

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.

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

The Road to OrlandoSM

The OAUG and Solution Beacon are teaming up to bring you *The Road to OrlandoSM*. 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 before the conference in September in Orlando.

The *Road to OrlandoSM* starts in Dallas and this one-day event, co-sponsored by South Central OAUG, will feature two tracks covering functional and technical topics. Kicking off the event will be the first C-Level Round Table – "Maximizing Release 11i ROI". Following a presentation about how Executives can squeeze more value out of their Oracle investment, there will be question and answer session covering all things Oracle. It will be a straight forward, no buzz-word discussion highlighting the business advantage of Oracle technology.

The Road to OrlandoSM continues in Cincinnati at the 2004 Oracle Applications and Technology Symposium (no additional charge for OATS attendees), then continues on to Denver, Phoenix and Atlanta during the months of June and July, and will conclude with the 2 day Training Presentation at Connection Point in Orlando in September.

Register now for the Dallas event at <http://www.oaug.org/conferences.shtml>. For more information, visit www.solutionbeacon.com, www.oaug.org or e-mail SBPresentsRTO@solutionbeacon.com.

OAUG and Solution Beacon

Ask the SB Experts

Question: *I was given your name at my local OAUG Geo. We are running 11.5.8 of the Oracle Applications (HRMS), on a Oracle9i (9.2.04) database. We have had a couple of performance problems with reports. Are you aware of any issues of conflict between 11.5.8 and Oracle9i?*

Answer: Basically there are three things to verify in every Release 11i environment before starting a performance tuning review:

Patched Current

From your note, you're not patched current. That's ok, but you need to remember that 11.5.8 was released in November of 2002. It's really, really old and every piece of applications code (family packs, minipacks) is completely out of date. Also, based on our analysis of the 11.5.8 and 11.5.9 maintenance packs, we've found that 11.5.8 had approximately 60,000 bug fixes. 11.5.9 has approximately 100,000. A lot of the 40K difference is related to functionality, but a lot is related to performance fixes as well. It pays to stay current!

Statistics

We've noticed significant performance issues when running 11.5.7 or 11.5.8 with Oracle9i. Both 11i releases were written using the Oracle8i CBO and operate much differently using Oracle9i (which was used for 11.5.9). We advise that you run the gather schema stats program from the Concurrent Manager with a number larger than 50% (to force a compute) and run it weekly. Other schemas may need to have statistics gathered much more frequently.

Pinning

You need to pin – run `$AD_TOP/sql/ADXCKPIN.sql` to get a list of programs to pin. Don't forget to pin sequences and selected cursors as well. This is a dynamic effort and changes over time. A detailed analysis of what to pin is required on a regular basis.

Please also check out our latest newsletter for a more detailed discussion on which Release 11i to run with Oracle8i vs. Oracle9i and why.

<http://repo.solutionbeacon.net/SBNewsletter2004February.pdf>

Question: *I just want to hear how you are handling security in your Oracle Apps environment:*

- 1. Default Oracle Applications passwords – Do you change all the default schema passwords to custom passwords?*
- 2. Anyone implementing separate firewall for just the database? Pros and cons to that*
- 3. Oracle Security vulnerability – patches. Do you apply them as soon as they are released or do you have a patching schedule?*

I know the questions are very general but I am just trying to get a feel of the industry trend when it comes to security. Most sites do have their entire Oracle Applications inside the corporate network protected by firewall. But, how paranoid does are you about protecting your Applications from internal people (our user count is just around 300). I understand security would be much of a higher concern when you have one of the servers in the DMZ.

Answer: Here's what we recommend:

1 – We always change default schema passwords immediately after an install or upgrade. We then change passwords on a periodic basis (monthly or quarterly) and use protected (700) password scripts with variables assigned so that interfaces work without subsequent code changes required when the password changes. FYI, standard Oracle passwords are published all over the web.

2 – We use Reverse Proxy servers in a DMZ configuration and keep all of our e-Business software behind the DMZ. We use the RP to mask IP, names and ports from all external access. We've also setup standard Oracle two-tier with the database/concurrent managers behind the firewall and everything else in the DMZ.

3 – We apply patches monthly (with the exception of security patches which we apply within one week of release) using a "patch -> devl -> test -> qa – prod/sand/training" migration path. User/developer testing is required at all stops along the migration path.

We definitely recommend that you review the SIGNON profile values in your Release 11i environment (starting in 11.5.8 and above) that allow you to implement password controls such as hard to guess, number of retries, reusability, etc. If you don't set these, it should be done as soon as possible. Refer to our January newsletter for more specifics on this topic.

Question: *Our current production Oracle system was very carefully designed in terms of disk volumes, their usage, and the physical location. This was done to ensure that the data, indices, logs, etc. were kept separate for recovery reasons and to help with performance. The Release 11i setup has everything in a single volume/file system/mount point. Are these concerns no longer relevant?*

Answer: Recoverability and performance are major concerns. But they have to be balanced with real world practical solutions.

The conventional method of assigning a specific load to various subsets of the database such as index, data, log etc is outdated. Many tradeoffs must be made when designing a storage configuration using this approach.

With disk sizes in the 72 – 142GB range, a RAID5 volume with a minimum of 5x72GB disks per volume gives 288GB usable space for each volume. A 6 volume system (data, index, logs, redo, sys, temp) with each volume completely isolated from the others would require 6 x 288GB volumes or about 1.7TB per system.

If you don't have the extra disk space to dedicate to one system and begin to mix the loads among volumes, your efforts become ineffective. When older and smaller drives were common (9GB drives and 60+ drives in a single enclosure), this may have been a viable solution if the DBA performed ongoing tuning to ensure the application was load balanced as the database grew. Drives are much faster and larger today, and are getting larger (142GB drives are common) so this practice becomes even less appealing.

If disk I/O becomes a performance issue using modern disk technology, caching controllers and fibre interface, then RAID1+0 configurations should be considered instead of RAID5 configurations. A RAID1+0 configuration is also more fault tolerant than a RAID5.

With hardware recovery scenarios, a similar balance exists. Unless you are using smaller drives or have the extra space for dedicated volumes, it is usually impractical to configure multiple mount points for each load profile using large drives for a system < 1TB.

Several white papers published by Oracle on the subject are available, one in particular that describes the benefits of a large stripe mount point in the Release 11i architecture is "Optimal Storage Configuration Made Easy"

http://otn.oracle.com/deploy/performance/pdf/opt_storage_conf.pdf .

Question: *We're going to upgrade our Financials to Release 11i (from 11.0.x) sometime next year. We have lots of custom forms (4.5) and reports (2.5) that will need upgraded. What physically has to change with these forms & reports? Do I need to know JAVA to change them? Simply recompile them? Why would I need to know JAVA for this upgrade?*

Answer: All of the forms and reports (other than Business Intelligence and Discoverer reports) in Release 11i still use the "old" Oracle technology although you will need to upgrade to 6i (6.0.8.X.X) for both the forms and reports. You will not need to know Java to support those forms/reports but they have to be converted to 6i. The flint60 converter supplied by Oracle works, but it's not perfect. A lot of the formatting and fancy output will have to be redone with 6i – they just don't convert.

However, all new Applications (including the personal home page) use the self-service framework (OA) and do require Java expertise especially if you are using or plan on using any of the self-service or "i" type applications (iProcurement, etc). Java is something you will have to learn eventually.

You should also look at using the custom.pll for all custom code and using something like Logical Apps AppsRules product to help you transition your code. It's a great product and has saved us a tremendous amount of time with our customizations in Release 11i environments.

Question: *Isn't there a profile option in Release 11.5.9 that will allow me to change the home page back to what we're used to from our current release of 11i?*

Answer: The profile option is "Self Service Personal Home Page mode". The possible values are:

- Framework only – default 11.5.9
- Personal Home Page – default for version <= 11.5.8
- Personal Home Page with Framework – combines the two

See Metalink note 247006.1 for additional info. According to the note, the profile option can be set at site level or user level.

Our advice remains to keep this as a 'last resort'. Although it is a profile option, (and you'd therefore expect no issues related to it), since it's not the new 'standard' (only a legacy carry over for transition), it may have a limited life (or other inadvertent ramifications) regardless. [Back to the *test, test, and test again* mantra!] The more "standard" you can stay, the easier any issues are to resolve with Oracle.

The Senior Consultants at Solution Beacon, LLC

Oracle Security Alert #66 – Released March 12, 2004

Security Vulnerability in OracleAS WebCache 10g and Oracle9iAS WebCache

Description

Security vulnerabilities have been discovered in Oracle Application Server Web Cache 10g (9.0.4.0.0) and Oracle9i Application Server Web Cache.

Severity Level = 1

Severity Level 1 means that the vulnerability is high risk and requires little specialized knowledge to exploit. Apply the patch and/or workaround to the affected products with the highest priority.

Supported Products Affected

Oracle Application Server Web Cache 10g (9.0.4.0.0)

- Oracle9iAS Web Cache 9.0.3.1.0
- Oracle9iAS Web Cache 9.0.2.3.0
- Oracle9iAS Web Cache 2.0.0.4.0

Platforms Affected

All Oracle supported platforms – Sun Solaris, HP/UX, HP Tru64, IBM AIX, Linux and Windows.

The only exception is Oracle Application Server Web Cache 10g (9.0.4.0.0) on Windows, Tru64 and AIX (release pending), which already contain fixes that are described in the Patch Availability Matrix.

E-Business Suite 11i customers using Oracle iStore 11i (11i.IBE.O and later) with Oracle Web Cache 9.0.2.2 (as described in [Installing Oracle Application Server 10g with Oracle E-Business Suite Release 11i](#)) must apply corresponding patch(es) specified in the Patch Availability Matrix for Oracle Application Server 10g (9.0.4.0.0).

Note that Oracle9iAS Web Cache 2.0.0.4.0 is part of the Oracle9iAS Release 1 (1.0.2.2.0). See the Patch Availability Matrix for details.

Required Conditions For Exploit

Web Cache must be running and configured to listen on the Oracle Application Server Web Cache listener port for any client request, regardless of the type of origin Web server (for example, Oracle HTTP Server, Apache or other web servers). If the client request is sent directly to origin Web server (i.e. Oracle HTTP Server, Apache or others), bypassing Web Cache, these vulnerabilities cannot be exploited.

Note that a typical Core or Mid-Tier default installation of Oracle Application Server includes Web Cache. Web Cache is also available as a standalone install.

Risk To Exposure

Risk to exposure to the vulnerabilities is high. Firewalls deployed within a corporate Intranet or between a corporate Intranet and the Internet do not protect against these vulnerabilities.

How to Minimize Risk

There is no workaround that fully addresses these vulnerabilities. Oracle strongly recommends applying the patches identified in this Alert as soon as possible, restricting or carefully monitoring access to Web Cache.

Patch Availability Matrix

The patches listed in the Patch Availability Matrix fix the potential vulnerabilities identified in [Oracle Security Alert #66](#).

Patches for Oracle Security Alert #66 are available for these affected OracleAS Web Cache versions:

- OracleAS Web Cache 10g (9.0.4.0.0), except Windows, Tru64, and AIX
- Oracle9iAS Web Cache 9.0.2.3.0
- Oracle9iAS Web Cache 9.0.3.1.0
- Oracle9iAS Web Cache 2.0.0.4

OracleAS Web Cache customers must apply the patches listed in the "Patch Availability Matrix" to existing environments as they correspond to their current OracleAS Web Cache release.

Platforms	OracleAS Web Cache 10g (9.0.4.0.0)	Oracle9iAS Web Cache 9.0.3.1.0	Oracle9iAS Web Cache 9.0.3.0.0 / 9.0.3.0.0 bp1	Oracle9iAS Web Cache 9.0.2.3.0/ 9.0.2.3.0 bp1/ 9.0.2.3.0 bp2	Oracle9iAS Web Cache 9.0.2.0.0/ 9.0.2.0.1/ 9.0.2.1.0/ 9.0.2.2.0	Oracle9iAS Web Cache 2.0.0.4	Oracle9iAS Web Cache 2.0.0.0/ 2.0.0.1/ 2.0.0.2/ 2.0.0.3
Sun Solaris (32-bit)	3319824	will be available on April 23, 2004	upgrade to Oracle9iAS Web Cache 9.0.3.1.0, then apply the corresponding patch	will be available on April 16, 2004	upgrade to Oracle9iAS Web Cache 9.0.2.3.0, then apply the corresponding patch	will be available on May 07, 2004	upgrade to Oracle9iAS Web Cache 2.0.0.4, then apply the corresponding patch
IBM AIX (64-bit)	N/A	will be available on May 07, 2004	upgrade to Oracle9iAS Web Cache 9.0.3.1.0, then apply the corresponding patch	will be available on May 07, 2004	upgrade to Oracle9iAS Web Cache 9.0.2.3.0, then apply the corresponding patch	will be available on May 28, 2004	upgrade to Oracle9iAS Web Cache 2.0.0.4, then apply the corresponding patch

HP-UX (64-bit)	3319824 will be available on April 02, 2004	will be available on May 07, 2004	upgrade to Oracle9iAS Web Cache 9.0.3.1.0, then apply the corresponding patch	will be available on April 30, 2004	upgrade to Oracle9iAS Web Cache 9.0.2.3.0, then apply the corresponding patch	will be available on May 28, 2004	upgrade to Oracle9iAS Web Cache 2.0.0.4, then apply the corresponding patch
HP Tru64	N/A	will be available on May 07, 2004	upgrade to Oracle9iAS Web Cache 9.0.3.1.0, then apply the patch	will be available on May 07, 2004	upgrade to Oracle9iAS Web Cache 9.0.2.3.0, then apply the corresponding patch	will be available on May 28, 2004	upgrade to Oracle9iAS Web Cache 2.0.0.4, then apply the corresponding patch
LINUX x86	3319824	will be available on May 07, 2004	upgrade to Oracle9iAS Web Cache 9.0.3.1.0, then apply the corresponding patch	will be available on April 30, 2004	upgrade to Oracle9iAS Web Cache 9.0.2.3.0, then apply the corresponding patch	will be available on May 28, 2004	upgrade to Oracle9iAS Web Cache 2.0.0.4, then apply the corresponding patch
MS Windows NT/2000	NA	will be available on April 23, 2004	upgrade to Oracle9iAS Web Cache 9.0.3.1.0, then apply the corresponding patch	will be available on April 16, 2004	upgrade to Oracle9iAS Web Cache 9.0.2.3.0, then apply the corresponding patch	will be available on May 07, 2004	upgrade to Oracle9iAS Web Cache 2.0.0.4, then apply the corresponding patch

Randy Giefer, Solution Beacon

Why You Need to Upgrade 11.5.9's Oracle9i to Version 9.2.0.4

Oracle Applications version 11.5.9 is delivered with Oracle9i version 9.2.0.3. Several problems with version 9.2.0.3 have been corrected by Oracle9i version 9.2.0.4. The problems are serious enough to merit an upgrade to version 9.2.0.4 — unless you meet conditions specified in MetaLink note 189908.1 that would prohibit use of version 9.2.0.4 with OLAP (online analytical processing). Oracle categorizes the 9.2.0.3 version problems in 4 groups. However, only the following three groups are applicable for the benefits of an upgrade to 9.2.0.4:

- General Alerts
- Security Alerts

- Bugs

It should be noted at the outset that Oracle9i version 9.2.0.5 is also now available. Unfortunately, as of this article, version 9.2.0.5 is not yet certified with Release 11i.

This article will list the major problems in bulleted categories shown above. For a comprehensive list of every fix (and there are quite a few) refer to MetaLink note 245758.1. After reviewing the problems noted in this article and the MetaLink note just mentioned, you would be able determine if the problems are significant enough for your organization to upgrade.

General Alerts

Free Space in LOB Tablespace Not Reused When Using Auto Segment Space Management

Due to a bug in the algorithm to reclaim space, it is possible that free space in LOB segments is not reused when new LOB content is inserted, causing the LOB segment to continuously extend until a physical limit is reached.

This issue, reported as BUG:2944866, only affects LOB segments that have been created in locally managed tablespaces that make use of Auto Segment Space Management (ASSM).

ORA-600 [KCCSBCK_FIRST] at startup of RAC instance

After a reboot of the former master node the Oracle Cluster Manager incorrectly on this node becomes the master again. A startup of the instance on this node fails with the ORA-600.

Any Oracle Real Application Cluster on Windows 2000/NT and Linux can suffer this behavior when the master node (the first one that started the cluster manager) reboots.

Security Alerts

Buffer Overflow vulnerabilities in the XML Database

A set of potential buffer overflows has been discovered in the XML Database (XDB) functionality of the Oracle9i Database Release 2. A knowledgeable and malicious user can exploit these buffer overflows to cause a Denial of Service (DoS) attack against and/or capture an active user session of the Oracle9i Database Server.

Extproc Overflow Vulnerability

Utilizing an Oracle Listener configured with a TCP protocol address, a knowledgeable and malicious user can write an exploit that connects to an Oracle Database server's EXTPROC OS process without having to provide a database username and password. As such, it is possible to make arbitrary calls to the underlying OS and potentially gain unauthorized administrative access to the machine hosting the Oracle Database server. The EXTPROC functionality is installed by default in the Oracle Database installation if the "Typical Installation" option is chosen from the Oracle Universal Installer menu. EXTPROC is used by Oracle's PL/SQL software to make calls to the operating system.

Bugs

ORA-603 / OERI[17271] on instance startup with SQL_TRACE=TRUE and CURSOR_SPACE_FOR_TIME=TRUE

ORA-603 / OERI[17271] occurs on instance startup when the startup session ends when SQL_TRACE=TRUE and CURSOR_SPACE_FOR_TIME=TRUE.

Memory growth executing SQL/XML repeatedly in PL/SQL

Memory growth executing SQL/XML with CLOBs/XMLTypes or XMLAggs repeatedly in PL/SQL.

RFS at logical standby may fail with OERI[KCRRULFH.12.2]

The RFS process at a logical standby may fail with ORA-600 [kcrrulfh.12.2] if LGWR is sending the log from the primary.

OERI[KPOTPCRC: UGA DEPTH EXCEEDED] from XML queries

This problem is introduced in 9203. ORA-600 [kpotpcrc: uga depth exceeded] can occur during XML queries against deeply nested XML.

Wrong results from STAR transformation with WINDOW functions

This problem is introduced in 9203 with the fix of bug 2807823. That fix exposes this issue. Wrong results possible from TEMP TABLE STAR transformation with WINDOW functions

Kevin Dahl, Solution Beacon

Cloning and AutoConfig

There are two cloning methods documented in the following white papers available off of Oracle MetaLink Note [135792.1](#)

- Cloning Oracle Applications Release 11i
- Cloning Oracle Applications Release 11i with Rapid Clone

Note: A third Cloning method (Cloning Oracle Applications Release 11i with AutoConfig) has been fully replaced by *Cloning with Rapid Clone*, and is no longer supported. We typically do not run any non-Auto Config environments anymore nor recommend that to our clients. It's not mainstream Oracle functionality.

What are the differences between the two cloning methods?

Cloning Oracle Applications Release 11i was originally published in conjunction with Release 11.5.5 and is applicable for all 11i releases up to 11.5.5 that are not AutoConfig enabled.

Cloning Oracle Applications Release 11i with Rapid Clone is applicable for all 11i systems that have migrated to AutoConfig and enabled Rapid Clone. This method contains steps to install AutoConfig and Rapid Clone.

To use the "Rapid Clone" feature currently supported with 11.5.9, you must be "Auto Configured". See MetaLink Doc. 230672.1:

Setup Rapid Clone on the Applications Tier

1. If the source Applications system was created with Rapid Install version 11.5.5 or earlier and has not been migrated to AutoConfig, follow the instructions [Migrating to AutoConfig on the Applications Tier](#) in document 165195.1 on OracleMetaLink).
2. All users must run AutoConfig on the Applications Tier (see section 5: [Maintaining System Configurations](#) in document 165195.1 on OracleMetaLink).

Setup Rapid Clone on the Database Tier

Implement AutoConfig in the RDBMS ORACLE_HOME (Follow the instructions in section [Migrating to AutoConfig on the Database Tier](#) in document 165195.1 on OracleMetaLink). Section 4 of the AutoConfig document must be followed for all versions of Rapidinstall and every time Rapid Clone patch is applied.

Note on AutoConfig

AutoConfig was introduced in 11.5.7 and enhanced in 11.5.8 and 11.5.9. Oracle highly recommends that your environment be "AutoConfigured" to properly manage your Application environments.

It's not 100% required to be AutoConfigured to clone but Oracle is pushing more and more customers to run AutoConfig – see below:

It's REQUIRED that you implement AutoConfig if you plan to apply the 11.5.9 Maintenance Pack (MetaLink Doc 232834.1):

Implement or Update AutoConfig

If you have already implemented AutoConfig on your system, you must apply the latest AutoConfig rollup patch that is available. If you have not already implemented AutoConfig, you must implement it now. Refer to [Using AutoConfig to Manage System Configurations with Oracle Applications 11i](#) on Oracle MetaLink for instructions on how to implement or update AutoConfig.

You should read the entire document whether you are implementing AutoConfig for the first time or updating it with the latest rollup patch. Like AutoConfig itself, the document has changed since its initial release and continues to evolve. AutoConfig simplifies the management of the various system component configuration files. Once AutoConfig has been implemented, you must use it for all configuration management rather than editing configuration files directly.

The MetaLink Doc 165195.1 covers the AutoConfig process:

There are several major benefits provided by AutoConfig:

- Configuration Support: AutoConfig configures the APPL_TOP, the ORACLE_HOME(s) and its supporting technology stack.
- Configuration Management: AutoConfig centralizes the configuration and re-configuration of an Applications instance.
- Configuration Delivery and Patching: The uptake of new technology is simplified, as new configurations and configuration changes can be provided in the form of a patch.

John Stouffer, Solution Beacon

10g Database

Here are some documents and URLs that contain some useful information pertaining to the new 10g Database.

Oracle Application Server 10g: Oracle Application Server 10g NEW FEATURES OVERVIEW - A Technical White Paper December 2003 Oracle Application Server...

http://otn.oracle.com/products/ias/pdf/10g_904_NF_WP.pdf

What's New in PL/SQL in Oracle Database 10g?:

http://otn.oracle.com/tech/pl_sql/htdocs/new_in_10gr1.htm

<http://otn.oracle.com/products/database/oracle10g/index.html>

10g_New_Features.PDF: Oracle XML DB Technical White Paper:

<http://otn.oracle.com/tech/xml/xmldb/Current/NewFeatures.pdf>

John Stouffer, Solution Beacon

Third Party Tools Spotlight – Logical Apps

Logical Apps is the industry leader providing configurable, rules based solutions for the Oracle Applications. Logical Apps pioneered the shift from a rigid "customization-driven" approach to a flexible "configuration-based" methodology, by introducing an integrated, metadata driven product architecture across all Logical Apps products. Since our inception in 1999, Logical Apps has quickly established itself as a vendor of choice for numerous Fortune 1000 companies, who need the flexibility to make Oracle Application modifications while avoiding the issues of traditional customization. Our clients are realizing reductions of 70% and more in time required to deploy business rules, saving thousands of hours in development effort and hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual savings.

AppsRules 5.1 – Fully Integrated Product Suite

AppsRules delivers the only comprehensive Business Process Management (BPM) solution for your Oracle Applications E-Business Suite. Through the integration of a robust, metadata driven

rules engine, a core set of rule building modules, and a comprehensive library of business rules and automated processes, AppsRules provides Oracle Applications customers with a proven solution for Oracle Forms, Oracle Workflow, Account Generation, and Audit Reporting.

AppsRules 5.1 highlights:

- Robust & extensive Oracle Forms solution (AppsForm Module)
- Process rule engine for Oracle Workflow (AppsFlow Module)
- Solution for rules based data audit tracking and reporting (AppsAudit Module)
- Rules based solution for Account (Code Combination) generation (AppsAccount Module)
- Content Library™ built on Industry standards and best practices
- All AppsRules modules leverage a single, intuitive Forms 6i interface
- Point and click configurations, not code driven customizations
- Metadata based rules and processes, so they are patch and upgrade proof
- Integrated to custom.pll, so rules can be deployed in minutes not months
- XML based rules migration functionality
- Robust filter criteria, including (user, responsibility, site, profile option, inventory org, operating unit, approval groups, and advance database functions)

AppsForm™ – Create Responsive Intelligent Forms

The AppsForm Module is the premiere software application to modify and enhance Oracle Forms to meet your company's critical business needs, and to automatically enforce your business policies. Through Configuration, not Customization, AppsForm users implement their business rules in minutes instead of months, eliminating complex and lengthy development cycles and preventing patch and upgrade issues.

Key Features of AppsForm include:

- Event Tracker to automatically create rules in target forms
- Rules are stored in metadata within the Oracle database
- Wizard driven rules migration
- Validation rules built via configuration, not SQL code
- Form level audit capability to the field level
- Ability to create rules for Descriptive FlexFields (DFFs)
- Integrated support to create dynamic forms via AppsExtend

AppsFlow™ – Accelerate Workflow Design and Deployment

The AppsFlow Module is the only process rules engine available to automate and streamline the creation and enforcement of sophisticated business processes within the Oracle Applications. Integrated with Oracle Workflow, AppsFlow is designed to dramatically accelerate the process of creating workflows through its intuitive GUI interface and metadata framework. Complex, rules-driven process flows can be configured and deployed without knowledge of PL/SQL or the Oracle Workflow APIs.

Additional highlights of AppsFlow:

- Intuitive Forms 6i interface



- Seamless integration with Oracle Workflow Builder
- Wizard driven rules migration utility
- SQL Wizard to simplify building complex process components
- Seamless integration with other AppsRules modules

AppsAccount™ – Take Control of your Account Generation

The AppsAccount Module is the only solution to automate rules based Account (code combination) generation for critical financial transactions in the Oracle Applications. AppsAccount's GUI interface enables finance and accounting users to dynamically manage code combination creation across the Oracle E-Business suite. AppsAccount also provides a configurable rules engine, allowing you to build simple as well as complex account combinations without writing code or learning the Oracle Workflow API's. Additionally, the account generation rules all live in metadata, ensuring that the rules will remain in tact during patches and upgrades. AppsAccount is completely integrated with Oracle Workflow and Account Generator, so your support from Oracle Corporation is not compromised.

AppsAudit™ – Simple Configuration to Meet Your Critical Audit Requirements

The AppsAudit Module is the only solution available to quickly setup, monitor and track database level changes within the Oracle Applications. AppsAudit takes the form level audit capability in AppsForm and extends it to the database level, allowing organizations to monitor and report on changes to sensitive setup and transactional data. The GUI interface, enables AppsAudit users to configure table and column level audit criteria in minutes without specialized technical skills or a detailed understanding of Oracle's raw audit data. AppsAudit provides online and printed reporting capability for all audited data.

Content Library™ – Pre-configured Solutions Showing you the Way

The Logical Apps Content Library™ is a set of pre-configured business rule and process flow solutions to compliment each of the modules in AppsRules. Once again, this is an industry first and the only solution of its kind for Oracle Applications customers. The Content Library™ solutions are based on industry standards and best practices shared by the 80+ customers of Logical Apps. Using content bundles, Logical Apps customers can realize tremendous ROI on their investment and deliver business solutions immediately.

About Logical Apps

Logical Apps is an Oracle Certified Solutions Partner and the industry leader in delivering configurable, rules based solutions for the Oracle E-Business Suite. Backed by years of "Big 5" experience and a solid history of working with the Oracle Applications, the company founders created Logical Apps as a firm dedicated to providing innovative software solutions and complimentary professional services. Logical Apps' comprehensive solutions enable organizations to rapidly implement business rules and automate processes creating greater ROI vs. implementing single point solutions, reducing cost of ownership, and maximizing your Oracle Applications investment.

For more information visit Logical Apps at www.logicalapps.com or contact us at: info@logicalapps.com

Therron Hofsetz, Logical Apps Vice President Product Marketing

Solution Beacon Announcements

Kandi Zastro has joined Solution Beacon in the role of Events Manager. She will be responsible for planning and managing the *Road to Orlandosm* as well as the many Regional and Local presentations Solution Beacon will be undertaking. In addition she will maintain the growing library of Solution Beacon of presentations, papers and other intellectual capital. Kandi has six years experience as an Events Manager and Marketing Coordinator. Her expertise includes organizing, executing, and/or managing various aspects of regional and national conferences throughout the Oracle community. Since 1998, she has been the event coordinator of the NCOAUG conference, as well as a participant in the planning of the SCOUG/SCOAUG conferences, and a consultant to various other applications-focused user groups across the U.S. Kandi is also a member of the OAUG Exhibit Advisory Board. Kandi can be reached at kzastro@solutionbeacon.com or 815-557-6044.

Art Dowd, Solution Beacon

Solution Beacon ... On the Road

CHICAGO:

NCOAUG Training Day was held in Chicago on March 8 at the Hilton Northbrook. Attendance at this year's event was close to 400, identical to last year. There were 60 presentations encompassing nine training tracks.

Solution Beacon consultants were involved in the following presentations:

Post Upgrade Support in the 11i World, John Stouffer, Solution Beacon

To Patch or Not to Patch – It's Not a DBA Question, Alicia Hoekstra and John Stouffer of Solution Beacon

11i Cloning Panel, moderated by Sandra Vucinic, Solution Beacon

Upgrade vs. Reimplementation, Alicia Hoekstra, Solution Beacon and Mark Clark, O2Works

Practical Considerations for Implementing RAC, James Jones, Solution Beacon

ATLANTA:

The March 19 meeting of the Atlanta OAUG was attended by 70 members who saw John Stouffer and Alicia Hoekstra deliver their "*To Patch or Not to Patch – It's Not a DBA Question*" as 1 of the 3 keynote addresses. In addition, John Stouffer presented his "*Care and Feeding of 11i*" in the Technical Breakout session. According to Brenda Carlton, Atlanta OAUG Coordinator, "It's always both educational and entertaining listening to John and Alicia's presentations. They hold the attention of the audience and convey very useful information."

TULSA:

Under the auspices of Rob Laffoon of Oracle, the Oklahoma Oracle Application Users Group has re-emerged. Their first meeting was held in Tulsa, OK on March 11. The leadership committee consists of Kevin Dahl of Solution Beacon, Micah Mosley, and Guy Mayberry.

Art Dowd, Solution Beacon

OAUG NEWS: Making an Impact on the Oracle Applications Community

CALL FOR PAPERS

Have any interesting ideas about the most effective ways to utilize your Oracle Applications? The OAUG has issued its Call for Papers and is accepting presentation proposals for the upcoming OAUG Connection Point 2004 conference in Orlando, Sept. 12-15, at the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Hotel.

Make an impact on the Oracle Applications user community by submitting your presentation proposal. Proposals can be submitted through the OAUG's Web site at www.oaug.org.

WORKING WITH ORACLE FOR GREATER IMPACT

One way the OAUG makes an impact within the applications community is to work closely with Oracle throughout the year. The most prominent examples of cooperation include working together to hold the annual Connection Point conference, co-sponsoring the Oracle/OAUG Product Usability Council and open communications with Charles Phillips, President, Oracle Corporation.

By working closely with Oracle, OAUG expands the influence of its membership and gives direct access to key decision makers at Oracle. This relationship also enables Oracle to get practical feedback from customers.

MAKING YOUR OWN IMPACT THROUGH MEMBERSHIP

If you are not currently a member of OAUG or need to confirm the status of your own membership, please refer to the OAUG's Web site at www.oaug.org or call Jeff Wells, OAUG membership coordinator, at (404) 240-0897. The OAUG wants to hear from you and looks forward to seeing you at the Connection Point Conference in September.

Randy Giefer, Solution Beacon

Upcoming Solution Beacon Events

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
OAUG eLearning – <i>R11i Patching</i> , John Stouffer	April 6, 2004	Webcast: 12-2 PM and 7-9 PM
IOUG – <i>Oracle Applications Release 11i ... If Raid then RAC</i> , Kevin Dahl	April 18-22, 2004	Toronto, Canada
OAUG eLearning – <i>R11i Patching</i> , John Stouffer	April 20, 2004	Webcast: 12-2 PM and 7-9 PM
HOUG – <i>RAC</i> , Kevin Dahl	April 21, 2004	Houston, TX
Solution Beacon and OAUG – <i>The Road to Orlandosm – Release 11i Workshops</i>	April 23, 2004	Dallas, TX
CSOAUG – <i>To Patch or Not to Patch</i> , Alicia Hoekstra and John Stouffer	April 26, 2004	Kansas City, KS
CSOAUG – <i>Roadmap to Successfully Migrate Oracle Applications 11i to Linux</i> , Sandra Vucinic	April 26, 2004	Kansas City, KS
OAUG eLearning – <i>Workflow Overview and Administration</i> , Karen Brownfield	May 7, 2004	Webcast: 12-2 PM and 7-9 PM
DCOAUG	May 7, 2004	Reston, VA
OAUG eLearning – <i>RAC</i> , Kevin Dahl	May 11, 2004	Webcast: 12-2 PM and 7-9 PM
OAUG eLearning – <i>Workflow Overview and Administration</i> , Karen Brownfield	May 14, 2004	Webcast: 12-2 PM and 7-9 PM
AZ-OAUG – <i>Workflow Seminar</i> , Karen Brownfield	May 20, 2004	Scottsdale, AZ
SCOUG / SCO AUG Training Days	May 20-21, 2004	Houston, TX
OAUG eLearning – <i>RAC</i> , Kevin Dahl	May 25, 2004	Webcast: 12-2 PM and 7-9 PM
Oracle Applications Technology Symposium (OATS) – <i>The Road to Orlandosm – Release 11i Workshops</i>	May 25-26, 2004	Cincinnati, OH
Solution Beacon and OAUG – <i>The Road to Orlandosm – Release 11i Workshops</i>	June, 2004	Denver, CO
Solution Beacon and OAUG – <i>The Road to Orlandosm – Release 11i Workshops</i>	July, 2004	Atlanta, GA
OAUG Connection Point 2004	September 12-15, 2004	Orlando, FL
Oracle OpenWorld	December 5-10, 2004	San Francisco, CA

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