

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. 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. We would also appreciate any feedback from our readers if you have successfully or unsuccessfully implemented one of the suggestions from any of the newsletters. Comments or suggestions are always appreciated. Please send to mweiss@solutionbeacon.com.

Mary Lou Weiss, Alicia Hoekstra, and Randy Giefer, Editors, Solution Beacon

OAUG: Success Through Education

ORACLE APPLICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM (OATS 2004)

OATS 2004, brought to you by the Oracle Applications Users Group (OAUG) and the Ohio Valley User Group (OVOAUG), May 26-27 in Cincinnati, was a great success. Over 200 participants were on hand to avail themselves of information sessions on current Oracle Applications topics, visit with the more than 20 vendors in the Exhibit Hall, and to network with fellow users throughout the 2-day event.

Next Stop: Denver for *The ROAD TO ORLANDO*SM

The OAUG and Solution Beacon have teamed up to bring you *The Road to Orlando*SM. Get a head start on the great educational and networking opportunity of OAUG Connection Point 2004 by attending one of the Release 11i Workshops coming to multiple cities prior to the conference in September in Orlando.

The *Road to Orlando*SM started in Dallas in April. These one-day events feature two tracks covering functional and technical topics, including New Features in Financials, Supply Chain, Projects, Manufacturing, and Human Resources and Payroll, as well as Change Management, Linux migrations, and Care and Feeding of Release 11i.

Kicking off each day are breakfast presentations for senior managers – an Executive Round Table – "Maximizing Release 11i ROI". From Dallas *The Road to Orlando*SM continues on to Phoenix (June 4), Los Angeles (June 11) Denver (June 24), Washington D.C. (July 16), Atlanta (July 23), and Portland (July 27), and will conclude in Orlando on September 12-15.

For more information, visit www.solutionbeacon.com, www.oaug.org or e-mail SBPresentsRTO@solutionbeacon.com.

Chuck Meyers, William Mills Agency for OAUG, Mary Lou Weiss and Randy Giefer, Editors, Solution Beacon

Ask the SB Experts

Question: *I am seeing the following text in the readme files for more and more applications patches these days:*

"Also this patch comprises of branched code so application of any patch over this patch comprising of code file with higher version of main branch code than those of this patch will cause loss of this fix. Dev. should be contacted before applying any other Patch over this."

Aside from the awkward English, can you explain what this really means?

Answer: This is becoming a common problem with the 11i Applications as we get more and more products (and subsequent dependencies across those products) with each and every Release of 11i.

This standard Oracle disclaimer for one-offs applies to patches as outlined in your email question. We typically tell our clients that this is the problem regarding one-off patches. They don't get full regression testing and subsequent mini/family/consolidated patches are not guaranteed to incorporate the one-off bug fix and could even supply a variation/newer version of the one-off with different functionality that overwrites the one-off bug fix (which puts you back to where you started).

One-off patches are very problematic due to all of the interdependencies between around 200 product modules and code versions. We try to only apply one-offs to fix very specific issues with limited multi-module impact (review the drivers, etc). The more one-offs you apply, the more your system becomes "customized" for your specific configuration and, ultimately, forces you to treat it as a legacy system.

Question: *We've applied a large number of one-offs on top of 11.5.9 (we weren't willing to wait for the consolidated patches to be released last autumn). In the response above, you seem to be suggesting that we could lose some of the fixes that we already have if we were to bite the bullet and apply Consolidated Patch #2. Is that really possible? It sounds like we may be doomed to never be able to get back on track until 11.5.10 which is at least a year away for us.*

Answer: Unfortunately, that's exactly what I think will happen if you apply CUP #2 to your current environment. What you really need is the predictive patch impact analysis (promised in OAM 2.3 – which was due in April but is not here as of yet) or Ringmaster's APM (which has the functionality).

At this point in time, I would not recommend applying the Cons. Update Patch because of all of the one-offs you have applied to your environment. You're basically stuck applying one-offs unless you want to go through a fairly significant regression testing effort with CUP #2 or waiting until you are ready for 11.5.10.

It's one of the major issues with one-offs and the fact that Oracle does not guarantee they'll all be incorporated in subsequent patches. Too many patches, too many dependencies.

Correction from May 2004 Newsletter:

Question: *What is the 'realistic' minimum desktop PC requirement for a person who needs to run the Oracle Apps, Discoverer, and Business Intelligence?*

Answer: The minimum desktop requirements that Solution Beacon recommends:

<u>SB Recommends</u>	<u>SB Recommends (Power User)</u>
1 GHz + CPU	2 GHz+ CPU
512MB Memory	1GB Memory

As per the Release 11i generic Release Notes on Oracle's Support site, MetaLink (<http://metalink.oracle.com/>) the Oracle Minimum recommendations are as follows:

CURRENT FROM METALINK (always check MetaLink for the latest!):

Recommended client configuration

Note the following minimum recommendations for configuring your desktop client:

Processor

Release 11i performance is sensitive to the CPU speed. We recommend using PCs with at least Pentium Pro 200MHz processors, or Apple Macintoshes with at least 200MHz PowerPC G3 processors. You will realize significant performance improvement with faster (1.4GHz +) processors.

Memory

We recommend at least 64 MB of RAM for Microsoft Windows operating systems. Users of Windows NT 4.0, Windows 2000, or Windows XP, or users who are concurrently running Oracle Applications with other desktop applications, will experience better performance with at least 96 MB of RAM. Apple Mac OS clients require a minimum of 128 MB of RAM.

The Senior Consultants at Solution Beacon, LLC

Release 11.5.10 Update!

Based on recent conversations with Oracle, here is an update on 11.5.10:

The latest update we have from June 1, 2004 from Oracle is that they may have an 11i11 but that there are currently NO plans to build an 11.5.11 and no current coding in process. Oracle did say that they are now planning to release one more Oracle9i version (9.2.0.6) sometime in Sept.

John Stouffer, Solution Beacon – OAUG Upgrade SIG Chair

Unauthorized Access Vulnerability in the Oracle E-Business Suite

Security Alert 67 - Unauthorized Access Vulnerabilities in Oracle E-Business Suite

Description

Security vulnerabilities have been discovered in Oracle E-Business Suite. These vulnerabilities may allow a knowledgeable and malicious user to execute unauthorized procedures or run SQL inside the database.

Supported Products Affected

- Oracle E-Business Suite Release 11i, 11.5.1 through 11.5. (Release 11.5.9 and later releases are not affected)
- Oracle Applications 11.0, All Releases

Oracle E-Business Suite

Oracle E-Business Suite customers must apply the patch listed in the Patch Availability Matrix for their release of E-Business Suite

Platforms Affected

All platforms

Required Conditions for Exploit

An unauthenticated user with browser access to a web server hosting the E-Business Suite application.

Risk to Exposure

Risk to exposure is high, as any user with browser access and specialized knowledge can exploit these vulnerabilities.

How to Minimize Risk

There is no workaround that fully addresses the security vulnerabilities described in this Alert.

Ramification for Customer

Customers are vulnerable unless the patch is applied. Oracle strongly recommends that customers review the severity rating for this Alert and patch accordingly.

Patch Availability

Please see MetaLink Document ID [274375.1](#) for the patch download procedures and for the Patch Availability Matrix for this Oracle Security Alert.

Please review MetaLink, or check with Oracle Support Services periodically for patch availability, if the patch for your platform is unavailable. Oracle strongly recommends that you comprehensively test the stability of your system upon application of any patch prior to deleting any original files that are replaced by the patch.

Randy Giefer, Solution Beacon, LLC

Submitting Jobs From UNIX

FND_REQUEST.SUBMIT_REQUEST and FND_REQUEST.SUBMIT_SET

Many of our clients have a need to submit concurrent requests and request sets from an operating system script. The reasoning behind this need varies but usually revolves around a dependency on data from an external source or the need to return results or error codes to an external source. The methodology necessary to accomplish this is somewhat convoluted, but not overly complicated.

These solutions take advantage of default Oracle Applications API's. The way to do this is to utilize one or two SQL scripts, and a shell script to accept the return code from SQL. The driver / lower level script scenario is fairly straightforward. Below are two examples of using Oracle APIs that are provided for this purpose.

Objective 1 – Submit a request to load journal records into the gl_interface table. If the load is successful, import journals. Return the status of journal import to the UNIX script for further processing.

Step 1 – Create a SQL script to call the journal import procedure. A separate SQL script is used here to allow for the processing of return codes outside Oracle Applications.

```
-- FILE           : XXXGL_JRNLIMP.sql
-- PURPOSE      : Call procedure to import journals

set serveroutput on
variable sql_return_code number

whenever sqlerror exit 3;
whenever oserror exit 4;

--This procedure returns the appropriate return code for success or other return codes
--based on the type of failure. Based on the type of failure, further processing might
--include an email to the appropriate person to resolve the failure or warning. This
--can reduce reliability on a person to review the concurrent manager log for
companies
--with a large number of imports.

execute journal_import_utility('&&1','&&2','&&3','&&4', '&&5',:sql_return_code);

SELECT :sql_return_code from dual;
exit :sql_return_code;
```

Step 2 – Create a procedure to submit the journal import. This script will execute the SQL script created in step 1 while accepting parameters from and passing return codes, or result sets to the upper level operating system script.

```
CREATE OR REPLACE PROCEDURE journal_import_utility(p_user_name VARCHAR2,
                                                    p_books_short_name VARCHAR2,
                                                    p_user_source_name VARCHAR2,
```

```

                                p_suspense_flag VARCHAR2,
                                p_group_id NUMBER)
IS
  x_req_id          NUMBER;
  x_user_id         NUMBER;
  x_appl_id         NUMBER;
  x_resp_id         NUMBER;
  x_sob_id          NUMBER;
  x_interface_run_id NUMBER;
  x_req_return_status BOOLEAN;
  x_summary_flag    VARCHAR2(1) := 'N';
  x_source_name     VARCHAR2(30);
  x_user_source_name VARCHAR2(80);
  x_req_phase       VARCHAR2(30);
  x_req_status      VARCHAR2(30);
  x_req_dev_phase   VARCHAR2(30);
  x_req_dev_status  VARCHAR2(30);
  x_req_message     VARCHAR2(50);
BEGIN
  SELECT user_id
  INTO   x_user_id
  FROM   FND_USER
  WHERE  user_name = p_user_name;
  SELECT application_id
  INTO   x_appl_id
  FROM   FND_APPLICATION
  WHERE  application_short_name = 'SQLGL';
  SELECT responsibility_id
  INTO   x_resp_id
  FROM   FND_APPLICATION fa, FND_RESPONSIBILITY_TL fr
  WHERE  fa.application_short_name = 'SQLGL' AND
         fa.application_id = fr.application_id AND
         fr.responsibility_name = 'General Ledger Super User';
  FND_GLOBAL.APPS_INITIALIZE(x_user_id, x_resp_id, x_appl_id);
  SELECT set_of_books_id
  INTO   x_sob_id
  FROM   GL_SETS_OF_BOOKS
  WHERE  short_name = p_books_short_name;
  SELECT REPLACE(p_user_source_name, '_', ' ')
  INTO   x_user_source_name
  FROM   dual;
  SELECT je_source_name
  INTO   x_source_name
  FROM   gl_je_sources
  WHERE  user_je_source_name = x_user_source_name;
  SELECT gl_journal_import_s.NEXTVAL
  INTO   x_interface_run_id
  FROM   dual;
  x_req_id := FND_REQUEST.SUBMIT_REQUEST(
    'SQLGL','GLLEZL','','', FALSE,
    TO_CHAR(x_interface_run_id),
    TO_CHAR(x_sob_id),
    p_suspense_flag,'','',
    x_summary_flag,'N');
  INSERT INTO GL_INTERFACE_CONTROL
    (je_source_name, status,
     interface_run_id, group_id,
     set_of_books_id, packet_id
```

```
        )
        VALUES
        (x_source_name, 'S',
        x_interface_run_id, p_group_id,
        x_sob_id, NULL
        );
COMMIT;
x_req_return_status := FND_CONCURRENT.WAIT_FOR_REQUEST(
        x_req_id, 20, 0, x_req_phase, x_req_status,
        x_req_dev_phase, x_req_dev_status,
        x_req_message);
IF x_req_return_status = TRUE THEN
        DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('REQUESTID='||x_req_id);
        DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('CONC STATUS='||x_req_status);
        DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('PHASE='||x_req_phase);
        DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('MESSAGE='||x_req_message);
        IF x_req_phase != 'Completed' OR
        x_req_status IN ('Cancelled', 'Error', 'Terminated') THEN
        DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('STATUS=JOB FAILED');
        END IF;
ELSE
        DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('WAIT FOR REQUEST FAILED - STATUS UNKNOWN');
        DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('STATUS=JOB FAILED');
END IF;
EXCEPTION
        WHEN OTHERS THEN
        DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('JOB FAILED');
END journal_import_utility;
/
```

Step 3 – Create the UNIX script

```
#!/bin/ksh
gl_user=$1
user=$2
source=$3
short_name=$4
responsibility=$5

#
#Run the concurrent process to load the gl_interface table. This will be a
#custom procedure you have created to load transactions from an external source.
#

requestid_line=`CONCSUB $gl_user WAIT=30 SQLGL $responsibility $user \
CONCURRENT XXXGL LOADJRNL $source`

#
#CONCSUB returns the request id as the third item in the string.
#Use the request id to get the name of the output file.
#

outputfile='1'`echo $requestid_line | awk '{print $3}'`.req'

#
#The LOADJRNL process returns a line in the log in the format return code #.
#Grep for this return code in the output file.
#

return_code=`grep 'return code' $COMN_TOP/log/$outputfile | awk -F: '{print $2}'`
```

```
echo $return_code

#
#Run the journal import process for the group id process above only if the
#journal load returns a successful result. The return code will be 0 if
#successful.
#
if [ $return_code -eq 0 ]
then
#
# Get the group id from the output file
#
groupid=`grep 'GROUP ID' $COMN_TOP/log/$outputfile | awk -F: '{print $2}'`

echo $groupid

#
# Run the journal import process for the group id retrieved above.
#

sqlplus -s $gl_user @$XXXGL_TOP/sql/XXXGL_JRNLIMP.sql $user $short_name $source
$responsibility $groupid
return_code=$?

# This return code provides detail about the type of error.
# Provide appropriate actions here.
Else
# You got an error on the load. Provide appropriate actions here.
fi
exit $return_code
```

Objective 2 – Submit a request set to process multiple bank reconciliation files upon receipt.

Step 1 – Create a SQL script to execute the request set.

Note: the individual stages of the request set will have to be defined within the script itself. This particular script takes advantage of the wait function with the `fnd_submit` package to ensure the program doesn't exit until the entire request set is finished. The full functionality of the `FND_SUBMIT` package is covered in the AOL Developers Guide.

```
-- FileName   : XXXCE_REQ_SET_Submit.sql
-- PURPOSE    : Call procedure to import journals
set serveroutput on;
set feedback off;
declare
    success boolean;
    v_user number :=&1;
    phase varchar2(255);
    status varchar2(255);
    dev_phase varchar2(255);
    dev_status varchar2(255);
    message varchar2(255);
    submit_failed EXCEPTION;
    req_id number;
begin
    dbms_output.enable(1000000);
```

```
begin
  dbms_output.enable(1000000);
  fnd_global.apps_initialize(v_user,50399,260);
  success := fnd_submit.set_request_set('XXXCE','FNDRSSUB695');
  success :=fnd_submit.set_print_options(NULL,NULL,NULL,TRUE,'N');
if success then
  success := fnd_submit.submit_program('XXXCE','XXXCEUPDINV','STAGE10');
  if not success then
    raise submit_failed;
  end if;
  success := fnd_submit.submit_program('XXXCE','XXXCECHKRECS','STAGE20');
  success :=fnd_submit.set_print_options(NULL,NULL,NULL,TRUE,'N');
  if not success then
    raise submit_failed;
  end if;
  success := fnd_submit.submit_program('XXXCE','XXXCELDSTG','STAGE30');
  if not success then
    raise submit_failed;
  end if;
  success := fnd_submit.submit_program('XXXCE','XXXCELDINTTAB','STAGE40');
  if not success then
    raise submit_failed;
  end if;
  req_id := fnd_submit.submit_set (NULL,FALSE);
  dbms_output.put_line(req_id);
end if;
Exception
  When submit_failed then
    dbms_output.put_line('Submission Failed');
end;
commit;
  dbms_output.put_line(req_id || ': Running' );
  success
:=fnd_concurrent.wait_for_request(req_id,2,0,phase,status,dev_phase,dev_status,message
);
  dbms_output.put_line(req_id || ' ' || phase || ' ' || message );
end;
/
```

Step 2 – Create the UNIX script.

This script should parse whatever variables are needed to pass to the SQL script. If you need this script to wait until the jobs finishes, then utilize the `fnd_submit.wait` function in the SQL script itself.

```
#!/usr/bin/ksh
### XXXCE_GTA_FILES.ksh
### 03/01/04 - Created J. Jones - SolutionBeacon LLC:
###           to automate processing of GTA files

program=`basename $0`
usage="Usage: $program <FNDUSER_NAME> "

err_exit() {
  echo $*; exit 1;
}
```

```
[ $# -ne 1 ] && err_exit $usage
USRNAME="$1"

echo "Begin Processing for GTA File ${FILENM}"
sqlplus -s apps/$APPS_PW @$NIHCE_TOP/admin/sql/NIHCE_GTA_FILES.sql $USRNAME
<<end_of_sql
end_of_sql
```

James Jones and Susan Behn, Solution Beacon, LLC

Undefined Fields in Manufacturing Applications

The following changes are occurring in Oracle the Oracle GEMMS manufacturing product:

- ◇ The GEMMS product is being folded into discrete manufacturing
- ◇ The Quality and Advance Planning modules are being enhanced
- ◇ Additional non-manufacturing applications are being integrated in to the existing modules.

This activity has resulted in the need for additional attributes, profile settings and new fields in forms. Many, but not all are intended for use by or in specific application modules. However, without documentation it is unclear how or where the settings/information are to be used.

Profile options, items attributes and form fields have appeared without supporting documentation. Oracle is trying to correct the missing help information, but documentation is still missing in many cases. Oracle is aware of the problems the lack of documentation it is presenting and has indicated it will be corrected as soon as possible. Documentation corrections are not the highest priority so the information may be slow in coming.

When you encounter these fields you should take care to understand their intended use prior to entering data or setting attributes/profiles. If you are not sure what the affect of entering information or what settings will be, you should leave them in the default state until you know what to do with the entry. Information can be obtained from Oracle using Metalink or the TAR process.

Leaving the entries blank will not result in processing or errors that may occur if they are set incorrectly. Entries intended for future enhancements/modules/integration will in most case not affect the current user. However, in some cases, errors in programming may access the undefined data in the modules you are using and result in unexpected processing.

Also, new fields, specifically in the processing associated with the BOM module are defined and documented and appear to be available for use. These involve capacity calculations and production scheduling. The documentation makes no mention that the information is for use by Advanced Planning applications. Users of Supply Chain Planning can input the information expecting it to be correctly used. This processing is not currently supported by any planning

application except the APS processing. This data can be entered, but is only available as reference data. Therefore, the cost of acquiring and entering the data is questionable.

Be careful how you set new attributes, new profile settings or use new data fields if you have not seen documentation on the available settings or use. If you have not heard or read that the applications you are using have been enhanced, research the intended use of the information prior to altering the default status.

Dave Tipping, Solution Beacon, LLC

C++ Compiler on AIX

Are you hearing a lot of talk for the need for a C++ compiler on each server? Is this possible?

Yes, we don't need a C++ compiler on AIX if we're only running Oracle Financials. It is required for some of the manufacturing modules. However, you do get some compiling errors right up front on the 11.5.9 install if you don't have the compiler. Below are the details.

- fact: Oracle Server - Enterprise Edition
- fact: AIX-Based Systems
- symptom: Error in invoking target relink of makefile.
- symptom: Id: 0706-006 Cannot find or open library file: -l m
- cause: Operating system libraries not installed

Here's the fix:

The AIX OS packages `bos.adt.libm` and `bos.adt.base` need to be installed.

1. As root, mount the OS install cdrom
2. Using `smit`, apply the packages **`bos.adt.base` and `bos.adt.libm`**
3. Retry the failed linking operation

For further assistance, you will need to contact IBM for this AIX OS issue.

Kirby Kraft, Solution Beacon, LLC

Small Bug in FIN_PF.E

Correction to following article in May 2004:

Patch to correct bug in Financials Family Pack (FIN_PF.E)

In last month's newsletter, we published a short note describing a bug in FIN_PF.E. One of our readers has brought to our attention a patch that can be applied to fix the bug. The patch is



3241101 "FINPF.F.RM0.1: INCORRECT DBDRV CALL FOR LDT FILE". Thanks to Elaine Friedman of National Capital Commission, Ottawa, Ontario for being such an astute reader!

Looks like there is a bug in FIN_PF.E (2842697). When applying, we noticed the following error in the *.lgi file:

```
WARNING: 'GL' is not a recognized product. The following entry is now disabled:
exec fnd bin FNDLOAD bin &phase=daa+52
checkfile:gl:patch/115/import/US:b2835054.ldt &ui_apps 0 Y UPLOAD
@FND:patch/115/import/afmdmsg.lct @GL:patch/115/import/US/b2835054.ldt
```

Change @GL to @SQLGL in the u2842697.drv

Jeff Holt, Solution Beacon, LLC

New! Oracle Support Announces Diagnostics Support Pack May Release!

The Global Oracle Support Services (OSS) Diagnostics team is announcing the May 13,2004 Support Pack release for Oracle Diagnostics and Standalone Diagnostics. For details about the latest release of this Support Pack, refer to MetaLink document 226429.1

Jeff Holt, Solution Beacon, LLC

New Accounting Rollup Patch for Oracle Payables

Here is the last revision date as of 04-June-2004 on the AP Accounting Data corruption consolidated patch for customers on family

Versions Affected

Oracle Payables. 11i.FIN.PF.D1, Patch 3016445

Oracle Payables. 11i.FIN.PF.D, Patch 2629235

Application Version 11.5.9, Patch 2669606

Platforms Affected

GENERIC

Description

This patch includes a collection of one-off patches for accounting related issues. It is strongly recommended that customers apply Rollup Consolidated Patch 2 - 3577491 to prevent

occurrences of known data corruption after the application of FIN D1, FIN D or 11.5.9. This patch is applicable for ALL AP customers (DBI as well as non-DBI).

Likelihood of Occurrence

This issue impacts all customers who applied 11i.FIN.PF.D1, 11i.FIN.PF.D or 11.5.9.

Patch

Apply patch 3577491 to FIN_D1, FIN_D and 11.5.9 instances.

Kirby Kraft, Solution Beacon, LLC

Why Linux vs. other flavors of UNIX (Solaris, HP/UX, AIX)?

The primary selling point of Linux over other UNIX platforms is the hardware on which it runs. PC hardware has become a commodity business and, as such, has driven prices down to remarkable levels. Hardware of comparable performance from Sun, IBM, or HP will almost certainly be more expensive.

Why Linux vs. Windows?

There are a couple of arguments to be made here. The first being that "My IT Staff knows Windows and doesn't know Linux/UNIX". While that may be true, consider this: Your IT staff will already be familiar with the hardware in a Linux environment (it is, essentially) the same as what they're used to under Windows.

Also consider that one of the requirements to run Oracle Applications 11i on the Windows platform is a product called MKS ToolKit. MKS ToolKit provides unix functionality and commands to the Windows environment. Congratulations! Now your IT staff has to learn UNIX. Oh, and they have the added joy of dealing with yet another layer to troubleshoot (Application, Database, UNIX-emulator [MKS], Windows).

The second argument is that, on the same hardware, Linux typically outperforms Windows. In fact, there are a number of cases in which "retired" Windows servers have been given new leases on life when an IT staffer installs Linux on this "obsolete" hardware and moves it into place to provide essential services.

When is Linux NOT a good fit?

If you're in a large environment that would dictate a highly scalable SMP system, then you should probably go with a product from Sun, HP, or IBM. This is, however, a problem you'll see in the Windows environment too. The (standard) Intel architecture doesn't support 16

Processors in a single box, let alone 128 (highly specialized hardware from companies like Unisys aside).

But what about clustering?

Through the use of clustering (RAC) you can achieve some economies of scale, but at the expense of complexity in your system. Bear in mind that clustering is an "availability" solution, and not truly a "scalability" solution. There are situations where clustering is an excellent fit. But, in many environments, it may simply not be worth the added expense and/or complexity.

One other point to consider:

Oracle Applications 11i on Windows NT requires the client to purchase Microsoft Visual C++ 6.0 SP 3 or later. However, Microsoft no longer "sells" this product. They are now selling "Visual C++ .NET" which is not compatible. The client would have to purchase "Visual C++ .NET" and then contact Microsoft directly to "downgrade" to the correct version. This is per MetaLink NOTE: 201392.1, updated April 2004

<http://metalink.oracle.com/metalink/plsql/showdoc?db=NOT&id=201392.1>

James Morrow, Solution Beacon

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

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 of "Horrible Oracle". Order your copies now from www.solutionbeacon.com.

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

Solution Beacon News

Solution Beacon welcomes **James Morrow**, a Senior Oracle Applications DBA. James has more than 12 years experience in the Information Technology industry and over 10 years as an Oracle Applications DBA. He specializes in Oracle Applications Database Administration including installations and upgrades from versions 9.4.2 through 11i Release 9 (11.5.9). James also has Systems Administration experience on a wide variety of Operating Systems and platforms, including every major variant of the UNIX Operating System, Linux, and Microsoft Windows NT. His project experiences include Oracle Applications installation, upgrade, tuning, platform migrations, system architecture design, and UNIX Systems Administration. James may be contacted by email at jmorrow@solutionbeacon.com.



Okey Bess brings to Solution Beacon more than 30 years of experience in information technology, including more than 10 years in IT managerial positions in industry and 12 years in Oracle Applications consulting. He has over 20 years of IT project management experience and possesses a PMP project management certification. For the past eight years, Okey has provided Oracle Express/Financial Analyzer expertise for numerous implementations and upgrades beginning with version 4.6 up through the current 6.4 version. He has presented many papers at OAUG national and regional conferences and has moderated several OFA panels. Okey can be reached by email at obess@solutionbeacon.com.

Also joining Solution Beacon is **David Caradonna**, a Senior Infrastructure Management Consultant. He has more than 15 years experience managing cross-functional IT lifecycle functions, including architecture and design, system integration, operations management and business continuity programs. David brings project management expertise from a diversified IT industry including manufacturing, managed services, professional services and banking. Examples of his project management experience include disaster & recovery implementations for Oracle applications, deployment of high availability network and system infrastructure, definition of service level agreements, and data center relocations. David is a valuable addition to our strategic assessment and project management team. David can be contacted by email at dcaradonna@solutionbeacon.com.

Art Dowd, Solution Beacon

OAUG: Active Participation Ensures Success

OAUG's top priority has always been to serve our members. Recently, OAUG began work on two key initiatives to further enhance our ability to meet this goal – the Member Care Program and the Star Partner Program.

The Member Care program is OAUG's main effort to continue to meet its members' needs by engaging, activating and renewing interest in our organization among existing and potential new members.

The program better connects OAUG with individual members and encourages enhanced two-way communication via e-mail and phone and through additional resources such as welcome kits for new members, special invitations to Geographic User group meetings, more e-learning opportunities, membership surveys, special events and the annual Connection Point Conference in Orlando. I believe this program goes a long way toward encouraging our members to actively participate, which is the most effective way for members to have an impact and find value in being part of the OAUG community.

Another initiative is OAUG's 2004 Star Partner Program, which offers Associate Members a bundled approach to active, integrated participation in the OAUG community. The program combines membership, advertising and conference benefits into a value-priced package that delivers recognition and outstanding conference visibility. OAUG leverages this close relationship

with Associate Members to generate the resources to further enable us to meet their, and our members', needs.

For more information on either of these programs or to make suggestions on how we can make OAUG even better, please feel free to contact me directly at shughes@oaug.com or 404.760.4244.

Thank you for your continued support of OAUG.

Steven Hughes, Executive Director, OAUG

Upcoming Solution Beacon Events

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
Solution Beacon and OAUG – The Road to Orlando SM – Executive Breakfast and <i>Release 11i Workshops</i>	June 24, 2004	Denver, CO
DOUG Apps Forum – Financials Panel, Alicia Hoekstra	July 8, 2004	Dallas, TX
Solution Beacon and OAUG – The Road to Orlando SM – Executive Breakfast and <i>Release 11i Workshops</i>	July 16, 2004	Washington D.C.
Solution Beacon and OAUG – The Road to Orlando SM – Executive Breakfast and <i>Release 11i Workshops</i>	July 23, 2004	Atlanta, GA
SROAUG - <i>Roadmap To Successfully Migrate Oracle Applications 11i to Linux Platform</i> , Sandra Vucinic, Solution Beacon	July 23, 2004	Costa Mesa, CA
Solution Beacon and OAUG – The Road to Orlando SM – Executive Breakfast and <i>Release 11i Workshops</i>	July 27, 2004	Portland, OR
NCOAUG	August 13, 2004	Chicago, IL
OAUG Connection Point 2004	September 12-15, 2004	Orlando, FL
Oracle OpenWorld	December 5-10, 2004	San Francisco, CA

Solution Beacon Newsletters are designed to help users of Oracle Applications and **Solution Beacon** makes no warranty for the accuracy, veracity, or completeness of any information herein, nor do they have any responsibility or liability for any losses or damages incurred as a result of reliance on any information provided herein or from the use of any program or program segment discussed herein. **Solution Beacon** assumes no responsibility for any errors that may appear herein. The information published herein is subject to change without notice.

Copyright © 2004 **Solution Beacon, LLC**. All rights reserved. Any trademarks cited herein are the property of its owner. No part of this publication may be reprinted or reproduced without the prior written consent of **Solution Beacon, LLC**.