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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 customers. 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 them via email to mweiss@solutionbeacon.com.

Prior editions of the Solution Beacon Newsletters are available for review at:

http://www.solutionbeacon.com/tools_newsletters.htm

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

Ask the SB Experts

Question: On Release 11.5.10.2 applications running in conjunction with RDBMS version 10gR2, should "Gather Statistics" still use full compute rather than estimate statistics? Also, should we enable RDBMS 10gR2's automatic database gather statistic, or should we only use the Applications "Gather Statistic" concurrent request?

Answer: Applications statistics for all schemas using `fnl_stats` must be used and are required per MetaLink Doc ID: 368252.1, "Collecting Statistics with Oracle Apps 11i", which is the definitive document for Release 11i statistics. Make sure all Applications schemas are gathered (compute if you can but, for large databases > 200GB, use estimate at 20 or 30 percent if you can). We have seen significant performance gains in greater estimate percentages in Oracle RDBMS versions Oracle9i and 10g. Remember, any percentage greater than 50% (e.g. 51) forces a compute. You can and should run database statistics for non-Applications and custom schemas, since histograms don't apply to them. This requirement is for all 11i releases. Also – make sure you are at patch level FND.G or that patch 2405219 has been applied to fix an issue with `fnl_stats`.

Question: How about SYS and SYSTEM, do we need to gather statistics for them in 10g, and if so, how often?

Answer: In RDBMS version 10g, you must gather statistics for the SYS and SYSTEM accounts. In RDBMS version Oracle9i, it's supported but not necessary. In RDBMS Oracle8i, you should never gather statistics for the SYS or SYSTEM accounts. See MetaLink Doc ID: 368252.1 for detailed syntax. As far as frequency goes, we'd recommend that you go with weekly and monitor to see if it can be monthly.



Question: What are the security implications of setting Utilities:Diagnostic to 'Yes' as suggested in the newsletter article on Forms Tracing in the previous edition?

Answer: For security reasons, never set this profile option to 'Yes' in production at any level. This would give a user the ability to make changes through Help → Diagnostics → Examine or Help → Diagnostics → Custom Code → Personalization and could be extremely dangerous. Additionally, it would not pass an IT or SOX audit. This production environment limitation was "assumed" in the article, but not clearly stated so we apologize for any confusion.

Question: Have any of you implemented "case-sensitivity" for 11i passwords (through the "Password Case Option" profile, delivered in ATG_PF.H RUP3). My question is, when you "flip the switch", what happens to existing passwords? Are they, by default, assumed to be upper case?

Answer: We tested the case sensitivity profile option against our 11.5.10.2 Vision instances, one that was patched to RUP3 and one that was patched to RUP4. On the instance with RUP4 applied, when you set 'Signon Password Case' to 'Sensitive' the existing passwords were unaffected – the profile option rule is only enforced when setting/changing a password and storing it in the database, not when logging on. We had problems logging back in after changing the profile option on our RUP3 instance and strongly recommend that customers not change the profile option if you are still running RUP3.

The Senior Consultants at Solution Beacon, LLC

Fusion: OpenWorld Schedule

There are several interesting sessions about Fusion Applications and middleware taking place at this year's Oracle OpenWorld. Some of the sessions that you might want to consider attending include:

<u>ID</u>	<u>Session Title</u>	<u>Speakers</u>	<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Room</u>
S283376	OAUG Fusion CRM User Group Meeting		Sunday Oct-22-06 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Hilton Hotel Lombard Hilton
S285127	IOUC Fusion Profiling Initiative	Debra Lilley, UKOUG	Sunday Oct-22-06 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM	Hilton Hotel Mason A&B Hilton
S284734	Overview of Oracle's approach to Business Process Modeling for Fusion	Pat Krebs, Oracle	Sunday Oct-22-06 3:30 PM – 4:45 PM	Hilton Hotel Franciscan Room C Hilton
S284985	User Group Fusion Channel – 2006 Update	Debra Lilley, UKOUG	Sunday Oct-22-06 3:30 PM – 4:45 PM	Hilton Hotel Union Square Room 21
S281377	Technology Directions for Oracle Applications	Cliff Godwin, Oracle	Monday Oct-23-06 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Moscone South 103 South

Release 11i Newsletter – All About Fusion



October 2006 – Oracle OpenWorld Special Edition

Volume 43

Real Solutions for the Real World ®

S281487	Building Your Upgrade Road Map	Aaron Green, Oracle; Tracy Martin, Oracle; Michael Kunst, Pfizer; James Riley, Pfizer	Monday Oct-23-06 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Moscone West 3009 & 3011 West
S281897	Achieving Greater Business Insight with Oracle Analytic Applications: Vision and Overview	Lynn Christensen, Oracle	Monday Oct-23-06 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Moscone West 2009 2011 West
S283086	Enterprise Agility Through SOA	Jim Maynard, CherryRoad Technologies Inc.	Monday Oct-23-06 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Moscone West 2010 West
S283495	Capgemini CxO Fusion Experience: Road Map to Oracle Fusion	Suzanne Larabie, Capgemini; Steven Palmer, Capgemini; Balt Leenman, Capgemini	Monday Oct-23-06 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Moscone West 3004 West
S281378	Building Tomorrow Today: Oracle's Experience in Adopting Oracle Fusion Architecture and Building Service-Oriented Applications	Michael Ni, Oracle	Monday Oct-23-06 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Moscone West 2009 2011 West
S284701	Understanding Fusion Applications: What Every Customer Needs to Know	Jesper Andersen, Oracle	Monday Oct-23-06 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Moscone South 309 South
S281745	Oracle E-Business Suite Financials Trends and Road Map	Folia Grace, Oracle; Chris Leone, Oracle; Rondy Ng, Oracle	Monday Oct-23-06 3:15 PM – 4:15 PM	Moscone West 3009 & 3011 West
S282334	How Oracle Can Enable You to Respond to 21st-Century Manufacturing Challenges Today and in Oracle Fusion: A Customer Case Study	Manish Modi, Oracle; Mark Spohr, Tecumseh Products Company	Monday Oct-23-06 3:15 PM – 4:15 PM	Moscone West 2022 West
S282353	Deploying Oracle Product Information Management Data Hub: Deployment Scenarios, Integration Approaches, and the Role of Product Data Quality and Oracle Fusion Middleware Components	Vish Gaitonde, Oracle; Manoj Das, Oracle; Martin Boyd, SilverCreek Systems, Inc.	Monday Oct-23-06 4:45 PM – 5:45 PM	Moscone West 3024 West
S284132	Quest Fusion Council		Tuesday Oct-24-06 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Hilton Hotel Union Square Room 4 Hilton
S281598	Oracle Fusion Customer Relationship Management: A Next- Generation Application	Rich Reimer, Oracle	Tuesday Oct-24-06 10:45 AM – 11:45 AM	Moscone West 3010 & 3012 West
S281650	PeopleSoft Enterprise Customers: 10 Things You Can Do Now to Prepare for Oracle Fusion Applications	Michael Ni, Oracle; Erik Staubo, Oracle	Tuesday Oct-24-06 10:45 AM – 11:45 AM	Moscone West 2009 2011 West
S281651	Oracle E-Business Suite Customers: 10 Things You Can Do Now to Prepare for Oracle Fusion Applications	Nadia Bendjedou, Oracle	Tuesday Oct-24-06 10:45 AM – 11:45 AM	Moscone West 2010 West

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S281652	Oracle Fusion Applications User Experience	Killian Evers, Oracle; Jeremy Ashley, Oracle	Tuesday Oct-24-06 10:45 AM – 11:45 AM	Moscone West 2007 West
S282075	Siebel Customers: 10 Things You Can Do Now to Prepare for Oracle Fusion Applications	Francisco Casas, Oracle	Tuesday Oct-24-06 10:45 AM – 11:45 AM	Moscone West 2004 West
S280814	Oracle E-Business Suite Technology Updates	Lisa Parekh, Oracle	Tuesday Oct-24-06 12:15 PM – 1:15 PM	Moscone West 2009 2011 West
S281430	PeopleTools New Features and Road Map	Jeff Robbins, Oracle	Tuesday Oct-24-06 12:15 PM – 1:15 PM	Moscone West 2006 West
S282510	PeopleSoft Enterprise CRM for Communications: Release 9.0 Leverages Oracle Fusion Middleware and Web Services to Drive Increased Efficiency Across Ordering and Service	Dan Byrnes, Oracle; Philippe Benaben, France Telecom	Tuesday Oct-24-06 12:15 PM – 1:15 PM	Moscone West 3009 & 3011 West
S281431	Oracle Fusion Middleware for PeopleSoft Enterprise	Jeff Robbins, Oracle	Tuesday Oct-24-06 1:45 PM – 2:45 PM	Moscone West 2006 West
S281939	Oracle@Oracle (IT): Oracle IT's Implementation Best Practices for Siebel and Oracle Fusion Middleware Across Oracle Support Organizations to Unify Processes, Cut Costs, and Improve Customer Experience	Mark Sunday, Oracle; Cyndi Hause, Oracle; Mark Sherman, Oracle	Tuesday Oct-24-06 1:45 PM – 2:45 PM	Moscone West 3010 & 3012 West
S281954	Siebel Sales Suite 8.0 Overview and Road Map	Steve Fioretti, Oracle; Farsheed Tari, Oracle	Tuesday Oct-24-06 1:45 PM – 2:45 PM	Moscone West 3009 & 3011 West
S281996	Oracle Fusion Middleware for Siebel Enterprise	Dipock Das, Oracle	Tuesday Oct-24-06 1:45 PM – 2:45 PM	Moscone West 2004 West
S283111	Oracle Customer Data Hub Real-Life Experiences	Joseph Tseng, Optimum Solutions Group, LLC	Tuesday Oct-24-06 1:45 PM – 2:45 PM	Marriott Hotel Salon 4 Marriott
S281432	Oracle Fusion Middleware and PeopleSoft Enterprise: A Customer Perspective	Jeff Robbins, Oracle; Aaron De Los Reyes, Cognizant Technology Solutions; Ashishb Jaikaria, Cognizant Technology Solutions	Tuesday Oct-24-06 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM	Moscone West 2009 2011 West
S281900	Oracle Analytic Applications Road Map	Chris Leone, Oracle	Tuesday Oct-24-06 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM	Moscone West 3002 West
S282316	Understanding the Value of Oracle Fusion for Financial Applications	Steve Miranda, Oracle; Folia Grace, Oracle; Ludo Vandervelden, Toyota Motor Europe	Wednesday Oct-25-06 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Marriott Hotel Salon 7 Marriott



S281795	Instant Value with Best-of-Breed Integrated Solutions	Aseem Chandra, Oracle	Wednesday Oct-25-06 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Moscone West 3020 West
S281463	Oracle Fusion Development Methodology: A PeopleSoft Enterprise Perspective on Oracle Application Development Framework	Regis Louis, Oracle; David Bain, Oracle	Thursday Oct-26-06 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Moscone West 2009 2011 West
S282055	Fusion Analytics Architecture: Spend Analyzer as a Case Study	Lynn Christensen, Oracle; Bart Stoehr, Oracle	Thursday Oct-26-06 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Moscone West 3003 West
S283007	Fusion Technology in PeopleSoft SCM and SRM Products	Melina Van Winkle, Oracle; William Reynolds, Oracle	Thursday Oct-26-06 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Moscone West 3001 West
S281457	Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) Applications for PeopleSoft Enterprise	Peter Bergmann, Oracle	Thursday Oct-26-06 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Moscone West 2007 West
S282318	Oracle Fusion Business Process Models	Pat Krebs, Oracle; Joe Gum, Oracle; Olaf Geyer, IDS Scheer	Thursday Oct-26-06 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Marriott Hotel Salon 9 Marriott
S281491	Oracle Fusion Technology Direction	Humair Ghauri, Oracle; Andre Ohl, Oracle	Thursday Oct-26-06 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	Moscone West 3010 & 3012 West

Floyd Teter, Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Fusion Applications Channel Session at OpenWorld

Please plan on attending the combined user group session covering the Oracle Fusion Applications. Below is the proposed agenda for the **Fusion Applications Channel Session**, to be held on Sunday, October 22 in Union Square 21 in the San Francisco Hilton from 3:30pm–5:00pm:

TOPIC	SPEAKER	TIME
Product Development Council/IOUC Update	Debra Lilley	20 minutes
EOUC Update	Debra Lilley	5 minutes
Independent Oracle Users Group	TBD	10 minutes
Oracle Applications User Group Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OAUG Fusion Council • Profiling Project • Release 12 • OpenWorld Fusion Sessions 	Steven Hughes/John Stouffer	10 minutes
Quest International Users Group Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quest Fusion Council • Profiling Project • JD Edwards Upgrade Fusion Council • Business Process 	Mark Federle	10 minutes



Fusion Applications Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Where Oracle is today with Fusion Applications• Answers Previously Submitted Questions	Jesper Andersen	20 minutes
Open Floor for Q&A		15 minutes

Stay current with OAUG Fusion Council activities at <http://oaug.org/resources/fusioncouncil/index.html>.

John Stouffer, Solution Beacon

Another Fusion Perspective

Bill Swanton, from AMR Research, provides an interesting take on where Fusion is going in his article “ERP Suites and SOA: The Emperor’s Old Clothes”.

You can find it at

http://www.amrresearch.com/Content/Search_Results.asp?N=0&Ntk=All&Ntt=Emperor's%20Old%20Clothes&Ntx=mode+matchallpartial&Nty=1

John Stouffer, Solution Beacon

Oracle E-Business Suite R12 Product Demos

In early October 2006, Oracle will make available a series of recorded product demonstrations of E-Business Suite R12 applications. Program participants will have the opportunity to view pre-recorded demonstrations of key features and functionality in Release 12. The demonstrations will be conducted by an Oracle Applications product manager (or product strategist) who has a deep understanding of the specific product being demonstrated. Participants will view the demo remotely, at their convenience. Program participants will be encouraged to complete a post-demo survey designed to gather customer feedback.

The registration for this program ended on September 8, 2006. Customers who did not enroll in the program will be able to view similar demonstrations at Oracle OpenWorld. Oracle plans to make the R12 product demonstrations available to a broader audience after R12 is generally available.

More information on the E-Business Suite R12 demonstration program (PDF file), including detailed descriptions for each demo, is available on the OAUG Web site. Information regarding Web demo access instructions will be sent directly to enrolled program participants.

OAUG

Call for Presentations for OAUG Collaborate 2007

The OAUG Call for Presentations for COLLABORATE 07, April 15–19, 2007, at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, is now open. The OAUG seeks presentations for consideration on all Oracle Applications, including Oracle E-Business Suite, PeopleSoft, Siebel, Oracle Retail and Portal Software, as well as applications technology. The deadline for submissions is November 19, 2006. Accepted presenters will be notified by the OAUG on January 8, 2007.

Please visit the following link for additional information and to submit your presentations:

<http://oaug.org/conferencesandeducation/conferences/2007/collaborate07/mail/2006-09-06callforpresentations.htm>

If you have questions about the presentation submission process, please contact OAUG conference management at +1 404.240.0897 or speakerprograms@oaug.com. We appreciate your participation in the presentation submission process!

OAUG

Application Technology Group (ATG) Rollups

Introduction

The following summarizes the requirements and describes the two most recent RUP patches; RUP3 and RUP4. The article starts with overview information on each ATG RUP taken from its respective MetaLink document (MetaLink Doc ID: 337274.1 and 365228.1). The third section describes Oracle's ATG RUP approach.

ATG RUP #3

Oracle Applications Technology 11i.ATG_PF.H Rollup 3 is cumulative, in that everything found in the Oracle Applications Technology 11i.ATG_PF.H Updates for Cumulative Update 2 (CU2, patch 4125550) is also included in Rollup 3. For more information on Oracle Applications Technology 11i.ATG_PF.H Updates for CU2, see MetaLink Doc ID: 312572.1, "About Oracle Applications Technology 11i.ATG_PF.H CU2."

Oracle Applications Technology ATG_PF.H RUP3 can be applied only to an existing Oracle Applications Release 11i system running Oracle Applications Technology Family Pack 11i.ATG_PF.H, which is included in Oracle Applications Release 11.5.10. If you are not already running Release 11.5.10, you must first install the Oracle E-Business Suite 11.5.10, or patch up to Applications Technology Family Pack 11i.ATG_PF.H (3438354). Refer to "Installing Oracle Applications, Release 11i" or "Upgrading Oracle Applications, Release 11i" and "Oracle Applications Release Notes, Release 11i."



To save upgrade time, you may merge Applications Technology Family Pack 11i.ATG_PF.H (3438354) and 11i.ATG_PF.H Rollup 3 (RUP3) (4334965) and apply. If you plan to merge and apply, make sure that all required pre-requisite patches are applied before you apply the merged patch.

ATG RUP #4

Oracle Applications Technology 11i.ATG_PF.H Rollup 4 is cumulative, in that everything found in the Oracle Applications Technology 11i.ATG_PF.H Rollup 3 (patch 4334965) is also included in Rollup 4.

Additionally, Oracle Applications Technology 11i.ATG_PF.H Rollup 4 contains all Oracle Applications Technology security fixes from the January 2005 Critical Patch Update (CPUJan2005) through the July 2006 Critical Patch Update (CPUJul2006), as well as from the previous security alerts, except for the following Oracle Applications Technology security fixes that must also be applied:

- * Patch 3904641 <<http://updates.oracle.com/download/3904641.html>> (FND)
- * Patch 3417698 <<http://updates.oracle.com/download/3417698.html>> (BNE)
- * Patch 5021981 <<http://updates.oracle.com/download/5021981.html>> (SSO)

Oracle Applications Technology 11i.ATG_PF.H RUP4 can be applied only to an existing Oracle Applications Release 11i system running Oracle Applications Technology Family Pack 11i.ATG_PF.H, which is included in Oracle Applications Release 11.5.10. If you do not already have a running Release 11.5.10 system, then you must first install the Oracle E-Business Suite 11.5.10 or patch up to Applications Technology Family Pack 11i.ATG_PF.H (3438354). Refer to “Installing Oracle Applications, Release 11i” or “Upgrading Oracle Applications, Release 11i” and “Oracle Applications Release Notes, Release 11i”.

To save upgrade time, you may merge Applications Technology Family Pack 11i.ATG_PF.H (3438354) and 11i.ATG_PF.H Rollup 4 (RUP4) (4676589) and apply. If you plan to merge, make sure that all required pre-install steps and pre-requisite patches are applied before you apply the merged patch.

Subject: Oracle ATG Newsletters, MetaLink Doc ID: 378287.1 and 387436.1 – the RUP FAQ Section

The following is from MetaLink Doc ID: 387436.1, “Oracle ATG Newsletter – August 2006, Volume 2”:

The construction and testing of ATG RUP patches benefit from the RUP (roll up patch) approach which involves heavy testing and release of a patch that has been used by many in the Oracle community, allowing customers to benefit from “collective wisdom”.

RUPs are only produced about twice a year. A one-off patch attempts to address serious defects, but involves choosing a baseline code level (such as one of the ATG RUPs) and then defining a small patch that includes the fixed files plus any other files necessary to satisfy code dependencies. This code dependency analysis can be hard to do if the fixed files have changed significantly relative to the baseline, and at some point it becomes necessary to set limits on the earliest code level against which one-off patches will be produced. One-off patches have the advantage of being small, but do not go



through Applications product team certification or exhaustive regression testing, and are therefore not recommended for general uptake if that same fix is also available in a RUP.

The ATG Minimum Patching Baseline defines the earliest code level against which we will develop a new one-off patch. The purpose of defining a minimum patching baseline is to keep the code-dependency analysis problem manageable and keep the number of expected testing combinations reasonable. As time passes and new RUPs are released, Oracle will advance the minimum patching baseline. The new policy is that Oracle will support the Current and Previous production Rollups (RUP N and RUP N-1) as baselines for general one-off patching. For example: since ATG RUP 4 was released on August 4 2006, ATG RUP 3 is the minimum patch baseline and ATG RUP 4 is the default patching baseline (with some lag-time to allow for uptake of RUP 4).

Please note that the minimum patching baseline only affects the production of new ATG patches. All existing patches that were released for issues on earlier baselines will remain available for customer download. Earlier code levels are fully supported, in that Support and ATG Development will analyze any reported issues, even from earlier ATG code levels. But if the resolution to a reported issue requires the creation of a new one-off patch, then that patch will have a dependency on at least the minimum patching baseline.

The baseline policy does not affect whether you are considered supported. Support and ATG Development will investigate all reported issues. The baseline policy only affects the development of new patches. If you are not on the ATG minimum patching baseline and require an emergency fix against your code level, it might be possible to produce a backport for you, but this will require a backport request, with business impact analysis provided by the customer.

Anyone not currently on the ATG Minimum Patching Baseline (RUP 3) is advised to make plans to update to ATG RUP 4 by the end of this calendar year. ATG RUP 3 is the minimum baseline, but if you need to upgrade you might as well move directly to RUP 4. You should NOT wait for a reason to move to RUP 4; staying current with ATG RUPs should be a regular planned activity, even if a system appears to be running fine. The RUPs contain a number of performance, stability, functional, and security fixes that are not available through any other mechanism, and in any case it is better to move to ATG RUPs under controlled conditions, rather than as a side effect requirement from applying some other change.

Existing patches and technology certifications that were tested against earlier ATG code level will remain valid options. For example, the 10gR2 database certification requires 11.5.10 CU2, and this fact is not changed by the new ATG baseline. Similarly, all existing product and ATG patches that work against earlier code levels remain available. The baseline policy only affects production and testing of new patches. Patches from ATG.RUP 4 will work on 11.5.9 and earlier with some caveats. Oracle's goal with ATG RUPs is to release all known defect fixes while maintaining 100% backward compatibility with existing applications product code (which we understand can be more difficult to upgrade than technology code). ATG RUPs are in fact the only patches from ATG that go through a full backward compatibility certification program by all Applications product families. Any behavior change at the technology layer carries some risk of causing an unintended side-effect at the application product level, and we find and correct most such issues during RUP certification. But in some cases an incompatible ATG change must remain in effect for security or stability reasons or is discovered too late.

Incompatible changes at the ATG level may require a small "co-requisite" patch for affected application products to continue operating as normal. Make sure to read the "About" document for the ATG RUP carefully to find the latest news on known co-requisite patches for Applications products.

Kevin Dahl, Solution Beacon

E-Business Suite Oct2006 CPU

Introduction

Oracle has made available on its MetaLink Support site several Notes and Alerts that describe the current and near future patching requirements that will have an impact on the ability for customers to properly secure their Oracle E-Business Suite (EBS) Release 11i.

Specifically, this article outlines the significant software pre-requisites for the upcoming October 2006 Critical Patch Update (CPU) that, due to their significance, may prevent the customer's ability to apply the security patches in a timely manner.

For more information about the CPU, see MetaLink Doc ID: 372931.1, "E-Business Suite Critical Patch Update". Additional MetaLink documents that provide related and supporting information:

- ◆ Rebaselined Oracle Applications Technology Components for Releases 11.5.7, 11.5.8, 11.5.9, and 11.5.10 (MetaLink Doc ID: 363827.1)
- ◆ Oracle ATG Newsletter – August 2006, Volume 2 (MetaLink Doc ID: 387436.1)

Critical Patch Update – Background

A Critical Patch Update (CPU) is a collection of patches for multiple security vulnerabilities. It can also include non-security fixes that are required (because of interdependencies) by the security patches. Oracle has provided these bundled security patches in the form of a CPU on a quarterly basis since January, 2005. These CPU patch bundles can consist of a combination of one-off patches, multiple patches and multi-patches, and product upgrades.

E-Business Suite Critical Patch Update Note (372931.1)

With the upcoming October CPU patch bundle (due for release on 10/17), Oracle is adding a significant software pre-requisite that needs to be in place before the CPU can be applied. Specifically, the following two pre-requisite statements are applicable to **11.5.10** customers:

- ◆ For the October 2006 Critical Patch Update (CPUOct2006), the minimum supported baseline for Oracle E-Business Suite Release 11.5.10.x will be Oracle Applications Technology 11i.ATG_PF.H **RUP3** (4334965).
- ◆ The 11.5.10 CU2 for ATG Product Family will **not** be a supported baseline for CPUOct2006.

The minimum supported baseline for all other 11i releases, including 11.5.7, 11.5.8, and 11.5.9, will remain at the patch levels listed in Oracle MetaLink Doc ID: 363827.1.



CPU Pre-Requisite Assessment

Currently, RUP2 is the minimum requirement for the CPU for customers using the 11.5.10 CU2 release of the Oracle Applications Technology (ATG) Product family (11i.ATG_PF.H RUP2). However, the next rollup release of ATG (RUP4) is also available. Oracle recommends that all Release 11i customers upgrade to 11i.ATG_PF.H Rollup 4 (4676589).

CPU Pre-Requisite Impact

The Oracle Applications Technology (ATG) Product family rollup (RUP) patches are typically not minor or simple patches. Oracle releases RUPs approximately twice a year, so each RUP represents about six months of performance, stability, functional and security fixes that are not available through another mechanism. Therefore, the patch application and testing efforts are usually significant, so the effort and impact to apply and test the pre-requisite software with the CPU patch(s) is rated as HIGH.

CPU Analysis and Risk Assessment

When Oracle Corporation releases any CPU, each customer should review the identified vulnerabilities defined in the CPU notes so an understanding of each threat can be obtained. At that point, the threat can be analyzed against the customer environment and system security controls, the target architecture, and the product/feature usage to determine the threat applicability. Using this customer-specific input, a vulnerability rating (e.g. Low, Moderate, High, Very High) and an Impact Level (e.g. Minor, Noticeable, Severe, Devastating) can be assigned for each threat. A combination of the impact level of loss and the vulnerability rating can be used to evaluate the potential risk to the facility from a given threat. The table below serves as an example:

	Vulnerability to Threat Rating			
Impact Level	Very High	High	Moderate	Low
Devastating	Red	Red	Red	Yellow
Severe	Red	Red	Yellow	Green
Noticeable	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Green
Minor	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green

Using a table like the one above can help to prioritize the vulnerabilities and determine the order needed to implement countermeasures.

As more and more customers expose their E-Business Suite applications to the internet, the “exposure” of Oracle vulnerabilities will be significantly greater. Therefore, in these cases, it is more critical that the CPU Analysis → Vulnerability → Risk Assessment → Risk Mitigation and Countermeasure cycle be aggressively accelerated to protect the customer systems.

Solution Beacon Recommended Actions

For those customers on Release 11.5.10.2 and, because Oracle is now recommending that all customers implement RUP4 by 12/31, Solution Beacon highly recommends implementing ATG Family

Pack H RUP4 (not RUP3) as the pre-requisite patch for the October CPU. Since extensive regression testing will be required for the RUP4 upgrade, Solution Beacon recommends combining the RUP4 patch as well as the pending October CPU into a combined patch and testing effort to help minimize the testing cycles.

For those customers on other 11i releases, including 11.5.7, 11.5.8, and 11.5.9, review the patch levels listed in Oracle MetaLink Doc ID: 363827.1 to determine which, if any, patch pre-requisites need to be applied.

Conclusion

Solution Beacon recommends that customers plan for the quarterly updates for CPU patches and integrate plans to put these CPUs into your Release/Change Management and Planning processes. Check MetaLink Doc ID: 372931.1 for important ATG RUP N-1 considerations.

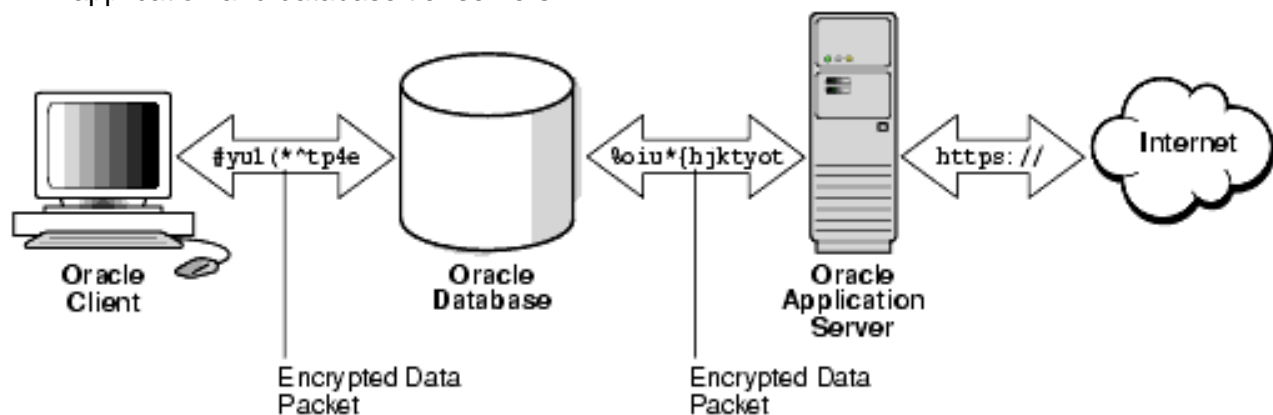
Beginning with the July 2007 Critical Patch Update (CPUJul2007), Oracle Applications Technology will support only the current and previous production ATG Family Pack rollups (RUP N and RUP N-1) as patching baselines for all 11i releases. Refer to MetaLink Doc ID: 372931.1 for important RUP N-1 considerations.

Randy Giefer, Solution Beacon

Advanced Security Option/Advanced Network Option

On its E-Business Suite blog and on MetaLink, Oracle recently released the following information about encrypting SQL*Net traffic flowing between Release 11i applications and the database servers.

- It's now possible to encrypt the SQL*Net traffic that flows between your E-Business Suite Release 11i application and database tier servers.



- This certification is delivered through an Oracle database feature called Oracle Advanced Security Option (ASO) – also referred to as Advanced Networking Option (ANO). The process involves installing an E-Business Suite Concurrent Manager patch and Oracle Advanced Networking, changing several configuration files, and then relinking your Applications executables.
- The minimum prerequisites for this configuration include: Oracle Applications 11.5.10 users with RUP3 or later (11i.ATG.PF.H RUP3 patch 4334965 or later)

- NOTE: HP-UX users cannot enable ANO/ASO until the resolution of bug 5398088. This bug prevents access to MOD PL/SQL from the \$IAS_ORACLE_HOME
- According to Oracle's E-Business Suite Performance Group, the overhead is approximately 5%, mainly due to an increase in round-trips and payload size as well as some trivial amount of packet processing when ASO is enabled
- The following is a high level description based on MetaLink Doc ID: 391248.1, "Encrypting EBS 11i Network Traffic using Advanced Security Option / Advanced Networking Option":
 - The note describes how to configure the E-Business Suite 11i to encrypt network traffic sent over the TNS protocol. The encryption is provided by the Advanced Networking Option (ANO) that is part of the Advanced Security Option (ASO) of the Oracle database. ANO/ASO encryption prevents sending TNS traffic "in-the-clear" over a network connection. Transparent Networking Substrate (TNS) is an Oracle protocol running on top of a number of supported network protocols – typically TCP/IP. Though the encryption of network traffic is a database option, implementing it in the E-Business Suite is complicated by the fact that a number of different versions of the Oracle database product are in use by the E-Business suite. In the Oracle E-Business Suite Release 11i the following database versions are used
 - The RDBMS Oracle home, versions 9i – 10g (9.2.0.x – 10.2.0.2)
 - The Tools Oracle home, version 8.0.6.3 (used by forms, reports, ccm, rpc)
 - The iAS Oracle home, version 8.1.7.4 (used by modplsqli)
 - The JDBC connector (used by servlets, jsp and java server processes)
 - Certification – This configuration is certified for Oracle Applications 11.5.10 users with RUP 3 or later (11i.ATG.PF.H RUP3 patch 4334965 or later) using Forms listener Servlet on the following platforms:
 - Linux-x86
 - Solaris-32
 - AIX4-32
 - Tru64
 - Windows-32
 - Again, please note that HP-UX users should NOT enable ANO/ASO until the resolution of bug 5398088. This bug prevents access to MOD PL/SQL from the \$IAS_ORACLE_HOME. Further information on setting up Servlet mode is available in MetaLink Doc ID: 201340.1, "Using Forms Listener Servlet with Oracle Applications 11i."
 - To implement encryption of EBS TNS network traffic, you must ensure that the ANO/ASO code is linked into the server and client side executables and you must enable the feature via the sqlnet.ora configuration file in the appropriate ORACLE_HOMES
 - The rest of the MetaLink document covers:
 - Installing & Enabling ANO Option in 8.0.6 Home
 - Must be installed on ALL 8.0.6 middle tiers.
 - Concurrent Manager network patch required.
 - Changes to Configuration Files (All Platforms)
 - Note that several configuration files are changed. Ensure the effects of autoconfig are tested at the end of the process to determine impact
 - Relink Applications (All Platforms)
 - Verifying the Installation
 - How to Enable Tracing
 - Verifying that ASO is Functioning Correctly – ASO is not free!

Kevin Dahl, Solution Beacon

Desupport Notices

Introduction

Oracle has three levels of lifetime support for their products. They subtitle the support “From Five Years to Forever”. The following is taken from these Oracle Support pages:

<http://www.oracle.com/support/premier/lifetime-support-policy.html>

<http://www.oracle.com/support/library/oracle-lifetime-support-policy-faq.pdf>

Desupport Information

The Lifetime Support Policy provides access to Oracle’s technical experts for as long as you license your Oracle products, and consists of three support stages:

1. Premier Support
2. Extended Support
3. Sustaining Support

Premier Support

Premier Support provides you with maintenance and support of your Oracle database, Oracle Fusion Middleware, and Oracle Applications for five years from their general availability date. You benefit from:

- Major product and technology releases
- Technical support
- Updates, fixes, security alerts, and critical patch updates
- Tax, legal, and regulatory updates
- Upgrade scripts
- Certification with new third-party products/versions
- Certification with new Oracle products

Extended Support

Extended Support lets you stay competitive, with the freedom to upgrade on your timetable. It provides you with an extra three years of support for specific Oracle releases **for an additional fee**. You benefit from:

- Major product and technology releases
- Technical support
- Updates, fixes, security alerts, and critical patch updates
- Tax, legal, and regulatory updates
- Upgrade scripts
- Certification with existing third-party products/versions
- Certification with new Oracle products



Extended Support may not include certification with new third-party products/versions.

Sustaining Support

Sustaining Support puts you in control of your upgrade strategy. With Sustaining Support, you will receive technical support, including access to Oracle’s online support tools, knowledgebases, and technical support experts. You benefit from:

- Major product and technology releases
- Technical support
- Access to Oracle MetaLink/PeopleSoft Customer Connection/Siebel SupportWeb
- Pre-existing fixes for your solution

Sustaining Support does not include:

- New updates, fixes, security alerts, and critical patch updates
- New tax, legal, and regulatory updates
- New upgrade scripts
- Certification with new third-party products/versions
- Certification with new Oracle products

This is the support schedule for major Oracle products:

11i E-Business Suite				
Release	GA Date	Premier Support Ends	Extended Support Ends	Sustaining Support Ends
11.0.3	Various	Feb 2007	Not Offered	Jan 2009
11i1-11i6	Various	Jul 2006	Not Offered	Jul 2007
11i7	May 2002	May 2007	Not Offered	Indefinite
11i8	Nov 2002	Nov 2007	Not Offered	Indefinite
11i9	Jun 2003	Jun 2008	Not Offered	Indefinite
11i10	Nov 2004	Nov 2009	Nov 2012	Indefinite

Existing Oracle Fusion Middleware Releases				
Release	GA Date	Premier Support Ends	Extended Support Ends	Sustaining Support Ends
9iAS R2 9.0.2	Apr-02	Jul-05	Not Offered	Jul-08
9iAS R2 9.0.3	Oct-02	Jul-05	Not Offered	Jul-08
10G 9.0.4	Dec-03	Dec-06	Dec-08	Dec-09
10GR2	Jan-Oct 2005	Dec-08	Dec-10	Indefinite

Existing Oracle Database Releases				
Release	GA Date	Premier Support Ends	Extended Support Ends	Sustaining Support Ends
DB 9.2	Jul-02	Jul-07	Jul-10	Indefinite
DB 10.1	Jan-04	Jan-09	Jan-12	Indefinite
DB 10.2	Jul-05	Jul-10	Jul-13	Indefinite



Internet facing Applications supported on 11.5.9 and 11.5.10 ONLY
See DMZ document 287176.1

The following tables include information taken from MetaLink because they are not specifically referenced in the hyperlinks on the previous page.

Oracle Discoverer for E-Business Suites Version 4.1.x
(MetaLink Doc ID: 337576.1)

Release	Error Correction Support Ends	Extended Support Ends
4.1.x	Oct-06	Oct-09

Per MetaLink Doc ID: 313418.1, you must be running Jinit 1.3. Jinit 1.1.8.x is not supported.

Oracle Internet Directory for E-Business Suite Version 3.0.1
(MetaLink Doc ID: 359876.1)

Release	Error Correction Support Ends	Extended Support Ends
3.0.1	Jul-07	Jul-10

Java with Oracle E-Business Suite Release 11i (MetaLink Doc ID: 300482.1)

Java Version	Minimum Version of E-Business Suite 11i	Java Upgrade Required on HTTP/CP Tier	Java Upgrade Required on Admin/AD Utilities Tier	Java Upgrade Required on Browser	Sun Microsystems EOL Date
J2SE 5.0	11.5.10 CU1	yes	Yes	yes	no EOL date yet
J2SE 1.4.2	11.5.9	yes	conditional (see note)	conditional (see note)	no EOL date yet
J2SE 1.3.1	any 11i	yes	Optional	optional	Late 2006

Given the impending de-support of J2SE 1.3 by Sun, Oracle strongly recommends that all E-Business Suite Release 11i customers upgrade their applications tiers to J2SE 5.0 (see Document 1 below) at their earliest convenience.

Kevin Dahl, Solution Beacon

Public E-Business Release 11i Vision Demo Instances Available at www.solutionbeacon.com

Oracle provides Vision Demo instances for the latest releases of E-Business Suite Release 11i that can be used for a number of useful purposes such as training, evaluation of new features, educational, etc. These instances are fully functional, preconfigured with setups and sample test data. After installation, they are immediately ready for use without any additional configuration steps required. However, due to the server overhead and disk requirements (a newly installed 11.5.10.2 Vision consumes 90GB of disk storage out of the box), some customers can't or won't install a Vision environment at their site. Enter Solution Beacon and the public Vision Demo instances!



Our environments are complete implementations of the Oracle Applications Release 11i Vision demonstration environment patched to certain levels. The environments are offered by Solution Beacon as a courtesy to all visitors. In order to maintain integrity of an environment, each user will be assigned an individual username and password for their own personal use. The assigned user will have the same responsibilities as the default operations user and no restrictions will be placed on the security and applications access for the new user.

To check out the available Release 11i instances, go to www.solutionbeacon.com and click on the “Free 11i Tools” tab, then click on “R11i Vision Instances”. Current Solution Beacon Release 11i Oracle Vision environments available are:

- 11.5.9 Vision – <http://sblc3.solutionbeacon.com/sbreguser.html>
- 11.5.10 Vision – <http://vis11510.solutionbeacon.com/sbreguser.html>
- 11.5.10.2 Vision – <http://vis11510ext5.solutionbeacon.net>

You can register online at www.solutionbeacon.com – Free 11i Tools – R11i Vision Instances or http://solutionbeacon.com/tools_vision.htm. To set up an account, you will need to provide your name and a valid email address.

There are no explicit or implied guarantees with regards to availability, performance or data retention with the Solution Beacon Vision Demo environments. We do not recommend using our public Vision environments to conduct training classes for large groups. Please contact Solution Beacon (send an email to r11ivision@solutionbeacon.com) if you have special needs.

Contact r11ivision@solutionbeacon.com for questions or issues.

South Central OAUG News

The South Central OAUG, serving Oracle users in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and parts of New Mexico, recently held its first full-day conference on September 25th, in Dallas, TX. With participation and support from OAUG, Oracle, and other user groups including the Fort-Worth area Peoplesoft group, SCOUG, DOUG (Dallas), and HOUG (Houston), it was truly a collaborative event! This event also served as the launching pad for the newly formed Texas Siebel SIG, as well as kicked off the first *Road to Las Vegassm* stop on the multi-city tour of 'The Features, Functions, and Future of Release 11i' workshop, jointly sponsored by OAUG and Solution Beacon.

Close to 300 folks participated and attended the event and were offered a broad agenda of over 40 presentation topics to choose from, including a Keynote Address, delivered by Lisa Schwartz of Oracle, which focused on ways you can protect and extend your Oracle investment. The exhibit hall showcased 25 exhibitors, all of which the SCO AUG extends a huge thanks to for helping to fund the event. Noetix, O2 Works, and AppWorx also deserve recognition for their various sponsorships.

Solution Beacon exhibited and presented the following topics at the SCO AUG event:

Discoverer and XML Publisher: Full Throttle Reporting, Tim Sharpe
Business Process Execution Language (BPEL) – Wave to the Future, Paul Cyphers



Forms Personalizations – New for 11.5.10, Susan Behn
 30 Minute Release 11i Security – Keeping the Bad Guys Away, Randy Giefer
 Data Obfuscation in Non-Production Environments, co-presented by John Stouffer
 Upgrading to Release 11.5.10.2 – A Case Study, co-presented by John Stouffer

We'd like to congratulate Barbara Chatron of National Instruments for winning Solution Beacon's \$50 American Express Gift Card giveaway!

And the Winner is...

Solution Beacon exhibited and Tim Sharpe presented "Discoverer and XML Publisher: Full Throttle Reporting" at the Ohio Valley OAUG on September 22nd in Louisville, KY. We'd like to congratulate Toni Sheets of E.ON for winning our \$50 American Express Gift Card giveaway!

Solution Beacon also exhibited and Paul Cyphers presented "Business Process Execution Language (BPEL) – Wave to the Future" at the Central States OAUG on September 27th in St. Louis, MO. We'd like to congratulate Datt Gazula of McCarthy Building Company for winning our \$50 American Express Gift Card giveaway!

Upcoming Solution Beacon Events

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
KCOUG – AutoConfig, Rapid Clone, and Why is the Sky Blue? – <i>James Morrow</i>	October 11, 2006	Overland Park, KS
NEOAUG – Exhibiting and presenting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Internet Expenses to Manage Your Procurement Card Transactions – <i>Don Driggs</i> • Business Process Execution Language (BPEL) – Wave to the Future – <i>Paul Cyphers</i> • Oracle Applications Management Tools -- An Enigma Wrapped in Itself – <i>Paul Cyphers</i> • Change Management -- No Longer An Option? – <i>Paul Cyphers</i> • Workflow Ins and Outs – <i>Susan Behn</i> • Advanced Security Controls Without Customizations – <i>Susan Behn</i> • Discoverer and XML Publisher: Full Throttle Reporting – <i>Tim Sharpe</i> 	November 6, 2006	Worcester, MA
SROAUG	November 10, 2006	Costa Mesa, CA
AtIOAUG – Using Personalizations and Other Techniques to Give Your Self-Service Applications a Custom Look and Feel – <i>Susan Behn</i>	November 17, 2006	Atlanta, GA
OHUG – Optimal Settings and Maintenance for 11i Payroll Performance – <i>Karen Settembrino and John Stouffer</i>	November 30, 2006	Orlando, FL
The Road To Vegassm	January 12, 2006	Raleigh, NC
	January 26, 2006	Cincinnati, OH
	February 22, 2006	Denver, CO
	March 16, 2006	Atlanta, GA
	March 22, 2006	Detroit, MI



The Road to Vegas

OAUG and Solution Beacon, LLC, are teaming up once again to bring you The Road to Las VegasSM Workshop series, **The Features, Functions, and the Future of Release 11i**.

"The Release 11i workshop was really excellent – the Solution Beacon presenters know the topics better than any other speakers I have ever heard. Karen Brownfield especially – she presents in an easily digested, down to earth manner, supplemented with good humor and real world experiences. It was all so worthwhile!" Jeannie Dobney, EduSource Pty Ltd.

If you can't make it to Collaborate '07 in Las Vegas next year, you can still experience the great educational and networking opportunity of the conference by attending one of our highly acclaimed Release 11i Workshops. Join OAUG and Solution Beacon for a FREE, one-day event featuring multiple technical and functional presentations, delivered by some of the foremost experts in the Oracle community. *Road to Las VegasSM* tour will conclude with a final day of presentations being delivered at Collaborate '07.

Agendas for each location listed above will be confirmed and announced soon on our website at: <http://repo.solutionbeacon.net/rtv/rtvindex.htm>

Topics may include E-Business Suite, RAC and Linux, Workflow/BPEL, Fusion Middleware, Licensing, Business Intelligence, and Discoverer/XML.

Solution Beacon at Oracle OpenWorld

Don't gamble with your Oracle E-Business Suite initiatives!

If you're attending Oracle OpenWorld in San Francisco this month, visit Solution Beacon, an Oracle Certified Partner, in **Booth 202** in Moscone South, to learn about our complete line of services, proven methodologies, 100% satisfied customer base, and what makes us different from our competitors.

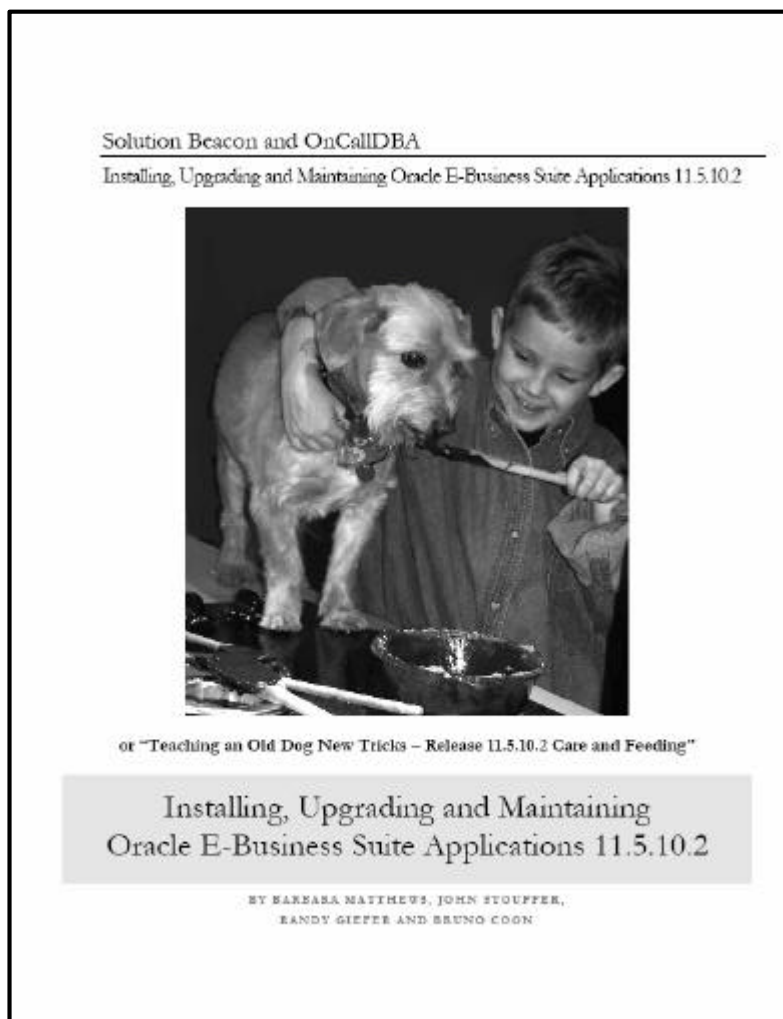
We'll be giving away all sorts of novelties, including our Grand Prize giveaway of a full registration to Collaborate '07 in Las Vegas, plus a guest pass, and VIP tickets to a Cirque Du Soleil show!

SESSION/SPEAKER	DATE/TIME	LOCATION
OAUG SysAdmin SIG <i>Moderator – Randy Giefer</i>	Sunday, October 22 nd 8:30am – 9:30am	Hilton Hotel, Taylor A&B
OAUG Outsourcing SIG <i>Moderator – John Faucher</i>	Sunday, October 22 nd 8:30am – 9:30am	Hilton Hotel, Union Square – Room 2
OAUG Upgrade SIG <i>Moderator – John Stouffer</i>	Sunday, October 22 nd 9:45am – 10:45am	Hilton Hotel, Taylor A&B
Fusion Applications Channel Session <i>Panel Member – John Stouffer</i>	Sunday, October 22 nd 3:30pm – 5:00pm	Hilton Hotel, Union Square 21
Rapid Migrations to Oracle E-Business Suite Release 11.5.10 – <i>Speaker – John Stouffer</i>	Thursday, October 26 th 8:00am – 9:00am	Marriott, Salon 2

Installing, Upgrading and Maintaining Oracle Applications 11.5.10.2

It's coming, we promise! We have three chapters left and have Solution Beacon's consultants are hard at work reviewing the other chapters. If you're not already a subscriber, sign up for the Solution Beacon Newsletter at www.solutionbeacon.com so you'll be notified when it's available!

In the meantime, here's a sneak peak of what to expect:



Chapters:

1. Introduction
2. Who Does What?
3. 11i Concepts and Architecture
4. Oracle 10g Enhancements
5. 11i Installation
6. Upgrading or Migrating to 11i
7. Maintaining 11i
8. Administering 11i
9. Securing 11i
10. Setting Up the Concurrent Manager
11. Using the Concurrent Manager
12. Reporting
13. Tuning and Troubleshooting

We're overhauling all the chapters to include 11.5.10.2 screen shots, new examples and new information, we've added new chapters, and we're separating Workflow into its own book.

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.

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