



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

MetaLink Outage and Userid/PW Change

After the upcoming MetaLink outage on 5/19 (see below from Oracle Corporation), all MetaLink users will be required to change their existing MetaLink account and use a valid email address as their user ID to replace their current MetaLink user ID.

With these changes, you will be presented with a one-time conversion page that will display the email address that is currently in your MetaLink profile. You will be asked to confirm if this is your current email address that you wish to use as your new MetaLink user ID, your password will be reset, and you will be emailed a new password.

The second time you log into MetaLink, you will be required to use your email address and change your password. Customers with multiple MetaLink accounts or multiple email addresses will be taken through some additional steps to enable them to update all their accounts.

MetaLink Outage Planned for the Weekend of May 19, 2006

A six hour MetaLink outage is planned for Friday May 19, 2006 starting at 6:00PM PDT (Saturday May 20 1:00AM GMT).

This outage is required to install the Email Login and Entitlement improvements for MetaLink. For additional details, please read the [News & Notes announcement about these important MetaLink changes](#)

All MetaLink functionality will be inaccessible during this time. We encourage you to plan accordingly and to download any patches or other information that you may need ahead of time. Although internal systems will be available, telephone hold times may be elevated as customer traffic is directed to phone support.

**Scheduled
Start**

Friday May 19, 2006 / Saturday May 20, 2006

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| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Impact | All MetaLink Users |
| Orlando | Friday 9:00 PM Eastern |
| San Francisco | Friday 6:00 PM Pacific |
| London | Saturday 2:00 AM |
| Paris | Saturday 3:00 AM |
| Bangalore | Saturday 6:30 AM |
| Duration | 6 Hours |

1. MetaLink Login ID To Change to Your Email Address

In the May timeframe, all MetaLink users will be required to change their existing MetaLink account and use a valid email address as their user ID to replace their current MetaLink user ID.

With these changes, you will be presented with a one-time conversion page that will display the email address that is currently in your MetaLink profile. You will be asked to confirm if this is your current email address that you wish to use as your new MetaLink user ID, **your password will be reset**, and you will be emailed a new password.

The second time you log into MetaLink, you will be required to use your email address and change your password. Customers with multiple MetaLink accounts or multiple email addresses will be taken through some additional steps to enable them to update all their accounts.

For example, Fred Bloggs' current MetaLink user ID is fbloggs – he will be required to change this to fred.bloggs@email.com when he first logs in after this change has been applied to MetaLink.

Although our future plans are to transition to Single Sign On, this change will only impact MetaLink and will not impact sign ons for any other Oracle websites. This change will not impact any other MetaLink functionality, including SR history and reporting, or any personal settings or privileges that you currently have. It is simply a change to your login ID.

2. Access to MetaLink Will Be Restricted for Users With Expired Support Identifiers (CSI)

In addition, MetaLink users with no active Support Identifiers (also known as CSIs) contained in their profile will have their MetaLink user access restricted to their MetaLink user profile until such time that they add a valid CSI to their profile. This identifier is distributed with the support contract and is required to access Oracle Support Services. This will not affect the ability to complete the re-registration process. Refer to [Entitlement for MetaLink access FAQ \(note 361177.1\)](#) for further information on this topic. This change will only affect a small subset of MetaLink users.

Randy Giefer, Solution Beacon

Nulls in Pay Run Result Values

Patch: 4112221.

You also need to check two profile settings and there are some tasks to perform to cleanup the old null results.

Please check pay_action_parameters settings:

SUPPRESS_INSIG_INDIRECTS (should be set to Y)

SPARSE MATRIX (Should be set to Y)

The SUPPRESS setting has been available since 11.0.X in patch 2892285. The same fix was introduced to Release 11i (11.5.8) in Family Pack B (2270215).

The SPARSE setting was only available in HR FP J (11.5.10.2) which was NOT released as a stand-alone patch and was eventually rolled up into FP K (under the AUSTRALIA, CANADA, CHINA, JAPAN, etc, sections and not documented separately as a post-patch installation task - Oracle considers this to be an optional task for some reason).

Both are documented, however, in 207344.1 from Dec. 2005.

Tasks to be Performed

The Generic Upgrade Mechanism is a concurrent program and is used to propagate upgrade related changes in some cases. This program has one parameter for "name". The LOV has the following options related to sparse matrix:

Enable Sparse Matrix Null Run Result Values Functionality Sparse Matrix Null Result Values Upgrade

We assume the "Enable" option turns on RR_SPARSE and the "Upgrade" option cleans up existing run result values that would not have been generated if Sparse Matrix had been in place at the time of the run. We're testing right now against 65 BILLION rows. Should run for a while...

John Stouffer, Solution Beacon

HRMS Diagnostics Moving

IMPORTANT: CHANGE TO PAY11i SCRIPT

The April Diagnostics Patch (5092220) has been released to customers on MetaLink and the script is directly accessible on MetaLink, via the Note: 167000.1.



Oracle Support Services has combined (4) sql standalone scripts into (1) comprehensive HRMS Technical Data Collection tool for HRMS. Current direction is to move all diagnostic tests to the Oracle Diagnostics. Oracle is encouraging HRMS customers to download and run these Oracle Diagnostics, as they will be decommissioning the sql standalones as of 15-JUN-2006.

HRMS11i.sql, SSHR11i.sql, OTL11i.sql, PAY11i.sql have all been combined into (1) diagnostic that the functional end user can run and upload to service requests. This will give the functional end user more flexibility with obtaining key information for service requests and will save time in retrieving this information.

The April Diagnostics Path (5092220) has been released to customers on MetaLink and the script is directly accessible on MetaLink via the Note: 167000.1. These sql standalones will be available for a limited time in this note until their decommission date of 15-JUN-2006, in which the HRMS Technical Data will be the main script forward.

Important Note: Once you have downloaded the HRMS Technical Data script and begin to use it, you will need to ensure that you have the latest version of the file uploaded to your system, as Oracle Support Services is continually updating the script with recommended and mandatory patch information to validate. The latest version of the XML file can be downloaded from MetaLink note 357745.1 – Oracle Support Diagnostics – XML Files References.

A complete listing of Oracle Diagnostics can be found in MetaLink.

Note: 179661.1 – Applications Support Diagnostics Tools

Note: 316645.1 – Oracle Support Diagnostics Web Seminars Materials

OD 2.3 new features and enhancements viewlet demo available in the Note 338379.1 – Oracle Diagnostics 2.3 – New and Enhanced Features

Karen Settembrino, KNS KoNSulting, Inc.

Release 11i Oracle Applications DBA Workshop at AZOAUG Training Day

Visit <http://www.azoaug.org/CurrentMeetingsEvents.htm> to register for the May 17th Training Day at AZOAUG. Here's a brief description of the workshop:

With the increased complexities and interdependent components of the technology stack in Release 11i along with the significant changes in functionality and technology introduced in the final 11i Release (11.5.10.2), the role and responsibilities for an Oracle Applications DBA are even more significant than with prior application releases.

The Oracle Applications DBA is now required to be *Applications Technology Specialist* whose responsibilities span from the operating system and database through to the client desktop.

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We will discuss all of these new components along with the administration and maintenance processes for the 11i Apps DBA and will share "real world" recommendations for each.

Topics to be covered include:

- ? Architecture
- ? Installation
- ? Maintenance (Patching, Patching, Patching)
- ? Cloning
- ? Backup and Recovery
- ? Performance Tuning
- ? Upgrading

Get a "real world" perspective as well as tips and techniques to administer and maintain the complex Oracle Applications environment delivered with Release 11i, particularly the latest Release, 11.5.10.2. We will also briefly cover Fusion Middleware concepts and Release 12 architecture.

Presenter Highlights:

John Stouffer of Solution Beacon has presented and moderated at local, regional, national, and international conferences for Oracle Applications users and support staff. Mr. Stouffer is the lead instructor for the Release 11i Installation and Upgrade Workshops at the OAUG Conferences and Training Workshops. He chairs the OAUG Upgrade SIG as well as the OAUG/Quest Fusion Council for Applications. Mr. Stouffer is also very active in other OAUG GEO and SIG activities and was honored as the OAUG Member of the Year for 2004. He has over 18 years experience in Oracle database administration with more than 14 years supporting Oracle Applications environments including architecture, installation, implementations, upgrades, and system assessments in federal, public and commercial industry. He can be reached by email at jstouffer@solutionbeacon.com.

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