

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

Ask the SB Experts

Question: Do I have to use the MKS toolkit or is there another tool that is supported by Oracle?

Answer: MKS Toolkit is not required. Try:

Cygwin (<http://www.cygwin.com>) is now supported (Note: 302859.1)

From the Release 11.5.10.2 Release Notes:

MKS Toolkit

Version 6.1a or higher. You can use any of the Developer series (for Developers, for Professional Developers, or for Enterprise Developers). You can obtain this software from the MKS Web site at <http://www.mks.com>.

Note: While MKS Toolkit is recommended, Cygwin can now be used in its place. See 'Using Cygwin to Maintain Release 11i on Windows' on Oracle MetaLink (Doc ID: 302859.1) for information.

Question: Can you please explain the interface tables in General Ledger, Payables, Purchasing, etc?

Answer: The interface tables are the way data is loaded into the Oracle E-Business Applications.

There are many interface tables for many of the modules but not all. The ones that don't have interface tables have to be entered transaction by transaction, or using a keystroke capture tool like dataloader or via a form for the most part.

The interface tables are documented in the eTRM (Technical Reference Manuals) for each specific Release on MetaLink.

https://etrm.oracle.com/pls/etrmlatest/etrm_search.search

Question: We are always experiencing "snapshot too old" errors on very large materialized views here. I'm constantly going back to the developer saying you need to tune this stuff but we know how well that goes. ☺ Are there any tips or tricks you can give me to resolve this? We are running 9.2.0.6 with automatic undo (6.5GB undo tablespace).

Answer: Perform the following:

- 1) Tune the materialized view code as you stated
- 2) Set undo_retention to a number larger than the time it takes for the view to refresh (may require a huge amount of undo space)
- 3) Refresh the view when changes to the mv base tables are at a minimum (reduce chance of snapshot too old)
- 4) Refresh the view when overall system changes are at a minimum to reduce the amount of undo space required to increase undo_retention
- 5) Build simple mv's of the base tables using snapshot logs and quick refresh. Then, build the mv off the simple mv's instead of the base tables

Since undo_retention can be changed on the fly, you could up the value just before the refresh, and then set it back afterwards

Tuning the code to get the best plan first will minimize/eliminate the db side workarounds.

The Senior Consultants at Solution Beacon, LLC

The Road To Nashville™

The Road to Nashville™ stop in San Ramon, CA on 2/16 was a great success! Thanks to all of those that attended – we hope you found the presentations useful and informative.

Congratulations to **Liwen Pei** of **Cisco Systems** who won a free one-year membership to OAUG!

We'd also like to congratulate our other winners from other recent user events: **Jacqueline Chang** of **Network Appliance** at the NorCal Training Day, **Albert Dube**, **City of Chandler**, at the AZOAUG meeting, and **Daniel Smith** of **Comcast** at the RMOUG Training Days.

Kandi Zastro, Solution Beacon

Oracle Releases Critical, Out-of-Cycle Patch

This past Thursday, Oracle released an upgrade patch to the Oracle Diagnostics (Oracle Diagnostics 2.3 RUP A) and issued an advisory on MetaLink recommending all customers apply this patch. This patch contains a number of security fixes for high risk vulnerabilities in the Oracle Diagnostics, which has been included in the base install since 11.5.3. These fixes will also be included in the upcoming Critical Patch Update to be released April 18, 2006.

Oracle's standard policy is to include security fixes in maintenance packs and minipacks prior to release of the fixes in a Critical Patch Update if the minipack is released prior to the Critical Patch Update, however, it is unusual for Oracle to release any kind of advisory or notification. This out of cycle advisory is because Oracle has deemed these vulnerabilities high risk (of which there are several) or Oracle is encouraging customers to apply this patch in order to improve customer internal problem resolution.

Since the patch only affects the Oracle Diagnostics tools, the functional impact of the patch should be minimal to none. The only significant prerequisite is for AutoConfig enabled systems minipack AD.I.2 must be installed. Also, there are manual steps that must be performed in order to remediate some of the security vulnerabilities.

Integrigy has released a detailed analysis of the patch and vulnerabilities that includes patching recommendations and an alternative workaround for those implementations that can not apply the patch in a reasonable timeframe. The analysis can be found at:

<http://www.integrigy.com/analysis.htm>

Information on Oracle Diagnostics 2.3 and RUP A can be found in MetaLink Note 342459.1 and the required patches are 3636980 and 4870323.

Stephen Kost, Integrigy Corporation

.Diagnostics Support Pack February 2006 with Oracle Diagnostics 2.3 RUP A

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Oracle has released a significant patch to Diagnostics 2.3. If you are running Diagnostics 2.3, you must apply this fix to prevent significant security issues with your E-Business Applications.

The April 2006 Critical Patch Update (available April 18, 2006) will include updates to Oracle Diagnostics, a diagnostics test repository and execution engine for the Oracle E-Business Suite. The supported products affected will include:



- Oracle E-Business Suite Release 11i, versions 11.5.8 through 11.5.10
- Oracle E-Business Suite Release 11i, versions 11.5.4 through 11.5.7 (all with optional Oracle Diagnostics installation)
- Oracle Diagnostics, versions 2.3 and lower

The Oracle Diagnostics updates will be delivered as part of an upgrade to a new version, Diagnostics Support Pack February 2006 with Oracle Diagnostics 2.3 RUP A.

Oracle is making Oracle Diagnostics 2.3 RUP A available for download now, ahead of the April 2006 Critical Patch Update. Installation notes and download links for this version are accessible from MetaLink Note [167000.1](#).

Oracle believes this upgrade will not affect the end-user functionality of the E-Business Suite, and encourages you to install this upgrade at your next opportunity.

Q. What vulnerabilities are addressed by this upgrade?

The April 2006 Critical Path Update risk matrix will describe Oracle Diagnostics 2.3 RUP A as addressing vulnerabilities widely affecting the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the E-Business Suite. As a matter of policy, Oracle does not provide specifics of vulnerabilities.

Q. Why is Oracle releasing these fixes early?

The Oracle Diagnostics fixes planned for the April 2006 Critical Patch Update are unusual in two ways: they are being delivered as part of a component upgrade, and they are independent of the end-user functionality of the E-Business suite. Oracle believes that releasing Oracle Diagnostics 2.3 RUP A now will enable customers to conveniently and expeditiously secure their Oracle Diagnostics installations ahead of the April 2006 Critical Patch Update.

John Stouffer, Solution Beacon

Oracle9i JDeveloper with OA Extension

Oracle recently released the latest Application Technology Group Family Pack H Rollup #3 (4334965). This is a critical patch and should be applied to any environment running ATG.H. There have been some fairly significant changes incorporated in this patch. We have documented one of those changes below. Review the patch readme for more details.

The following statement is found in the readme note (337274.1) in the New and Changed Features section for 11i.ATG_PF.H Rollup 3:

Customers who intend to work with the Oracle JDeveloper9i OA Extension, and develop extensions to their installed OA Framework based self-service applications, must use the specific build of Oracle9i JDeveloper with OA Extension available via patch [4725670](#). Complete

instructions for installing and configuring JDeveloper are included in the accompanying README file in this ARU and Chapter 1: Getting Started of the Oracle Applications Framework Developer's Guide (see the [Oracle Application Framework Release 11i Documentation Roadmap, Note 275880.1](#) for information on this document). Please note that no other release or version of Oracle JDeveloper is supported for developing extensions intended for deployment to an Oracle Applications environment that has been upgraded to 11i.ATG_PF.H Rollup 3.

Note that 5043234 and 4963151 are needed to be applied in conjunction with 4334965.

Jeff Stouffer and Jeff Holt, Solution Beacon

Concurrent Manager Won't Start After Applying ATG_PF.H Rollup 3

If, after applying patch 4334965 - 11i.ATG_PF.H RUP3, the concurrent managers won't startup if GSM is enabled (which it should be), you may notice errors similar to the following in the log files:

```
usdsop: exec failed during spawn": No such file or directory
```

If you use port 80, you may have problem running auto config and the httpd.conf file because you need to specify the IP address before the port. Also, before running autoconfig again the template needs to be modified. The fix was just released (patch 5043234), see MetaLink note 358417.1 for more info.

Jeff Holt, Solution Beacon

HRMS Family and Minipacks Applications Releases

Please visit the Upgrade SIG website for Oracle's October 2005 presentation on HRMS Family and Minipacks Applications Point Releases and Desupport Information and release schedules:

<http://upgdsig.oaug.org/index.shtml>

The presentation is 4 months old, so some of the dates have changed. Specifically, the Rollup patch is expected to ship 2nd half of May. In addition, Oracle maintains a page on MetaLink. See MetaLink note 135266.1. This page is specifically designed to advise customers of any forthcoming patches or known issues with patches.

John Stouffer, Solution Beacon

New Login Page

Effective with recent TXK/ADX patches, the old "index.html" page that Release 11i has had for years is replaced with a new (and much "prettier") index.jsp. This index.jsp is sometimes broken in that, under some versions, the box on the right that contains the "Login Links" for "E-Business Suite" actually contains no links.

The old "index.html" is still available (<http://host:port/index.html>).

Note 345106.1 describes the bug (#4722784) and how to adjust a new variable in autoconfig to re-enable the old index.html page. This bug is supposed to be fixed with patch 4526520 (TXK.RUP.M) which is currently expected during March of 2006.

James Morrow, Solution Beacon

INSTALL_GROUP_NUM Causes Multiple Problems In Upgrading to Release 11.5.10.2

Earlier FND patches are setting the install_group_num in fnd_oracle_userid to 0 for APPS. It should be set to 1. This is an artifact back from the old days prior to multi-org. It is unknown at this time why this value is being reset to zero, but it will cause multiple problems if not corrected. Some of the errors observed to date as a result of this problem include:

- Failure of family Pack G
- Multiple scripts failures in 11.5.9 and 11.5.10 upgrades
- Failure of the Defaulting Generator Concurrent program which will subsequently cause the order entry form to display multiple errors preventing entry of orders

Resolution:

```
update fnd_oracle_userid
set install_group_num=1
where oracle_username = 'APPS';
commit;
```

References: MetaLink notes 4113255, 1019342.6

Susan Behn, Solution Beacon

OAUG: Events in the News

OAUG Introduces Skills Marketplace!

The OAUG is proud to announce the OAUG Skills Marketplace. This outstanding application, which was created in response to a referendum passed by OAUG members in October 2005, is a new offering that allows for hiring authorities to post job openings, while providing a mechanism for job seekers to post résumés.

The OAUG Skills Marketplace is already proving to be extremely popular and well-received. In fact, since the application was launched mid-February, approximately 260 résumés and over 55 job openings have been posted!

The OAUG Skills Marketplace offers many unique benefits and features to both employers and job seekers alike. To experience and learn more about the OAUG Skills Marketplace today, please visit the Skills Marketplace home page on the OAUG Web site at www.oaug.org/skillsmarketplace.

COLLABORATE 06: Technology and Applications Forum for the Oracle Community

The OAUG invites the family of Oracle Applications users to attend COLLABORATE 06: Technology and Applications Forum for the Oracle Community, April 23-27, 2006, at the Gaylord Opryland Resort in Nashville, Tennessee.

In 2006, the Independent Oracle Users Group (IOUG) (formerly International Oracle Users Group), the Oracle Applications Users Group (OAUG) and Quest International Users Group (Quest) are leveraging their collective strengths to host a leading technology and applications forum for the Oracle community.

Conference registration is now available and early-bird rates are only available until March 21, 2006.

To register for the conference, visit the OAUG COLLABORATE 06 conference Web site at www.oaug.collaborate06.com.

Robin Dahlen for Meeting Expectations

Upcoming Solution Beacon Events

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
The Road to Nashville SM Workshops, <i>Oracle Applications Release 11i Workflow Setup</i> , Karen Brownfield	March 3, 2006	Boston, MA
The Road to Nashville SM Workshops, <i>Rapid Migration in Release 11i</i> , John Stouffer	March 3, 2006	Boston, MA

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The Road to Nashville SM Workshops, <i>Fusion Middleware</i> , Paul Cyphers	March 3, 2006	Boston, MA
The Road to Nashville SM Workshops, <i>Oracle E-Business Suite Release 11i RAC and LINUX</i> , John Stouffer	March 3, 2006	Boston, MA
The Road to Nashville SM Workshops, <i>Oracle E-Business Suite Release 11i Care and Feeding</i> , John Stouffer	March 3, 2006	Boston, MA
The Road to Nashville SM Workshops, <i>Oracle Application Management Tools</i> , Paul Cyphers	March 3, 2006	Boston, MA
The Road to Nashville SM Workshops, <i>Business Process Execution Language (BEL) Wave to the Future</i> , Paul Cyphers	March 3, 2006	Boston, MA
The Road to Nashville SM Workshops, <i>Oracle Applications Release 11i Release 11.5.10 Financials New Features</i> , Paul Cyphers and Karen Brownfield	March 3, 2006	Boston, MA
OAUG Training Tuesday eLearning – <i>Release 11i Apps DBA</i> , John Stouffer, Solution Beacon	March 7, 2006	Webcast
The Road to Nashville SM Workshops, <i>Oracle Applications Release 11i Workflow Setup</i> , Karen Brownfield	March 17, 2006	Atlanta, GA
The Road to Nashville SM Workshops, <i>Rapid Migration in Release 11i</i> , John Stouffer	March 17, 2006	Atlanta, GA
The Road to Nashville SM Workshops, <i>Fusion Middleware</i> , Paul Cyphers	March 17, 2006	Atlanta, GA
The Road to Nashville SM Workshops, <i>Oracle E-Business Suite Release 11i RAC and LINUX</i> , John Stouffer	March 17, 2006	Atlanta, GA
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The Road to Nashville SM Workshops, <i>Oracle Applications Release 11i Release 11.5.10 Financials New Features</i> , Paul Cyphers and Karen Brownfield	March 17, 2006	Atlanta, GA
SROAUG Meeting – <i>Release 11i Apps DBA 101</i> , John Stouffer	March 24, 2006	Los Angeles, CA
SROAUG Meeting – <i>National Institutes of Health Custom.pll: Multi Developer Methodology and Use</i> , Susan Behn	March 24, 2006	Los Angeles, CA
The Road to Nashville SM Workshops, <i>Oracle Applications Release 11i Workflow Setup</i> , Karen Brownfield	March 31, 2006	Dallas, TX
The Road to Nashville SM Workshops, <i>Rapid Migration in Release 11i</i> , John Stouffer	March 31, 2006	Dallas, TX
The Road to Nashville SM Workshops, <i>Fusion Middleware</i> , Paul Cyphers	March 31, 2006	Dallas, TX
The Road to Nashville SM Workshops, <i>Oracle E-Business Suite Release 11i RAC and LINUX</i> , John Stouffer	March 31, 2006	Dallas, TX
The Road to Nashville SM Workshops, <i>Oracle E-Business Suite Release 11i Care and Feeding</i> , John Stouffer	March 31, 2006	Dallas, TX
The Road to Nashville SM Workshops, <i>Oracle Application Management Tools</i> , Paul Cyphers	March 31, 2006	Dallas, TX
The Road to Nashville SM Workshops, <i>Business Process Execution</i>	March 31, 2006	Dallas, TX

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<i>Language (BEL) Wave to the Future, Paul Cyphers</i>		
The Road to Nashville SM Workshops, <i>Oracle Applications Release 11i Release 11.5.10 Financials New Features</i> , Paul Cyphers and Karen Brownfield	March 31, 2006	Dallas, TX
COLLABORATE 06: Technology and Applications Forum for the Oracle Community	April 23-27, 2006	Nashville, TN
COLLABORATE 06 – Training Session: <i>ABCs of Workflow – Setup and Administration</i> , Susan Behn, Solution Beacon	April 23-27, 2006	Nashville, TN
COLLABORATE 06 – Training Session: <i>Care and Feeding of Workflow</i> , Karen Brownfield, Solution Beacon	April 23-27, 2006	Nashville, TN
COLLABORATE 06 – Training Session: <i>Personalizations and Other Techniques to Give Your Self-Service Applications a Custom Look and Feel</i> , Don Driggs, Solution Beacon	April 23-27, 2006	Nashville, TN
COLLABORATE 06 – Presentation: <i>Secrets of the Account Generator</i> , Tim Sharpe and Karen Brownfield, Solution Beacon	April 23-27, 2006	Nashville, TN
COLLABORATE 06 – Presentation: <i>ABCs of Workflow – Business Events Essentials</i> , Karen Brownfield, Solution Beacon	April 23-27, 2006	Nashville, TN
COLLABORATE 06 – Presentation: <i>Care and Feeding of Release 11i – Installation, Administration and Maintenance</i> , John Stouffer, Solution Beacon	April 23-27, 2006	Nashville, TN
COLLABORATE 06 – Presentation: <i>30 Minute Release 11i Security – Keeping the Bad Guys Away</i> , Kevin Sheehan, Unisys and Randy Giefer, Solution Beacon	April 23-27, 2006	Nashville, TN
COLLABORATE 06 – Presentation: <i>Understanding, Controlling and Reconciling the Purchasing Accrual Account</i> , Tammi Obermeyer, AISIN USA and Don Driggs, Solution Beacon	April 23-27, 2006	Nashville, TN
COLLABORATE 06 – Panel: <i>Best Practices for Securing the Oracle E-Business Suite</i> , Randy Giefer, Panel Moderator, Solution Beacon	April 23-27, 2006	Nashville, TN
COLLABORATE 06 – Panel: <i>Release 11i Upgrades</i> , Randy Giefer, Panel Participant, Solution Beacon	April 23-27, 2006	Nashville, TN
Arizona OAUG Meeting – <i>Release 11i Apps DBA</i> , John Stouffer	May 17, 2006	Phoenix, AZ
Ohio Valley OAUG Meeting – <i>Secrets of the Accounts Generator</i> , Karen Brownfield	May 24, 2006	Cincinnati, OH
ODTUG Kaleidoscope 2006, <i>ABCs of Workflow – Setup and Administration</i> , Susan Behn	June 17-21, 2006	Washington D.C.

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