Oracle 9iAS, Java, Java servlets, and CGI programs. Kevin can be reached by email at [kdahl@solutionbeacon.com](mailto:kdahl@solutionbeacon.com).

*Mary Lou Weiss, Solution Beacon*

## Solution Beacon ... On the Road

Solution Beacon representatives presented multiple sessions at the highly successful NCOAUG Conference outside of Chicago in Palatine, Illinois on August 15:

- *40 Ways to Speed up Your Upgrade*, Randy Giefer (presented by John Stouffer)
- *Forms Development Standards*, Susan Behn
- *OPM Actual Costing is NOT the Standard*, Keith McCormick
- *ABC's of Building Workflows*, Karen Brownfield
- *11i ... and Please Add RAC*, Kevin Dahl
- *Tips and Tools for an Oracle Upgrade*, John Stouffer and David Groesch (Applimation)

More than 150 companies participated in this semi-annual event.

*Art Dowd, Solution Beacon*

## Upcoming Solution Beacon Events

EVENT	DATE/TIME	LOCATION
OAUG Connection Point 2003	September 14-17, 2003	San Diego, CA
OAUG Connection Point 2003: Upgrade SIG Meeting – John Stouffer	September 14, 2003	San Diego, CA
OAUG Connection Point 2003: SysAdmin SIG Meeting – Randy Giefer	September 14, 2003	San Diego, CA
OAUG Connection Point 2003: Release 11i Workshops by Solution Beacon, LLC	September 15-16, 2003	San Diego, CA

# Release 11i Newsletter



Oracle Applications Services

August 2003

Volume 11, OAUG Edition

OAUG Connection Point 2003: <i>Locations, Leases, and Invoices – The Basics of Property Manager</i> ; Karen Brownfield	September 15, 2003	San Diego, CA
OAUG Connection Point 2003: <i>Upgrading to Release 11i – Lessons Learned</i> ; John Stouffer and Alicia Hoekstra (an encore presentation – #1 ranked presentation at OAUG)	September 15, 2003	San Diego, CA
OAUG Connection Point 2003: South Central Oracle Applications User Group Meeting – Ronda Ellis and Alicia Hoekstra	September 15, 2003	San Diego, CA
OAUG Connection Point 2003: <i>Care and Feeding of Release 11i</i> ; John Stouffer (Presenter Award from DCOAUG, April 2003)	September 16, 2003	San Diego, CA
Financial Reporting, FSG, ADI Panel	September 17, 2003	San Diego, CA
OAUG Connection Point 2003: <i>To Patch/Not to Patch</i> ; Alicia Hoekstra and John Stouffer	September 17, 2003	San Diego, CA
OAUG Connection Point 2003: <i>Release 11i DBA – Teaching An Old Dog New Tricks</i> ; Randy Giefer (an encore presentation – #3 ranked presentation at OAUG)	September 17, 2003	San Diego, CA
Concurrent Manager Panel	September 17, 2003	San Diego, CA
Upgrade Panel	September 17, 2003	San Diego, CA
Fall 2003 Atlantic Oracle Training Conference: <i>To Patch/Not to Patch</i> ; Alicia Hoekstra and John Stouffer	October 15, 2003	Washington D.C.
Fall 2003 Atlantic Oracle Training Conference: <i>Forms Development Standards</i> , Susan Behn	October 15, 2003	Washington D.C.
Fall 2003 Atlantic Oracle Training Conference: <i>Care and Feeding of Release 11i</i> ; John Stouffer	October 15, 2003	Washington D.C.
DCOAUG Dinner Presentation Meeting, John Stouffer	October 15, 2003	McLean, VA

# Release 11i Newsletter



Oracle Applications Services

August 2003

Volume 11, OAUG Edition

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**Beacon, LLC. Thank you for joining us at OAUG Connection Point 2003!**