

## 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. Our partners and clients contribute other articles. 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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### Discoverer 4.x Tips

To get "Edit Sheet" in Discoverer User Edition to work reasonably fast:

Edit the following registry entry and create the new DWORD 'ObjectsAlwaysAccessible'.

```
HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\ORACLE\Discoverer 4\Database  
New DWORD: ObjectsAlwaysAccessible  
Set value = 1 (hex)
```

FYI, create the following entry for changing the handling of totals:

```
HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\ORACLE\Discoverer 4\Application:  
New DWORD: AggregationBehavior  
Set value = 1 (hex)
```

To set it back to the new default Discoverer behavior, set value = 0.

*Naren Thota, Solution Beacon*

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

As the new year begins Solution Beacon offers a special that is sure to catch your eye – while supplies last; purchases of "Installing, Upgrading and Maintaining Oracle Applications 11i (or, When Old Dogs Learn New Tricks)" will come with a free copy the OAUG Connection Point 2003 (Fall Conference) Proceedings CD.

Order your copies now from [www.solutionbeacon.com](http://www.solutionbeacon.com). The link is at the bottom of each webpage.

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

## Public Sector Issues: Are your Forms 6i extensions in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act?

All software purchased by government entities must comply with the requirements defined in the American Disabilities Act. Customizations or extensions to the software must also comply with these requirements.

### Requirements

1. All actions that can be identified or labeled with text are required to be executable from a keyboard. A mouse must not be required to access non-navigable items.
2. Sufficient information about a user interface element including the identity, operation and state of the element shall be available to assistive technology. In other words, a screen reader must be able to clearly communicate to the user all information necessary to interact with the form.
3. Timed functions are prohibited.
4. The user must be able to control color.

### **Standards to Achieve Compliance**

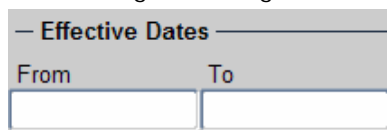
#### Keyboard Accessibility for Physically Disabled Users

To achieve accessibility without using a mouse, enable access keys for all non-navigable items such as buttons, check boxes, radio buttons and tab pages. In addition, the keyboard tabbing sequence should be left to right, top to bottom and should cycle through all enabled fields to eliminate the need to use the scroll bar.

#### Screen Readers for Hearing Impaired Users

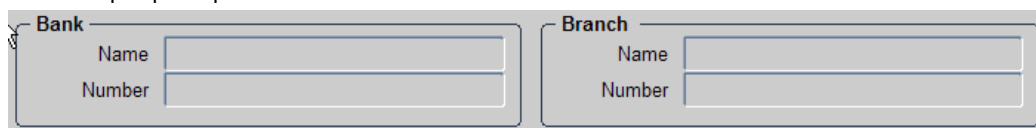
Enter text to communicate the usage of each element to the user. Prompts are defined to make the usage visually clear, however, they are often not sufficient for a screen reader to communicate effectively. Some examples are:

- Flexfield high/low ranges



— Effective Dates —  
From                      To  
                     

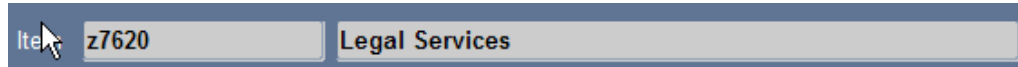
- Non-unique prompts



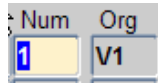
**Bank**  
Name   
Number

**Branch**  
Name   
Number

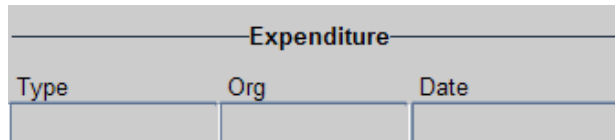
- Associative prompts



- Abbreviated prompts



- Fields Identified by Region Titles



Expenditure		
Type	Org	Date

To resolve these issues, enter hint text for all items except display items and radio buttons. For display items, hint text is not available, but you may enter additional text in the tool tip. Enter additional text in the label for radio buttons.

Screen readers will read text in the following order:

1. Hint text
2. Prompt
3. Label
4. Tool Tip

## **Color Control for Low Vision Users**

Color control is achieved by using defined property classes supplied by Oracle in TEMPLATE.FMB where the color properties are set to "automatic."

For additional details about the requirements for software, refer to section 1194.21 of the American Disabilities Act.

*Susan Behn, Solution Beacon*

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## **Application Security and Timeout Settings**

Security is an operational component that companies cannot optionally implement. Security itself is a PROCESS that encompasses organizational as well as technical components. Many companies believe that if they have their systems behind a firewall they are "safe". The fallacy with this belief is that the "bad people" that are trying to gain access to your system are on the "outside" of your company. Employee (as well as ex-employee) data theft and data manipulation are significant security issues that need to be prevented just like the prevention steps implemented for hackers.

The following sections contain some of our Solution Beacon Best Practices as they relate to Security and Timeout settings for the Release 11i Application as well as its supporting technology stack components.

## Application Profile Values Relating to User Sign On

Profile	Default	Recommendation
Signon Password Failure Limit	None	3 (attempts)
Signon Password Hard to Guess	No	Yes
Signon Password Length	5	7 (characters)
Signon Password No Reuse	None	180 (days)
Signon Password Custom	None	*1
Signon Notification	No	Yes *2

\*1 Used if you want to define your own password scheme in a custom Java class

\*2 Only works with GUI, not the Personal Home Page

*Note: The effort required to implement these profile options is minimal, with a high return on investment for the easy effort. However, at a recent presentation that given on setting just the first four of these profiles indicated that only about 5% of those attending had even set these for any of their environments. Not setting these profiles is just asking for trouble!*

### Signon Password Failure Limit

By default, there is no lockout after failed login attempts. This is just asking to be hacked! Implement an alert (periodic), custom workflow or report to notify security administrators of a lockout by monitoring FND\_UNSUCCESSFULL\_LOGINS.

*Note: New functionality released in 11.5.10 will initiate a security exception workflow when this limit occurs!*

### Signon Password Hard to Guess

The Signon Password Hard to Guess profile option sets internal rules for verifying passwords to ensure that they will be "hard to guess." Oracle defines a password as hard-to-guess if it follows these rules:

- The password contains at least one letter and at least one number.
- The password does not contain repeating characters.
- The password does not contain the username.

### Signon Password Length

Signon Password Length sets the minimum length of an Oracle Applications password value.

### Signon Password No Reuse

This profile option is set to the number of days that must pass before a user is allowed to reuse a password.

## Application Profile Values Relating to ICX

Parameter	Default	Recommendation
ICX:Session Timeout	none	30 (minutes)
ICX: Limit Time	4 (hours)	10 (hours)
ICX: Limit Connect	1000	1000

## ICX:Session Timeout

This profile option determines the length of time (in minutes) of inactivity in a user's form session before the session is disabled. Note that disabled does not mean terminated or killed. The user is provided the opportunity to re-authenticate and re-enable their timed-out session. If the re-authentication is successful, the disabled session is re-enabled and no work is lost. Otherwise, the session is terminated without saving pending work. This functionality is available via Patch 2012308 (included in 11.5.7, FND.E).

*Note: Setting the profile value to greater than 30 minutes will drain the JVM resources and can also cause out of memory errors.*

## ICX: Limit time

This profile defines the maximum connection time for a connection – regardless of user activity. If 'ICX:Session Timeout' is set to NULL, then the session will last only as long as 'ICX: Limit Time', regardless of user activity.

## ICX: Limit connect

This profile defines the maximum number of hits (each request by the browser for a new HTML page constitutes a hit) that a user may make in a single session.

## Jserv (Java) Settings

Parameter	Default	Recommendation
disco4iviewer.properties:session.timeout		5400000 (milliseconds)
formservlet.ini:FORMS60_TIMEOUT		55 (minutes)
formservlet.properties:session.timeout		5400000 (milliseconds)
jserv.conf:ApJServVMTIMEOUT		360 (seconds)
mobile.properties:session.timeout		5400000 (milliseconds)
zone.properties:session.timeout		5400000 (milliseconds)
zone.properties:servlet.framework.initArgs		5400000 (milliseconds)

These settings are located: ../ora/ias/Apache/Jserv/etc

## Apache HTTP Settings

Parameter	Default	Recommendation
httpd.conf:Timeout		300 (seconds)
httpd.conf:KeepAliveTimeout		15 (seconds)
httpd.conf:SSLSessionCacheTimeout		300 (seconds)

These settings are located: ../ora/ias/Apache/Apache/conf

## Forms 60 Environment Variables

Parameter	Default	Recommendation
FORMS60_TIMEOUT	None	55 (minutes)
FORMS60_CATCHTERM	None	0

Modify the APPL\_TOP/<SID>.env setting to include the following settings:

```
FORMS60_CATCHTERM=0
FORMS60_TIMEOUT=55 (minutes)
```

We recommend using a timeout value of 55 because it is less than the 60-minute value used for the web apache timeout values. Note that these values may vary depending on security policies.

*Randy Giefer, John Stouffer and Jeff Holt, Solution Beacon*

## Loading Attachment Files into the Database During An Upgrade to Release 11i

There are a few additional steps that need to be performed to load attachment files into the database during an upgrade from 10.7 NCA or 11.0.3 to Release 11i. The steps are as follows:

1. Change to the directory where your attachment files exist from 10.7NCA or 11.0.3
2. Type the following command on one line replacing 'apps/apps@ist10' with your database specific connection text:  
FNDGFU apps/apps@ist10 0 Y UPLOAD PROGRAM\_NAME=FND\_ATTACH  
PLS\_CALLBACK=FND\_ATTACHMENT\_UTIL\_PKG.UPDATE\_FILE\_METADATA \*.\*
3. It is important to note that the end of the command is '\*.\*'
4. You should see the following and this is not an error:  
Log filename: L1570349.log  
Report filename: O1570349.out  
UPLOAD: could not open file  
PROGRAM\_NAME=FND\_ATTACH: could not open file  
PLS\_CALLBACK=FND\_ATTACHMENT\_UTIL\_PKG.UPDATE\_FILE\_METADATA: could not open file
5. You should then see successful uploads:  
A20063.doc: upload succeeded (file id=2459)  
A20064.doc: upload succeeded (file id=2460)  
A20065.xls: upload succeeded (file id=2461)  
A20069.doc: upload succeeded (file id=2462)
6. Move the files already uploaded out of that directory if the following errors occur such as:  
ORA-01480: trailing null missing from STR bind value  
ORA-01036: illegal variable name/number  
ORA-01036: illegal variable name/number  
Bus Error
7. You may also have to move the next file to be uploaded out of that directory since that file may be the cause of the error
8. Restart the FNDGFU command exactly like Step 2 above until all attachment files are uploaded
9. Verify that you can see these uploaded attachments from within your 11i Application
10. If you are not able to see them then run the following sql as the apps user (it may run for a while if you have a large number of attachments):

```
----- this is the beginning of the sql code -----
set serverout on
declare
  CURSOR c_lobs IS
    SELECT file_id, file_name FROM fnd_lobs
    WHERE (file_name like 'A%');
  v_lobs c_lobs%ROWTYPE;
  v_file_name fnd_lobs.file_name%TYPE;
  CURSOR c_documents(c_file_name fnd_lobs.file_name%TYPE) IS
    SELECT document_id, file_name
    FROM fnd_documents_tl
    WHERE file_name like '%||c_file_name||%';
  v_documents c_documents%ROWTYPE;
  doc_count number := 0;
  lob_count number := 0;

BEGIN
  dbms_output.enable;
  FOR v_lobs IN c_lobs
  LOOP
    v_file_name := substr(v_lobs.file_name, instr(v_lobs.file_name, 'A', -1));
    -- dbms_output.put_line('File Id' || v_lobs.file_id);
    -- dbms_output.put_line(v_file_name);
    FOR v_documents IN c_documents(v_file_name)
    LOOP
      -- dbms_output.put_line('Document Id' || v_documents.document_id);
      -- dbms_output.put_line(v_documents.file_name);
      BEGIN
        UPDATE fnd_documents_tl
          SET file_name = 'INTERNAL',
              media_id = v_lobs.file_id
        WHERE document_id = v_documents.document_id;
        doc_count := doc_count + 1;
      EXCEPTION
        WHEN others THEN
          NULL;
      END;
      BEGIN
        UPDATE fnd_lobs
          SET program_name = 'FNDATTCH'
          WHERE file_id = v_lobs.file_id;
        lob_count := lob_count + 1;
      EXCEPTION
        WHEN others THEN
          NULL;
      END;
    END LOOP;
  END LOOP;
  COMMIT;
  dbms_output.put_line('Total Records Update in fnd_documents_tl Table::' || doc_count);
  dbms_output.put_line('Total Records Update in fnd_lobs Table::' || lob_count);
  EXCEPTION
  WHEN others THEN
    dbms_output.put_line('Program Failed in the Main Block');
  END;
/
----- this is the end of the sql code -----
```

You should now be able to see your attachments from within your Release 11i Application

*Venkat Kancherla and Peter Adamson, Solution Beacon*

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## How to use \$APPLPTMP For Troubleshooting Your Concurrent Processes

If you are using **FND\_FILE** in your PL/SQL package to generate log and output, you can see the contents of the same view log and output in the UNIX directory under \$APPLPTMP, while the Concurrent program is running. Please note that, you cannot see the contents of 'View Log' and 'View Output' in Oracle Applications until the concurrent program completes successfully. If the concurrent program is terminated for any reason, the view log and view output will be empty from Oracle Applications!

So, an alternative way of looking into these log and output file is from \$APPLPTMP directory. Two temporary files will be created for each concurrent program you submit. (e.g., o0112302.tmp for **output** & l0112302.tmp for **log**, these file names are based on your concurrent program request id). Once the concurrent program completes successfully, the data from these two temporary files will be copied to the Applications View Log & Output and these two files will be emptied (0 Byte Size).

The files created under \$APPLPTMP will help you in the following ways:

- You can monitor the status of the program.
- You can identify the Problem record, if the program stops running in Oracle Applications for any reason.
- You can see how the PL/SQL program is approaching to "Completion" Stage.

Also, if you want to view the file as it is being created, you can use the command

'tail -f <filename>'.

*Venkat Kancherla, Solution Beacon & Franklyn Kulandaisamy, University of Virginia*

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## Installing Quantum 2.5.1 for Oracle Payroll

Ever wonder how the payroll departments of companies keep up with the complex and frequent changes to payroll taxation calculations and data? Many use software such as Oracle Applications 11i that rely on the Vertex Payroll Tax Q series (formerly Quantum for Payroll Tax). This software provides both logic and data (with regular updates) that allow payroll taxes to be accurately calculated.

Within the realm of Oracle Applications Release 11i, the Oracle Apps DBA would be called on to install the Vertex Payroll Tax Q software. MetaLink note 224273.1 describes how to install both

the program update and the data update. The remainder of this article provides tips for installing the Vertex Payroll Tax Q software. The combination of these tips and the information in MetaLink note 224273.1 would provide the necessary information for a successful install of the Vertex Payroll Tax Q software.

The Vertex Payroll Tax Q series 2.5.1 program was delivered in patch 3169845. That patch was recently superseded by HR Suite 11i.HR\_PF.G (3116666). So, 3116666 should be applied. HR Suite 11i.HR\_PF.G (3116666) has a number of pre-requisite patches. Some or all of these pre-requisite patches would need to be applied depending on the version of Release 11i that is being used. Keep in mind if your Release 11i version is different, you need to examine the readme file for an accurate list of pre-requisite patches (and pre-requisites to those pre-requisites). For example, if 11.5.9 is being used, only the following pre-requisite patches would need to be applied--unless already applied in your environment:

- CONSOLIDATED JRI FIXES, PREINSTALL MODE FIX (3242196) – This is a pre-requisite for AD mini-pack H
- AD mini-pack H (2673262)
- Application DBA (3259936) – This patch supercedes 3105856 mentioned in the MetaLink note
- OA Framework 5.7H Rollup Patch V4 (3057828) or later
- FNDFS Enhancements (3256492) if you currently use Financial Client Server Module (ADI)

After application of the above patches (in this 11.5.9 example) you would apply HR Suite 11i.HR\_PF.G (3116666). After that, the Vertex libraries and data can be installed. In the MetaLink note mentioned above 224273.1), the section entitled “Installing the Program Update” instructs the reader to ensure the environment is configured correctly and to use the concurrent program called *Quantum Program Update Installer* to install the Vertex (formerly Quantum) libraries. Make sure the LD\_LIBRARY\_PATH is adjusted as instructed and run the concurrent program “Quantum Program Update Installer” as instructed. Run this as a user with HR responsibilities. Please note:

- Ensure the PAY\_ACTION\_PARAMETERS table parameter\_name has the desired values, in the correct case, for the values of TAX\_DATA and TAX\_LIBRARIES. This will allow the concurrent request, *Quantum Program Update Installer*, use a valid patch as described in the next bullet
- Ensure the *Quantum Program Update Installer* concurrent program parameter “Install in Directory” is left blank—that directory will be picked up from the value you updated in the table. If you try to fill in the concurrent request’s parameter for the path, it will default to upper case and the concurrent program will fail if your UNIX path is lower case.

Finally, don’t forget that the program update is shipped with a test version of the qfpt.dat file. To perform realistic testing or when implementing into production the data update from Vertex Inc. must be used. Using the delivered test file might result in incorrect tax calculations.

Kevin Dahl, Solution Beacon

## Changing a Print Style on FSG Reports

Having trouble with printing your FSGs in the correct print style? Remember that FSG reports are created from a spawned process and do not use the SRW printer driver files. An initial FSG print setup is required for the reports to print successfully.

Here are few tips to assist with the FSG print setup:

- Verify that the FSGs are setup for dynamic printing
- Determine what style is being used to print the FSG report
- Setup the printer style
- Verify that the style has an assigned driver
- Check the initialization setup string
- Set the appropriate profile options for your printer, concurrent copies required, maximum page length and FSG: Allow portrait print style

Note: Release 11i allows you to create FSGs with an unlimited number of columns, but remember, 255 is still the limit for printing in the application.

*Ronda Ellis, Solution Beacon*

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## Solution Beacon Announcements

**Kelly Johnson** of Solution Beacon has 18+ years experience programming and installing applications used in various industries including Direct Mail, Insurance Administration, Higher Education, Municipal Governance and Communications. The past 14 years he has focused on Oracle RDBMS specializing in custom development and interfaces to legacy systems as a programmer, team lead, and/or project manager. Kelly has also has several years experience as a DBA and UNIX administrator and excellent Data Warehouse experience. His business background extends to experience as a Consulting Manager and IS Director. Kelly can be reached by email at [kjohnson@solutionbeacon.com](mailto:kjohnson@solutionbeacon.com).

**Paul Cyphers** has a robust background of over twenty years of extensive applications implementation experience with numerous ERP packages and methodology development. He has over five years of methodology development experience of international solutions content for five major software packages; J.D. Edwards, Oracle, PeopleSoft, Siebel and SAP. He has also led the development of the methodologies for other solution initiatives such as Program\Project\Change Management, Quality Management, Enterprise Performance Measurement and Business Process methodologies. He also led cross-functional international teams developing new, and upgrading existing content for applications to be deployed on global implementations

Paul works with our sales and marketing departments developing presentations and collateral regarding our solutions while preparing and delivering presentations for clients. He also has responsibility for content and solution development to deliver rapid implementation of applications to clients. Prior to joining Solution Beacon, he has been a methodology director,

senior consultant, project manager, systems manager, production supervisor and several materials management related positions throughout Colorado. He can be reached by email at [pcyphers@solutionbeacon.com](mailto:pcyphers@solutionbeacon.com).

*Art Dowd, Solution Beacon*

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## OAUG Sys Admin SIG

The SysAdmin SIG met this week at Oracle's AppsWorld Conference in San Diego on January 26, 2004 (Room 31A, 10:00 AM – 11:00AM). Look for updates in our next newsletter. If you would like to join the SysAdmin SIG or have a suggestion, please send email to [sysadminsigs@solutionbeacon.com](mailto:sysadminsigs@solutionbeacon.com).

*Randy Giefer, Sys Admin Chair, Solution Beacon*

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## OAUG Upgrade SIG

The Upgrade SIG met this week on January 26, 2004 at the Oracle AppsWorld Conference in San Diego (Room 31A, 11:00AM – 12:00PM). Look for updates in our next newsletter. If you would like to join the Upgrade SIG or have a suggestion, please send email to [UPGSig@solutionbeacon.com](mailto:UPGSig@solutionbeacon.com).

*John Stouffer, OAUG Upgrade Chair, Solution Beacon*

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## OAUG Database SIG

The Database SIG met this week on January 26, 2004 at the Oracle AppsWorld Conference in San Diego. Look for updates in our next newsletter. For more information on the Database SIG, visit <http://datasig.oaug.org/>.

*Sandra Vucinic, OAUG Database SIG Board Member, Solution Beacon*

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## OAUG News

Will Cordle of Solution Beacon was recently elected Vice President of the Washington DC Oracle Application User Group.

*Art Dowd, Solution Beacon*

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## Upcoming Solution Beacon Events

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
DC Oracle Applications Users Group Meeting	February 11, 2004	Washington D.C.
Houston Oracle Users Group Meeting – <i>To Patch or Not to Patch ... It's Not a DBA Question</i> , Alicia Hoekstra and John Stouffer	February 11, 2004	Houston, TX
Rocky Mountain Oracle Users Group Training Days	February 11-12, 2004	Denver, CO
North Central Oracle Applications Users Group (NCOAUG) Training Day	March 8, 2004	Northbrook, IL
NCOAUG: <i>To Patch or Not to Patch ... It's Not a DBA Question</i> , Alicia Hoekstra and John Stouffer	March 8, 2004	Northbrook, IL
NCOAUG: <i>Remote Support</i> , Peter Adamson and John Stouffer	March 8, 2004	Northbrook, IL
NCOAUG: <i>Real Application Clusters</i> , James Jones	March 8, 2004	Northbrook, IL
NCOAUG: <i>Re-implement vs. Upgrade</i> , Alicia Hoekstra and Mark Clark	March 8, 2004	Northbrook, IL
NCOAUG: <i>Release 11i Cloning Panel</i> , Sandra Vucinic	March 8, 2004	Northbrook, IL
Atl-OAUG Meeting – <i>To Patch or Not to Patch ... It's Not a DBA Question</i> , Alicia Hoekstra and John Stouffer	March 19, 2004	Atlanta, GA
Atl-OAUG Meeting – <i>Care and Feeding of Release 11i</i> , John Stouffer	March 19, 2004	Atlanta, GA
SCOUG / SCO AUG Training Days	May 20-21, 2004 (tentative)	Houston, TX
OAUG Connection Point 2004	September 15-18, 2004	Orlando, FL

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