

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

Announcement for Oracle 11i/Payroll Customers

We have received the following additional information about the HR/Payroll Family Pack J announcement from Oracle. (See May 2005 Newsletter for the original announcement.)

Our Oracle contacts tell us that clients need to upgrade the database to 9.2.0.6 (preferred), apply HR Family Pack J/K and ALL of the pre-requisites including the Oracle Applications Java Framework upgrade to 5.10 and then use the MetaLink document below to determine if there are other patches that need to be applied to fix the other application modules affected by the 5.10 Framework (normally called interoperability patches).

At the end of the day, the client will be upgrading the database to Oracle9i, applying the mandatory HR Family Pack and pre-requisites for that patch and apply another set of patches to fix all of the other application modules impacted by the pre-requisites for the HR patch.

If this is done, Oracle is saying the client will be supported and will not have to automatically upgrade Procurement, Financials or Projects because the underlying technology changed. The client may have to apply more interoperability patches for specific modules but not the entire Family Packs. Please reference **MetaLink 275874.1**.

Other references are:

[Note 135266.1](#) – Oracle HRMS Product Family – Release 11i Information

[Note 295406.1](#) – Mandatory Family pack levels for Oracle Payroll.

John Stouffer, Solution Beacon and Oracle

The “i” Modules – A Win-Win for Everyone

As the Internet has become everything, there are certain modules have become highly sought after but as been short on delivery. Although the concept has been great the actual functionality has finally matured with the latest release of the Oracle Applications. For those who have implemented or upgraded to Release 11.5.10 they have been pleasantly surprised with the ease of implementation and fullness of functionality. At Solution Beacon we have found more and more clients seeking to add the “i” functionality to their current install of the Oracle Applications. The functionality provided by *Assets*, *Payment*, *Receivables*, *Supplier*, *Procurement*, *Recruitment*, *Support* and *Store* has enhanced the use of the Oracle Applications to customers, suppliers, and employees alike by providing more information than ever before.

Although implementing the *Modules* has become straightforward, especially if the base module is implemented, often the real work begins after they configured and running when the data has to managed and secured. The amount of data that is available to the various users is phenomenal but requires a lot security and access to data. Often this is not as simple as it appears, but has greatly improved in the last few versions. Having access to this data requires the appropriate amount of security but once that is obtained the amount of savings on personnel answering the phones is tremendous that allows employees to focus on their jobs with out interaction. The ultimate key provided by the *Modules* is that allows interested parties access to information that pertains to them, in a secure environment, while allowing those who manage the data to perform their jobs more efficient and effectively.

Oracle E-Business Suite enables companies to efficiently manage customer processes, manufacture products, ship orders, collect payments, and more—all from applications that are built on a unified information architecture. This information architecture provides a single definition of your customers, suppliers, employees, and products—all aspects of your business. Implementing an “i” module enables you to share unified information across the enterprise so you can make smarter decisions with better information.

Paul Cyphers, Solution Beacon

Fusion ... What’s the Fuss?

With the acquisition of PeopleSoft and JD Edwards, Oracle Corporation is in the process of combining all product lines into the next generation of applications called “Fusion”. The expected releases of the first Fusion Application modules are not expected until 2007. However, Oracle is currently offering a new suite of products called “Fusion Middleware” to allow for easier integration of existing applications, regardless of whether they are PeopleSoft, JD Edwards, Oracle Release 11/ or even legacy systems.

Fusion Middleware helps organizations integrate disparate systems and manage enterprise complexity more efficiently. Customers can take advantage of these emerging technologies and the business value they provide today, and be on a supported upgrade path for Fusion in the near future.

The Fusion Middleware product suite includes Oracle Application Server 10g, Application Development Tools, a J2EE (Java 2 Enterprise Edition) Application Server, as well as Enterprise Service Buses and Integration. Also included are the following: Business Process Management (BPEL) and Business Activity Monitoring (BAM), Business Intelligence Tools, Security and Identity management (SSO & SSL) and Enterprise Portals.

Regardless of which Application is in use (JD Edwards, PeopleSoft, Oracle E-Business or legacy systems), customers can take advantage of some of the newest features and functions now, while simultaneously preparing for the release of Fusion.

Solution Beacon can help you evaluate, select, and implement the Fusion Middleware products that are right for your organization. Customers can use Oracle Fusion Middleware Solutions to support their entire enterprise for Custom Application Development, Enterprise Application Integration & Management, Business Intelligence, Portals and Identity Management. Solution Beacon's in depth experience with the Oracle E-Business Suite (9.4 to 11.5.x), coupled with our proven industry expertise in systems architecture & upgrades make us the logical choice for your next project.

John Nicholson, Paul Cyphers, Solution Beacon

Migrate Your Release 11/Oracle Applications to Linux

Are you an Oracle E-Business Suite customer evaluating the possibility of moving to the Linux platform? Interested in realizing high availability and scalability at reduced cost with the Linux OS? Oracle continues to strengthen its commitment to the Linux platform?

Solution Beacon has successfully migrated an Oracle database server and Oracle Release 11/E-Business Suite from other platforms to Linux numerous times. From these "Real world" experiences, tips and migration techniques Solution Beacon has developed a roadmap. This two-step migration (migrating middle-tier on Linux first and database tier later) to Linux platform includes a tool introduced by Oracle and the "Linux Platform Migration utility", which allows customers to move existing Oracle Applications to the Linux OS.

Solution Beacon is fully committed to implementing and supporting the Linux operating system. In fact, Oracle was the first commercial database available on Linux. By supporting Linux with Oracle's industry-leading products, we are enabling customers to deploy enterprise-class solutions on the lowest cost hardware and operating system infrastructure. We believe that Linux is more attractive today than ever, as customers are looking for open, cost-effective solutions.

Over the past few years Solution Beacon and its customers have learned a tremendous amount about running Oracle on Linux for enterprise class deployments. Combining this knowledge with the opportunity to drastically reduce IT infrastructure costs, enables Solution Beacon to provide customers with seamless and complete technical support for the Linux OS in addition to support for the Oracle applications. Solution Beacon's delivery of a complete solution, including direct technical support of the operating system, is critical to success. Solution Beacon and Oracle are offering an Unbreakable Linux platform for customers to safely deploy Linux in a mission-critical environment.

Linux is no longer a bleeding edge alternative. Linux is a real platform choice and a viable solution in today's cost-conscious market. Consider the following "real world" facts regarding Linux and Oracle:

-Linux is an Oracle Tier1 release platform for the E-Business Suite. This means you will have the timeliest access to new functionality and patches. Many patches are now becoming available on Linux first before other platforms.

-Oracle provides support for not only the Applications, but the operating system as well. Yes, Oracle provides support for the Linux Operating System.

-Oracle has made a significant commitment to the Linux platform. They are now using Linux to develop its products (replacing Sun as the preferred platform). In keeping with open-source model, Oracle has actually released code they have developed (e.g. Oracle Cluster File System) to the public arena – a true deviation from the Oracle of old and an indication of their commitment to Linux.

If you are currently contemplating one or more of the following:

- An Oracle E-Business Suite implementation
- An Oracle E-Business Suite upgrade
- Going to multiple tiers or adding additional tiers to address performance issues
- Migrating to a new server platform to minimize costs
- Bringing your applications in-house because of an unsatisfactory hosting experience
- Then serious consideration needs to be given to a move to the Linux platform for both performance and value.

Solution Beacon's Oracle Linux Solution allows customers to experience the power and value of Oracle's E-Business Suite on an Enterprise Linux operating system.

Paul Cyphers, Solution Beacon

Lower TCO, Higher Availability All on Commodity Hardware

Customers that have chosen the Oracle E-Business Suite for reliability now have the option to lower their Total Cost of Ownership, while increasing availability all on commodity hardware. Oracle's 10g RAC is the next generation of Oracle's award winning database and it just keeps getting better.

Many customers of Solution Beacon, who have chosen to migrate the RDBMS to the Linux operating system, have also chosen to deploy Oracle RAC (Real Application Clusters) at the same time. With the advent of Linux numerous customers took the initial leap for UNIX license savings alone, instead of paying for expensive proprietary operating system licenses. As a matter of fact it often out-performs its pricey counterparts running on the exact same hardware. Some major studies have indicated Linux on Intel performance beats typical Sun installations as an example. Linux provides enterprise-level OS features for a fraction of the cost. Linux utilizes a non-centralized support model in which bugs are tracked, reported, and fixed by thousands of developers worldwide. Linux outperforms most other operating systems, especially with Oracle (most new development at Oracle will be done on Linux, replacing Solaris) RAC Solaris vs. RAC Linux shows Linux as consistently faster, both for loads and queries Factor in RAC and you have a superior extremely fault tolerant system as compared to single system. Placing an application onto RAC can provide performance improvements without requiring excessive modification of the application.

Solution Beacon's expertise with Oracle, Linux and RAC is unparalleled compared to our competition. We have extensive hands on expertise with this award winning combination, and have the customer references to prove it. We have deployed high availability solutions for such customers as Frontier Airlines, Perot Systems, and 7-Eleven just to name a few. When you work with Solution Beacon you are not only working with your assigned resource, but an entire team of experts that have "Been There and Done That" experience with numerous customers.

John Nicholson, Paul Cyphers, Solution Beacon

Practical Considerations for a RAC Environment

Many companies using Oracle Applications ask what is RAC? RAC is Real Application Clustering (RAC). This is Server Clustering Technology based on Oracle Parallel Server Technology based on the premise of Multiple Nodes accessing single database on common storage solution and is highly dependant upon hardware clustering.

So why should an organization choose RAC? Oracle's Real Application Clusters (RAC) option supports the transparent deployment of a single database across a cluster of hardware servers, providing fault tolerance from hardware failures or planned outages. Oracle RAC provides Oracle's highest level of capability in terms of availability, scalability, and low-cost computing.

Oracle RAC supports mainstream business applications of all kinds. This includes popular packaged products such as SAP, PeopleSoft, Siebel, and Oracle E-Business Suite, as well as custom applications. Oracle RAC provides a single image installation and management. The DBA has a single point of control to install and manage a RAC cluster from Oracle RAC while providing high availability for applications by removing the single point of failure with a single server. If a node in the cluster fails, the Oracle Database continues running on the remaining nodes. Individual nodes can be shutdown for maintenance while application users continue to work.

It offers increased availability, increased scalability, lower hardware costs and overall lower total costs of ownership. Increased availability is accomplished because OS Patches must be patched simultaneously to maintain cluster. There are no Oracle rolling patches because all nodes are patched simultaneously and upgrading software is applied to all nodes. One instance can then be started to upgrade the database as the cluster, not instances. Increased Scalability promises a “scale – out solution”, while enabling use of lower cost hardware and you only pay for CPU power you currently need. Lowers Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) decreases costs associated with demand on knowledge base, Oracle software, hardware clusters, and storage solutions. Other benefits to RAC is increased performance, multiple streams to database, and hardware costs less because you can use lower end hardware, but more of it.

Some of the drawbacks to RAC are hardware and software complexity, the associated costs to knowledge base and manpower pools, and attempt to diagnose core dumps between hardware & software vendors support that can result in decrease of system availability. Also, nodes are unavailable during patch application. There are alternatives to RAC such as Oracle Parallel Server, standby databases, Oracle DataGuard, third party solutions or a homegrown solution. With proper planning and understanding of the RAC architecture, the transition from a single-instance database to a RAC configuration is not necessarily complex. ASM and RAC compliment each other to provide higher levels of availability, scalability, and business continuity.

Paul Cyphers, Solution Beacon

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

To order your copy of “Installing, Upgrading and Maintaining Oracle Applications 11i (or, When Old Dogs Learn New Tricks)” visit our website or order your book at

<http://www.oncalldb.com/docs/Books/?&L=sb>

Coming Soon: “ABCs of Workflow for Oracle Applications” ... by Karen Brownfield ... Be on the lookout for the new book on Oracle Applications Workflow!

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

Solution Spotlight Road Shows

Join Solution Beacon on our “Solution Spotlight” Road Shows coming to a city near you. Solution Beacon is proud to announce that we will be conducting joint presentations with the Best of Breed Solutions providers for these events.

Our first event will feature Applimation products in the “Solution Spotlight” and will be held on October 4th 2005 in Boston, MA, at the Boston Marriott Copley Place from 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM. A complimentary Continental breakfast will be served at 7:45 AM.

Join us for this executive breakfast and learn about how Applimation and Solution Beacon can help you streamline your Oracle Applications Release 11/ environment with the use of Applimation tools. Solution Beacon’s John Stouffer will be conducting a presentation on the Care and Feeding of Oracle Release 11/ including the use of tools to make administration of your ERP applications easier.

Applimation’s Mark Nelson will be presenting on Applimation Solutions that address: Application Archiving and Database Sub Setting, SOX Control Solutions including: Setup Controls, UI Rules, Access Security, Transaction Monitoring and Source Code Management within the Oracle E-Business Suite and PeopleSoft applications. Visit www.applimation.com to register for this event. Registration is limited to the first 40 RSVPs.

Boston Marriott Copley Place
110 Huntington Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02116 USA
Phone: 1-617-236-5800
<http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/BOSCO>

Be on the lookout for additional events coming to a city near you....

John Nicholson, Solution Beacon

Join Us For the Evening!

Join Solution Beacon and Decision Point Software for a night out at Oracle OpenWorld!

Tuesday evening, we’re co-hosting a Cocktail Reception at one of San Francisco’s premier lounge bars ... Zebulon Café & Bar, 83 Natoma, 5:30 – 9:00 PM. Please R.S.V.P. to Victoria at 650-931-8311.

Hope to see you there!

Kandi Zastro, Solution Beacon

Upcoming Solution Beacon Events

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
Oracle OpenWorld	September 17-22, 2005	San Francisco
Oracle OpenWorld, Fusion Council, John Stouffer	September 17, 2005, 1:00-3:00 PM	San Francisco, CA
Oracle OpenWorld, Customizations & Extensions SIG Meeting, Susan Behn	September 17, 2005, 3:20-5:30 PM	San Francisco, CA
Oracle OpenWorld, SysAdmin SIG Meeting, Chair Randy Giefer	September 17, 2005, 3:20-4:20 PM	San Francisco, CA
Oracle OpenWorld, Upgrade SIG Meeting, Chair John Stouffer	September 17, 2005, 4:30-5:30 PM	San Francisco, CA
Oracle OpenWorld, <i>30 Minute Release 11i Security: Keeping the Bad Guys Away</i> , Randy Giefer	September 19, 2005, 11:00-12 noon	San Francisco, CA
Oracle OpenWorld, <i>ABCs of Workflow – It's All in the Setup</i> , Karen Brownfield	September 21, 2005, 3:00-4:00 PM	San Francisco, CA
Applimation and Solution Beacon Road Show	October 4, 2005	Boston, MA
Applimation and Solution Beacon Road Show	October 11, 2005	Cleveland, OH
Applimation and Solution Beacon Road Show	October 18, 2005	Washington D.C.
DCOAug	October 21, 2005	Reston, VA
SROAug	October 21, 2005	Costa Mesa, CA
NEOAug	October 24, 2005	Worcester, MA
OATS Symposium	October 27, 2005	Chicago, IL
NCOAug Conference	November 7, 2005	Chicago, IL
Applimation and Solution Beacon Road Show	November 8, 2005	New York, NY
AppWorx and Solution Beacon Road Show	November 10, 2005	Denver, CO
Applimation and Solution Beacon Road Show	November 15, 2005	Dallas, TX
AppWorx and Solution Beacon Road Show	November 15, 2005	Seattle, WA
AppWorx and Solution Beacon Road Show	November 17, 2005	Minneapolis, MN
Applimation and Solution Beacon Road Show	December 6, 2005	San Jose, CA
Applimation and Solution Beacon Road Show	December 15, 2005	Atlanta, GA
Collaborate '06: Technology and Applications Forum for the Oracle Community	April 23-27, 2006	Nashville, TN

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