


## In This Issue

New Rapid Install StartCD (12.0.0.23) for Release 12	1
Release 12 RUP 2 Error	1
HR_PF.K RUP2 Breaks AME	1
Fusion Corner: The "Wait and See" Strategy	2
OAUG Fusion Council Conference Call	2
OAUG Fusion Council Panel during Oracle OpenWorld 2007	3
Apps DBA 101: Open-Source Spotlight	4
Determining Workflow Availability Without OAM	11
Waypoint  Integrity	11
OAUG Corner	12
Ask the Solution Beacon Experts	13
Installing, Upgrading and Maintaining Oracle E-Business Suite Applications Release 11.5.10+	15
Release 12 Primer Coming in October!	15
Solution Beacon Foundation Update	16
Release 12 Webinars, Workshops and User Group Meetings	16
Colorado OAUG Release 12 Workshop – October 4th	17
And the Winners Are...	18
Upcoming Solution Beacon Events	19

*The contents of this newsletter were contributed by Solution Beacon consultants who have accumulated extensive experience during the numerous installations, implementations, and upgrades of the various releases of the Oracle E-Business Suite of Applications that we have performed for our clients. We welcome your participation in this newsletter. To contribute on any E-Business Suite of Applications topic, please send your contact information, topic, and a short abstract to [SBNewsletter@solutionbeacon.com](mailto:SBNewsletter@solutionbeacon.com).*

*We also appreciate 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 [SBNewsletter@solutionbeacon.com](mailto:SBNewsletter@solutionbeacon.com).*

*Prior editions of the Solution Beacon Newsletters are available for review at: [http://www.solutionbeacon.com/tool\\_news.htm](http://www.solutionbeacon.com/tool_news.htm)*

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

*For the embedded links to work properly, this newsletter is best viewed using Adobe Reader Version 7 or higher.*

## New Rapid Install StartCD (12.0.0.23) for Release 12

Steven Chan, Oracle's Director of Application Technology Integration, announced a new Rapid Install StartCD for Release 12. Check out <http://blogs.oracle.com/schan/2007/09/19#a2047> for more details. The patch number is 5972626.

If you have a choice, Solution Beacon always recommends using the latest Rapid Install available.



## Release 12 RUP 2 Error

If you experience problems applying the Release 12 RUP 2 patch 5484000, take a look at MetaLink Doc. ID: 451895.1, "R12 RUP2: Error Applying Patch 5484000, Oracle E-Business Suite 12.0.2 Release Update Pack". According to the patch description, users trying to run the Patch Application Assistant by entering admsi.pl (Item 2 in the Instructions for Applying This Patch) may receive ERROR: /r12patches/5484000/per/patch/115/manualsteps/per\_hrglobal.xml (No such file or directory). A corrected patch has been re-issued – only customers who downloaded the original patch on July 17 or 18 are affected.

*John Stouffer, Solution Beacon*

## HR\_PF.K RUP2 Breaks AME

Patch HR\_PF.K RUP 2 (patch 5337777) breaks AME. According to MetaLink Doc. ID: 459504.1, "Every Manager Self Service Workflow Is Being Approved Automatically", apply patch 6196709, "ADS11510R3:AME:SEEDED APPROVALS BROKEN AFTER APPLYING FPK RUP2" after applying Patch HR\_PF.K.

*Susan Behn, Solution Beacon*

## Fusion Corner: The “Wait and See” Strategy

Lately, I've talked with quite a few Oracle Applications customers who are taking a “wait and see” approach with Fusion Applications: “I'll wait with what I have and see about Fusion Applications when they come out.”

I understand the idea of hedging your bets. Even my own roadmap to Fusion Applications includes a back-up plan in the event things don't work out as well as I hope they will. But the “wait and see” strategy I'm hearing about is more than hedging – it's a period of inaction or “hanging around” waiting to see what happens next.

May I suggest that a better approach would be to become familiar with the technical underpinnings of Fusion Applications right now? You can do that by exploring components of Fusion Middleware...all of which are available. Consider exploring one or more of the following components:

- BI Publisher: generates reports in HTML, Adobe pdf, Word and Excel
- Application Integration Architecture: integrates disparate applications through cross-platform business processes
- Web Center: provides a unified, context-aware user interface
- BPEL Orchestration: organizes services into end-to-end business processes
- Enterprise Manager: unifies system management across the database, middleware and applications

Exploring any one of these components is probably a three to six month endeavor with the promise of a relatively quick payback period. Rather than taking the “wait and see” approach to Fusion Applications, start exploring the technology now. Not only will you get some of the benefits sooner, you'll also be better prepared when Fusion Applications do come out. So stop “hangin' around” and get busy!

*Floyd Teter, Jet Propulsion Laboratory – Co-Chair, OAUG Fusion Council*

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## OAUG Fusion Council Conference Call

The OAUG Fusion Council will host a full Fusion Council conference call on Tuesday, October 9, 2007, at 4:00 p.m. EDT, 1:00 p.m. PDT. The call will focus on summarizing the council's activities and accomplishments in the past year and will address the goals and objectives for the future.

Be sure to join us to hear the latest news and to find out how you can be part of the momentum behind the important work of the OAUG Fusion Council.

To call in, use the conference call dial-in numbers below:



- US and Canada – 1.866.915.6284
- Australia – 800 002-014
- New Zealand – 0 800 44 6716
- India – 000 800 100 3170
- UK – 0 800 904-7961
- Belgium – 0 800 1 1160
- Japan – 00531 13 0420
- Germany – 0 800 181 3856
- France – 0 800 90 8703
- S.Africa – 0 800 99 6637
- Israel – 1 80 93 30 0178

PARTICIPANT CODE: 63706722#

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## OAUG Fusion Council Panel during Oracle OpenWorld 2007

Don't miss the OAUG Fusion Council Panel on Sunday, November 11, from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. during Oracle OpenWorld 2007, in San Francisco, California. During this panel discussion, you will get up-to-date information about the status of Fusion Applications and hear from industry experts during the Q&A session.

You are invited to submit questions for the Fusion Council panel discussion in advance. Questions may be sent to [fusioncouncil@solutionbeacon.com](mailto:fusioncouncil@solutionbeacon.com) until Wednesday, October 31, 2007.

The Fusion Council Panel participants will include:

- Basheer Kahn, Innowave, Information Technology Architect
- Floyd Teter, JPL, Systems Engineer
- John Stouffer, Solution Beacon, Senior Applications DBA
- Dr. Nadia Bendjedou, Oracle, Product Strategy Director for Oracle's Fusion Upgrade Office
- Steven Chan, Oracle, Director, Applications Technology Integration
- Rob Condon, Oracle, Enterprise Architect

The OAUG Fusion Council Update panel discussion will be held at Moscone Center in Room 3006, Moscone West.

The objective of the OAUG Fusion Council is to represent the growing family of Oracle Applications users and customers (E-Business Suite, PeopleSoft, JD Edwards, Oracle Retail, Siebel, etc.) to assist the Oracle Applications Development in the design, usability and business functionality features of Fusion Applications.

## Apps DBA 101: Open-Source Spotlight

Solution Beacon's Applications DBAs find that along with all the skills they need that are E-Business Suite specific and Oracle RDBMS specific, they also need to know operating system commands to keep the Applications running. This article spotlights some of the Open-Source utilities that we at Solution Beacon find to be especially useful.

### Vendor-supplied "Contrib" media:

Most of the packages mentioned in this article are already available as part of the major Linux distributions. However, for the legacy UNIX platforms (Solaris, HP/UX, AIX), these packages have to be ported. Fortunately, each of the major vendors has provided their own ports of popular open-source tools on "Contrib" CDs that are typically distributed with your operating system media. Also, the vendors maintain distributions of these packages (usually with some degree of limited support) on their websites.



Some of these packages may be dependent on others, so read the documentation carefully.

Following are the full URLs for the various vendors.

Vendor	URL
Sun (Solaris)	<a href="http://www.sun.com/service/serviceplans/solaris/solaris_freewaresupport.xml">http://www.sun.com/service/serviceplans/solaris/solaris_freewaresupport.xml</a> <a href="http://www.sun.com/software/solaris/freeware/index.xml">http://www.sun.com/software/solaris/freeware/index.xml</a>
Hewlett-Packard (HP/UX)	<a href="http://h20338.www2.hp.com/hpux11i/cache/323704-0-0-0-121.html">http://h20338.www2.hp.com/hpux11i/cache/323704-0-0-0-121.html</a> <a href="http://hpux.connect.org.uk/hppd/auto/summary_all.html">http://hpux.connect.org.uk/hppd/auto/summary_all.html</a> <a href="http://hpux.connect.org.uk/hppd/hpux/">http://hpux.connect.org.uk/hppd/hpux/</a>
IBM (AIX)	<a href="http://www-03.ibm.com/servers/aix/products/aixos/linux/download.html">http://www-03.ibm.com/servers/aix/products/aixos/linux/download.html</a> <a href="http://www-03.ibm.com/servers/aix/products/aixos/linux/altlic.html">http://www-03.ibm.com/servers/aix/products/aixos/linux/altlic.html</a>

Following are "tiny" URLs for the above links (an easier-to-type alternative):

Vendor	TinyURL
Sun (Solaris)	<a href="http://tinyurl.com/mpuhd">http://tinyurl.com/mpuhd</a> <a href="http://tinyurl.com/nm3de">http://tinyurl.com/nm3de</a>
Hewlett-Packard (HP/UX)	<a href="http://tinyurl.com/qhn8y">http://tinyurl.com/qhn8y</a> <a href="http://tinyurl.com/rsfzj">http://tinyurl.com/rsfzj</a> <a href="http://tinyurl.com/mb3zl">http://tinyurl.com/mb3zl</a>
IBM (AIX)	<a href="http://tinyurl.com/cvosm">http://tinyurl.com/cvosm</a> <a href="http://tinyurl.com/ml4za">http://tinyurl.com/ml4za</a>

### screen

screen (or "GNU-Screen") is an open-source project from GNU (<http://tinyurl.com/ikrf>) that we've found particularly useful in supporting and maintaining Oracle Applications environments.

In a nutshell, "screen" allows you to detach an interactive UNIX shell and reattach it later from another location. This can be very useful if you are performing an upgrade, applying a particularly long-running patch, or performing any other major task. You could, for example, start a database

export, detach your terminal, drive home, and reattach the session from across a VPN. During this time, the process would have continued making progress normally.

Once installed, type “screen” at the shell prompt to spawn the screen session. Launch whatever programs you want from here (*exp*, *imp*, *adpatch*, *vi*, etc.). To detach the session, use the keystrokes “Control-A” followed by “d”.

You can list active screen sessions using the command: `screen -ls`

To resume a detached session: `screen -r` or `screen -r <session number>` (if there’s more than one)

To take control of a currently attached session: `screen -rd` or `screen -rd <session number>` (if there’s more than one).

As far as security is concerned, the screen processes are owned by the UNIX user that spawned them. The ability to take control of those processes is generally limited to the particular UNIX account that spawned them.

**ONE CAVEAT:** Many installations of the screen utility will set the `TERMCAP` variable within the screen sessions to a particularly nasty value which can cause problems with the Oracle Applications “*adrelink*” utility. A simple fix is to issue the “`unset TERMCAP`” command before running *adrelink* or *adpatch*. For a more permanent fix, the behavior of screen (including this `TERMCAP` variable) can be controlled through the `/etc/screenrc` and `${HOME}/.screenrc` files.

## top

The utility “top” is an open-source tool that displays operating system-level performance information on a continuously updating basis. In particular, it provides a simple display of CPU utilization data, as well as showing you which processes are consuming the most CPU time.

Some ports of this tool will even display per-CPU information on SMP systems.



While it is a useful tool, vendor-supplied operating system-specific tools (*mpstat*, *glance*, *xmperf*) also exist which may display more accurate and/or detailed information.

## vim

The *vim* tool is really your old friend, *vi*. Its name actually stands for “VI iMproved”. The “improved” version can be highly customized and supports advanced features such as editing of compressed files, remote editing over *ssh/ftp/http*, mouse-sensitivity, integrated help, spell checking, split windows, and syntax highlighting.

One of the simplest (and least-obvious) features that we depend on is that you never get the “terminal too large” message which is common with the normal `vi` on some platforms (Solaris, in particular).

For more information: <http://www.vim.org>

## Samba

Samba is an open-source implementation of the Windows file-sharing architecture. This allows UNIX and Linux machines to emulate a Windows file-server and also to mount Windows shares. In some environments, enterprising UNIX administrators have secretly replaced a Windows file-server with a much smaller machine running Linux and Samba (only to surprise their users and bosses with the improved uptime).

For more information: <http://www.samba.org>

An article comparing Samba 3 to Windows Server 2003 for file and print sharing:

<http://www.vnunet.com/itweek/news/2085206/samba-beats-windows>

## sudo

The `sudo` utility is an excellent way to provide delegation of authority on UNIX environments. In many environments, access to privileged accounts (`root`, `oracle` and `applmgr`) has devolved into everyone who needs to know sharing the same password. This prevents the easy implementation of a basic security rule: password expiration. If “Sally” logs in as `root` and is forced to change the password, then she must find a way to communicate this change to all the necessary personnel.

Using `sudo`, “Sally” no longer needs to know the `root` password. If she wants to become `root` she simply has to issue the command:

```
sudo su -
```

She will then be prompted for *her* password (much the same way she is when being prompted to change her password). This way, her account can be subject to password expiration. Also, `sudo` records its activity, so we can see when she uses it.

Sudo can also be used to allow an individual (or a group) the permission to run a specific command. A typical example would be allowing helpdesk personnel to cancel a print job (which is normally reserved for `root`).

## cups

The Common UNIX Printing System (CUPS) is a very versatile replacement for the standard UNIX printing subsystem. It supports device drivers for various types of printers, as well as supporting a wide range of connectivity options. It supports the Internet Printing Protocol (IPP), traditional UNIX queues, and has some support for the SMB protocol (Windows). There is a web-based administrative interface.

CUPS (or some derivative) is the incumbent printing subsystem on many Linux distributions.

## vnc

VNC or “Virtual Network Computing” was originally developed at the Olivetti Research Lab (now the AT&T Research Lab). It is a graphical desktop sharing tool very similar to Windows Remote Desktop and PC/Anywhere. It is, however, not limited to Windows. There are VNC client and server components for most UNIX/Linux operating systems as well as Apple’s OS X.

VNC (or, alternatively, X-windows Virtual Frame Buffer [xvfb]) can be used in an Oracle E-Business Suite implementation to provide the writeable X-windows display required to render graphics.

## cygwin

The cygwin product (freely downloadable at <http://www.cygwin.com>) provides a fully functional UNIX command environment (including X-Windows) to Microsoft Windows. This is particularly nice for an Apps DBA who wants to use and/or test scripts and homegrown utilities without impacting the production environment.

While the commercial product MKS Toolkit is recommended, cygwin is also available as an alternative in some cases. For E-Business Suite Release 11i see MetaLink Doc. ID: 302859.1, “Using Cygwin to Maintain Release 11i on Windows”.

Some of the tools available on cygwin are:

```
X-Windows (xorg-x11)
zip
Various UNIX shells (bash, ksh, zsh, tcsh)
openssh
openldap
vim
nano
nfs-server
gcc
apache
cpio
GNU tar
curl
ncftp
emacs
ghostscript
```

```
gzip  
perl
```

## lynx

lynx is a text-mode web browser that was originally developed at the University of Kansas. While incapable of rendering graphics and “pretty” web pages, it can be VERY useful when dealing with the various README.html files embedded in patches. This is especially useful for an Apps DBA who may have limited network bandwidth or connectivity.

From the operating system prompt enter:

```
lynx README.html
```

## Compression Utilities

### zip and unzip

This open-source implementation of the ZIP compression standard provides ports to a wide variety of platforms. It is available through <http://www.info-zip.org/> and is also distributed as part of many UNIX variants.

### GNU tar

This open-source alternative to the standard UNIX “tar” utility brings a bunch of tricks to the table, not the least of which is the ability to compress an archive on-the-fly by merely adding a command-line switch. Yes, you could accomplish the same thing with the standard tar command and a UNIX pipe, but this is much simpler. Your compression options include gzip, compress, bzip2, or a user-defined compress program.

Some examples:

```
tar -cfz archive.tar.gz subdir      (using gzip)  
tar -cfj archive.tar.bz2 subdir    (using bzip2)  
tar -cfZ archive.tar.Z subdir      (using compress)
```

Alternatively, gtar supports the longer-format command line switches:

```
tar -cf -gzip archive.tar.gz subdir  
tar -cf -bzip2 archive.tar.bz2 subdir  
tar -cf -compress archive.tar.Z subdir  
tar -cf -use-compress-program=<user defined> archive.tar.whatever subdir
```

As we mentioned before, you could also do something like this:

```
tar cf - subdir |gzip -9 -c - >archive.tar.gz
```

A full manual for GNU tar is available at:

<http://www.gnu.org/software/tar/manual/tar.html>

## **bzip2**

The `bzip2` utility is generally more efficient (produces a smaller file) but slower than `gzip` or `zip`. It is more like “compress” in that it will not produce an archive of files and, therefore, should be used in concert with a utility like `tar` or `cpio`.

Some indications are that `bzip2` will produce a file that is 5-10% smaller than `zip` or `gzip` may produce. Of course, your mileage will vary given the nature of the data that you are compressing.

## **Connectivity Tools**

### **SSH (Secure Shell) SCP, SFTP**

Many standard tools for communicating with your UNIX box have little or no security. Telnet, for example, transmits login information (and data) in a cleartext stream between the client and the server. The SSH protocol (as implemented by OpenSSH, available through <http://www.openssh.com>), provides for encrypted tunnels between the client and server. Even the login information is encrypted.

The `ssh` client program is actually what provides the telnet-like functions, while `scp` provides a functionality similar to the Berkeley-style `rcp` command. Also, some implementations provide an `sftp` client which provides a more ftp-like file transfer capability.

Please note that SFTP is actually different from FTP/S. SFTP is actually “FTP over the SSH protocol”, while FTP/S (the emerging EDI file-transfer standard) is “FTP over SSL”.

### **ncftp**

The GNU tool `ncftp` is a command-line FTP client. This client allows you to specify a URL-style reference for the file(s) you wish to transfer. Also, username and password can be specified on the command line. This tool can be particularly useful for ftp sites that have formulaic paths to their files, particularly Oracle’s patch download site. If you were to manually FTP from the patch site, you would see that patches are stored under `<patch number>/p<patch number>_<version>_<platform>.zip`. So, for your Release 11i patches on Linux (as an example), you would find: `1234567/p1234567_11i_LINUX.zip` or `1234567/p1234567_11i_GENERIC.zip`.

A shell script could be easily written that would make downloading patches easy.

## wget

The `wget` utility is a very simple command-line web-browser. Should you need to download something from an `http`, `https`, or `ftp` based URL, you can do so with this tool. This is a particularly nice way to script certain transfers, especially where you know or can build a URL to the file. `wget` is similar to `ncftp`.

## curl

The `curl` utility (formally “cURL”) is another utility that is very similar to `ncftp` and `wget` only much more elaborate. This tool supports command-line transfers using a very wide variety of protocols. Among them: `ftp`, `ftps`, `http`, `https`, `tftp`, `scp`, `sftp`, `telnet`, `dict`, `file`, `ldap`.

Note that versions after 7.11.0 support the “FTP/S” protocol that is used in many of the newer EDI standards.

## Conversion Tools

### dos2unix and unix2dos

We’ve all faced a situation where someone has edited a text file using a windows editor and, therefore, embedded the dreaded “Control-M” characters at the end of each line. Conversely, a file on UNIX/Linux would typically be missing these characters and may be problematic on Windows. These two commands can quickly correct that situation by either removing (`dos2unix`) or inserting (`unix2dos`) the “Control-M” characters.

### ghostscript

The `ghostscript` package is basically a PostScript interpreter. While this may not sound all that important or useful at the outset, there are some really useful components and features.

Among them:

`ps2pdf` or `pdf2ps`  
`a2ps`

Command-line utility to convert PostScript to PDF and back.  
Command-line utility to convert ASCII to PostScript

Although it is not necessarily part of the `GhostScript` installation, there is also `GhostView` which allows you to view PostScript and PDF files in much the same manner as Acrobat Reader.

*James Morrow, Solution Beacon*

## Determining Workflow Availability Without OAM

We've found it useful to monitor workflow status by creating a cron job that checks the status of workflow. By using a cron job, we can automate notification that workflow is not available, eliminating the need to manually check using OAM. The following query provides the status, eliminating the need to use OAM.


```
SELECT Component_name, Component_Status
FROM FND_SVC_COMPONENTS
WHERE component_type = 'WF_MAILER'
```

Reference: Metalink Doc: 316352.1, "How to Determine WF Java Mailer availability without using OAM".

*Srini Ramanujam, Solution Beacon*

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## Waypoint Integrigy

**way·point**   (wā'point') [Pronunciation Key](#)

n. A point between major points on a route, as along a track.

### Is Your Oracle E-Business Suite Implementation Secure?

Properly securing the Oracle E-Business Suite is critical for all organizations because of on-going threats, compliance requirements, and business necessity. However, effectively securing such a large and complex application can be costly, time consuming, and difficult, even for the most experienced Oracle professionals.

For over six years, Integrigy has assisted organizations in securing their Oracle E-Business Suite implementations. Integrigy provides in-depth Oracle E-Business Suite security assessment and auditing services, as well as security software solutions for your implementation. Integrigy's security consultants are, first and foremost, Oracle specialists, and understand the complexities and challenges of implementing and maintaining the Oracle E-Business Suite.

AppSentry is Integrigy's industry leading security assessment and auditing tool that identifies security weaknesses and vulnerabilities in the Oracle E-Business Suite. AppSentry automates much of the security auditing process with a streamlined user interface and easy to understand reports. AppSentry performs over 300 checks and audits that are specifically developed for the Oracle E-Business Suite. As an example, AppSentry can determine all the Critical Patch Update (CPU) patches required for an entire environment including the database, application server, and application. So no more wasted time trying to figure out what security patches to apply or applying unnecessary patches – AppSentry directly checks for vulnerable code versions to determine exactly what security patches are required.

For organizations deploying Oracle Internet modules such as *iStore*, *iSupplier*, and *iRecruitment*, AppDefend is a new concept in intrusion prevention – direct application protection. AppDefend protects the Oracle E-Business Suite from attacks and intrusions by blocking attacks before they reach the application, with only minimal installation or configuration by you.

To learn more about how you can secure your Oracle E-Business Suite environment, please visit Integriqy's website at [www.integriqy.com](http://www.integriqy.com).



## OAUG Corner

### OAUG Call for Presentations Now Open for COLLABORATE 08: Technology and Applications Forum for the Oracle Community

The [Oracle Applications Users Group](#) (OAUG) invites the family of Oracle Applications users to share its ideas, innovations and solutions during COLLABORATE 08: Technology and Applications Forum for the Oracle Community.

The [call for presentations](#) for the COLLABORATE 08 — OAUG Forum is now open and the **deadline for submission** is [October 28, 2007, at 11:59 p.m. EDT](#).

The OAUG seeks presentations on all Oracle Applications, including Oracle E-Business Suite, PeopleSoft, Siebel, Oracle Retail, Communications Billing and Revenue Management and MetaSolv Software, as well as applications technology. Please consider sharing your knowledge with others; [submit your presentation today!](#)

For more information about [COLLABORATE 08 — OAUG Forum tracks](#), specific industry- or product-related areas of emphasis, presenter requirements and the presentation submission process, please refer to the [call for presentations](#) on the [COLLABORATE 08 OAUG conference Web site](#).

COLLABORATE 08 will take place April 13-17, 2008 at the **Colorado Convention Center in Denver, Colorado, USA**.

### Oracle Innovation Awards — Nominations Open for Pioneers Using Oracle Fusion Middleware to Extend the Business Value of Oracle Applications

The Oracle Innovation Award is designed to recognize organizations that are already using Oracle Fusion Middleware to extend the business value of Oracle applications in innovative, exciting ways.

Oracle customers throughout the world can submit nominations between now and October 5, 2007, to showcase their innovations with Oracle Fusion Middleware and Oracle Applications.

The top 25 Oracle Innovation Award winners will receive a conference pass to Oracle OpenWorld San Francisco 2007, with access to the Global Customer Program lounge and a one-on-one conversation with an Oracle executive at an award reception. In addition, the top five top winners will be featured in a cover story article, alongside their systems integrator partner, in Oracle's Profit magazine.

The Oracle Innovation Award is co-sponsored by the Oracle Applications User Group (OAUG) and Quest International Users Group (Quest).

More information and nomination instructions are available on Oracle's Web site.

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## Ask the Solution Beacon Experts

**Question:** I'm having trouble applying patch 4551936 AP.O Mini-Pack in my test environment. The patch failed on `apvin.odf` and `apvw.odf` with the following error, one I've never seen before:

```
Error
Assigned: file apvw.odf      on worker  5 for product ap  username AP.
Time is: Mon Sep 24 2007 21:51:42
Connecting to AP.....Unable to connect.
AutoPatch error:
The following ORACLE error:
ORA-01017: invalid username/password; logon denied
occurred while executing the SQL statement:
CONNECT AP/*****
AutoPatch error:
Error while evaluating "Check Object"
Telling workers to quit...
Connecting to APPS.....Connected successfully.
All workers have quit.
Error running SQL and EXEC commands in parallel
```

**Answer:** According to MetaLink Doc. ID: 405966.1, you need to change the APPS and APPLSYS passwords back to the default password (APPS). Once you've applied the patch, we suggest that you change the password again to avoid a security breach.

**Question:** We're in the middle of a Release 12 upgrade. How often do we need to run the RDA reports? I understand we sometimes need these reports to open SRs with Oracle. But should we be running them on some scheduled basis? Some of them take a long time to run.

**Answer:** The RDA reports don't need to be run daily but we typically run them weekly and then compress/archive to disk, especially as we start the configuration and data conversion process. These

scripts (as you noted) run for quite some time but gather a significant amount of detailed data about the environment. It's handy to have them as quick references when something goes south later in the project...

Oracle support is planning on mandating full RDA and Diagnostic reports for SRs support by the end of the year so the sooner you can automate the process the better.

You should store most of the detailed version information from the RDA scripts in a "Release Matrix" spreadsheet and publish somewhere for easy access by your upgrade team. You can use this spreadsheet just like the output of the patchsets.sh reports, to allow functional team members access to information that contains the first information Oracle requires in a Service Request (SR=old TAR). The Release Matrix is a one-stop shop for team members to get the patch release they are on, the versions of the underlying technical components in play, and the assorted pieces of additional products that make up a complicated ERP environment (Vertex version, Sun JRE version, Apache version, etc).

It's all about saving time when debugging an issue. If you have the information already at your fingertips, you don't have to play the tag game with Oracle Support and you can escalate issue resolution much faster when all of the information is provided.

**Question:** I know that in one of your presentations you state that 11.5.10.2 is already quite old – is it two or three years old? Aren't they going to stop releasing additional Family Packs and RUPs for Release 11i at some point?

**Answer:** Oracle released the Release 11.5.10.2 CU in November, 2004. The Release 11.5.10.2 Media Pack was released in July, 2005. We expect ATG Rollup Packs (RUPs) will continue – ATG Rollup 6 (Patch 5903765) should be out soon. And remember, based on the critical patch requirements – current – 1 – RUP 5 will shortly be the base RUP required by Oracle. Family Packs are up in the air as we hear there is some internal disagreement right now at Oracle over whether to release an 11.5.10.3 (with all current patches). Release 11.5.10.2 required a huge amount of patching to bring current. Release 12.0.0, by the way, only requires RUP 12.0.2 – pretty neat!

*The Senior Consultants at Solution Beacon*

**GOT ORACLE? GET THE BOOK!**

## Installing, Upgrading and Maintaining Oracle E-Business Suite Applications Release 11.5.10+



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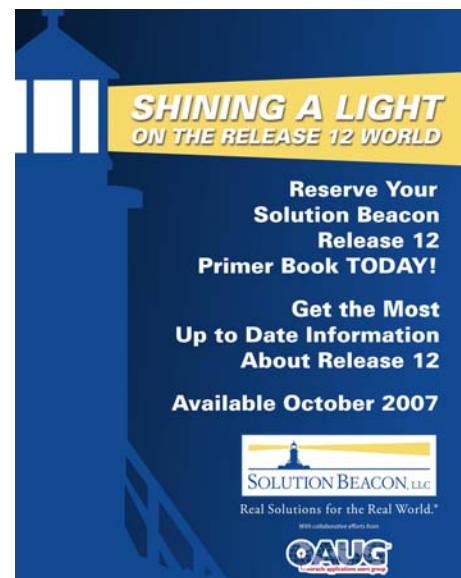
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## Release 12 Primer Coming in October!

Yes, it's true, we just can't stop writing! Solution Beacon's top consultants are writing another book in collaboration with OAUG! We're wrapping up The Release 12 Primer in October. Topics include: Introduction, Concepts, Features and Functionality, Technology, Security, Resources, and Fusion Applications.

If you'd like to be notified when the Release 12 Primer is available, send a note to [Release12Primer@solutionbeacon.com](mailto:Release12Primer@solutionbeacon.com).

*All Solution Beacon profits from our books – \$24,800 to date –  
are donated to The Solution Beacon Foundation!*



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ON THE RELEASE 12 WORLD**

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SOLUTION BEACON  
FOUNDATION

## Solution Beacon Foundation Update

**Steve's Travels...** Steve Peifer seems to be enjoying the American way of life...lots of time in the car **driving!**

Steve is traveling across the country, being a "social butterfly", giving speaking engagements, going to birthday parties and then taking his son, JT, to college at Wake Forest and having to leave him to grow and learn without parental supervision. Sounds like a fun and emotional time for him, keep Steve and his family close in your thoughts and prayers. In the tradition of the "butterfly" he is becoming, Steve went to California and filmed a documentary. Updates for viewing locations are forthcoming! According to Steve:

*Our new documentary, "THE ANSWER to Absolutely Everything," will be released worldwide on DVD October 15, following two weeks of private pre-release screenings in numerous cities.*

*Be sure to read a very heartwarming story and other production news on my latest blog update, at: <http://www.gettheanswer.org>.*

*Also, take a moment (if you haven't already) to visit and join THE EXPANDING CIRCLE -- our new online community. Visit: <http://expandingcircle.net>."*

In addition, if you go to [Youtube.com](http://Youtube.com) and type in *Steve Peifer*, you can see Scott Thompson's documentary about Steve's projects.

Thank you in advance for your generous donations to Steve's Programs and to the Solution Beacon Foundation. Steve's programs feed 10,000 children each month and built 10 solar-powered computer centers in the heart of Kenya. Visit [www.solutionbeaconfoundation.org](http://www.solutionbeaconfoundation.org) to make your contribution today. Helping...it just feels good!

*Hope Malone, Solution Beacon*

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## Release 12 Webinars, Workshops and User Group Meetings

Here at Solution Beacon, we're all about sharing what we know. So take a look at our upcoming schedule of webinars, workshops, user group presentations and conference presentations.

We kicked off our Release 12 Live Fall Webinar Series in September with Alyssa Johnson's popular **Oracle Payments – The Centralization of Payments Processing** webinar. If you missed it, check our list of [recordings](#). Our Fall Webinar Series will lead up to Oracle Open World every Wednesday at 1:00pm Central until November 7<sup>th</sup>. You won't want to miss Lon White's **Technical Introduction – Intermediate** on October 3<sup>rd</sup> – Lon has a wonderful way of making technical topics enjoyable to hear

about, and easy to understand. Next, Tony Della Croce and Montella Alston will give a three-part series on CRM, covering Service Execution, Content Management, and e-Commerce Orders. If you've always wanted to understand what CRM is about, these presentations will make it all clear. Paul Cyphers, one of our most popular presenters, will finish off October with **BPEL – The Wave to the Future**. Take Floyd Teter's advice from the Fusion Corner and start looking into BPEL now!

The Topic	The Link to Register	Date and Time
Release 12 Technical Introduction – Intermediate – <i>Lon White</i>	<a href="https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/741147490">https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/741147490</a>	10/03/2007 1pm Central
Release 12 CRM – Service Execution – <i>Montella Alston</i>	<a href="https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/120211210">https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/120211210</a>	10/10/2007 1pm Central
Release 12 CRM – Content Management – <i>Tony Della-Croce</i>	<a href="https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/666431304">https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/666431304</a>	10/17/2007 1pm Central
Release 12 CRM – e-Commerce Orders – <i>Tony Della-Croce</i>	<a href="https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/873592219">https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/873592219</a>	10/24/2007 1pm Central
Release 12 BPEL – The Wave to the Future – <i>Paul Cyphers</i>	<a href="https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/755624917">https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/755624917</a>	10/31/2007 1pm Central
Release 12 Oracle Projects new Features – <i>Alfredo Pantaleon</i>	<a href="https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/919805165">https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/919805165</a>	11/07/2007 1pm Central

If you miss a webinar, you can listen to a recorded version a few days after the live webinar. If there are additional topics that you think we should cover, send the Release 12 Team a note with suggestions to: [Release12Team@solutionbeacon.com](mailto:Release12Team@solutionbeacon.com). Also, we're posting questions and answers from the webinars on our blog at <http://solutionbeacon.blogspot.com>.

## Colorado OAUG Release 12 Workshop – October 4th



The Release 12 Team will present our next regional Release 12 Workshop in conjunction with the Colorado OAUG on October 4th. For this workshop, we've included plenty of time for presenters to present and attendees to ask questions. We've even added "Mingle with the Presenters" time at the end of the day for more questions.

### Navigating Release 12

### Meet Our Team of Release 12 Experts

From the back: Brian Bent, Lance Reedy, Lon White, Paul Cyphers, John Faucher, Alfredo Pantaleon, Chuck Kennedy, Tony Della-Croce, Susan Behn, Montella Alston, Daryl Geryol, Alyssa Johnson and Barbara Matthews. Karen Brownfield, Rob McMillen, and Geordie Coates are missing from this picture.



Photo credit: Kevin Brown Photography

Alyssa Johnson, Daryl Geryol, Lance Reedy, and Paul Cyphers are teaming up to present 13 topics at the COAUG, covering both technical and functional topics. Check out the agenda and then register at [http://www.solutionbeacon.com/r12\\_denver\\_reg.htm](http://www.solutionbeacon.com/r12_denver_reg.htm) – this is one meeting you won't want to miss!

## Solution Beacon Release 12 Recorded Webinars

The Topic	The Link
Release 12 Oracle Payments – The Centralization of Payment Processing – <i>Alyssa Johnson</i>	Recorded Session: <a href="https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/947251247">https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/947251247</a>
Release 12 The Global Business Release – <i>Alyssa Johnson</i>	Recorded Session: <a href="https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/394051421">https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/394051421</a>
Release 12 Focus on Financials – <i>Alyssa Johnson</i>	Recorded Session: <a href="https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/782437967">https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/782437967</a>
Release 12 Multi-Org Access Control (MOAC): An Inside Look – <i>Alyssa Johnson</i>	Recorded Session: <a href="https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/336334337">https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/336334337</a>
Release 12 Are You Ready for Fusion? – A Practical Guide to What You Should Know – <i>Rob McMillen</i>	Recorded Session: <a href="https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/336334337">https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/336334337</a>
Release 12 Security Recommendations – <i>Chuck Kennedy</i>	Recorded Session: <a href="https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/863791845">https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/863791845</a>
Release 12 Technical Introduction – For Newcomers and Functional Folks – <i>Lon White</i>	Recorded Session: <a href="https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/436971520">https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/436971520</a>
Release 12 Focus on Supply Chain Management – <i>Chuck Kennedy</i>	Recorded Session: <a href="https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/515799732">https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/515799732</a>
Release 12 Java Infrastructure – <i>Lance Reedy</i>	Recorded Session: <a href="https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/797675109">https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/797675109</a>
Release 12 Procurement Part I – The Professional Buyer's Work Center – <i>Paul Cyphers</i>	Recorded Session: <a href="https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/944008774">https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/944008774</a>
Release 12 E-Business Tax Engine – <i>Alfredo Pantaleon</i>	Recorded Session: <a href="https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/315869470">https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/315869470</a>
Release 12 Accounting Setup Manager 101 – <i>Alyssa Johnson</i>	Recorded Session: <a href="https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/832367474">https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/832367474</a>
Release 12 Subledger Accounting Engine: What it is, What it does and How to use it – <i>Alyssa Johnson</i>	Recorded Session: <a href="https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/292397548">https://www.gotomeeting.com/register/292397548</a>

## And the Winners Are...

**Mark Brown of Fidelity Investments** and **Robert McAuliffe of OXY, Inc.** won a copy of "Installing, Upgrading and Maintaining Oracle E-Business Suite Applications Release 11.5.10+" at the recent SCO AUG User Group Meetings in Dallas and Houston. **Mike Brower of Goodman Networks** and **Bonnie Hoggatt of ABS** won a \$50 American Express gift card.

**Matthew Smith with General Dynamics** won a \$50 American Express gift card at the Michigan Oracle Applications User Group meeting.

## Upcoming Solution Beacon Events

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
<b>NYOUG</b> Presenting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Database Growth: Problems and Solutions – <i>HP and Brian Bent</i></li> </ul>	10/2/2007	New York, NY Reserve your seat at <a href="http://www.nyoug.org/">http://www.nyoug.org/</a>
<b>VOUG</b> Exhibiting Presenting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Real World RAC and E-Business Suite – <i>Brian Bent</i></li> <li>Better Security in 30 Days – <i>Randy Giefer</i></li> <li>Discoverer and XML Publisher: Full Throttle Reporting – <i>Naren Thota</i></li> </ul>	10/4-10/5/2007	Charlottesville, VA Reserve your seat at <a href="http://www.voug.org">http://www.voug.org</a>
<b>COAUG / Release 12 Workshop</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keynote: Release 12 The Global Business Release – <i>Alyssa Johnson</i></li> <li>Release 12 Java Infrastructure – <i>Lance Reedy</i></li> <li>Release 12 Technical Introduction – For Newcomers and Functional Folks Infrastructure – <i>Lance Reedy</i></li> <li>Release 12 Fusion Infrastructure – <i>Lance Reedy</i></li> <li>Release 12 Technical Introduction – Intermediate – <i>Lance Reedy</i></li> <li>Release 12 Procurement – Buyer’s Work Center – <i>Paul Cyphers</i></li> <li>Release 12 Focus on Supply Chain Management – <i>Paul Cyphers</i></li> <li>Release 12 BPEL – The Future is Now – <i>Paul Cyphers</i></li> <li>Release 12 Multi-Org Access Control (MOAC) – An Inside Look – <i>Daryl Geryol</i></li> <li>Release 12 Oracle Payments – The Centralization of Payment Processing – <i>Alyssa Johnson</i></li> <li>Release 12 Accounting Setup Manager 101 – <i>Alyssa Johnson</i></li> <li>Release 12 Sub-Ledger Accounting Engine: What It Is, What It Does, and How to Use It – <i>Alyssa Johnson</i></li> <li>Focus on Financials – <i>Alyssa Johnson</i></li> </ul>	10/4/2007	Denver, CO Visit <a href="http://www.solutionbeacon.com/R12_workshops.htm">http://www.solutionbeacon.com/R12_workshops.htm</a> for more information and to reserve your seat!
<b>SROAUG</b> Exhibiting Presenting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Release 12 Accounting Setup Manager 101 – <i>Alyssa Johnson</i></li> <li>Release 11i and Release 12: A Study in Contrasts – <i>John Stouffer</i></li> <li>Release 12 Technical Introduction – Intermediate – <i>John Stouffer</i></li> </ul>	10/12/2007	Costa Mesa, CA Reserve your seat at <a href="http://www.sroaug.org">www.sroaug.org</a>
<b>Atl-OAUG</b> Presenting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hands On Quick Start Guide to Oracle BI Publisher – <i>Tim Sharpe</i></li> <li>Building a Financial Statement with BI Publisher: A Hands-on Demo – <i>Tim Sharpe</i></li> </ul>	10/19/2007	Atlanta, GA Reserve your seat at <a href="http://www.atloaug.org">www.atloaug.org</a>
<b>NEOAUG</b> Exhibiting Presenting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Release 12 Java Infrastructure – <i>Lance Reedy</i></li> <li>Release 12 Technical Introduction – For Newcomers and</li> </ul>	10/29/2007	Worcester, MA Reserve your seat at <a href="http://www.neoaug.org">http://www.neoaug.org</a>

# Safe Harbor News

September Edition

2007



EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
<p>Functional Folks – <i>Oracle and Lance Reedy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Release 12 Are You Ready for Fusion? A Practical Guide to What You Should Know – <i>Lance Reedy</i></li> <li>• Release 12 Security Recommendations – <i>Lance Reedy</i></li> <li>• Release 12 Procurement – Buyer’s Workbench – <i>Oracle</i></li> <li>• Release 12 Focus on Supply Chain Management – <i>Oracle</i></li> <li>• Release 12 Focus on Financials – <i>Oracle and Alyssa Johnson</i></li> <li>• Release 12 Technical Introduction – Intermediate – <i>Oracle and Lance Reedy</i></li> <li>• Release 12 Oracle Payments – The Centralization of Payment Processing – <i>Alyssa Johnson</i></li> <li>• Release 12 Accounting Setup Manager 101 – <i>Alyssa Johnson</i></li> <li>• Release 12 Sub-Ledger Accounting Engine: What It Is, What It Does, and How to Use It – <i>Alyssa Johnson</i></li> <li>• Release 12 Multi-Org Access Control (MOAC) – An Inside Look – <i>Alyssa Johnson</i></li> </ul>		
<p><b>AUSOUG &amp; OAUG National Conference Series 2007</b></p> <p>Featured Keynote Presenter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are You Ready for Fusion? A Practical Guide to What You Should Know – <i>John Stouffer</i></li> </ul> <p>Presenting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Database Growth: Problems and Solutions – <i>John Stouffer</i></li> <li>• Release 11i and Release 12: A Study in Contrasts – <i>John Stouffer</i></li> </ul>	<p>Perth 11/20-21/2007</p> <p>Melbourne 11/26-27/2007</p>	<p>Perth and Melbourne, Australia</p> <p>Reserve your seat at <a href="http://www.ausoug.org.au/2020">www.ausoug.org.au/2020</a></p>
<p><b>Oracle OpenWorld</b></p> <p>Exhibiting</p> <p>Presenting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fusion Council Panel – <i>Floyd Teter, JPL, and John Stouffer</i></li> <li>• Combined Upgrade/SysAdmin SIG Meeting with Steven Chan – <i>Randy Giefer and John Stouffer, moderators</i></li> <li>• Outsourcing SIG – <i>John Faucher</i></li> <li>• A Technical Roadmap for Fusion, Release 12 and Oracle Fusion Applications (OFA) – <i>John Stouffer and Brian Bent</i></li> <li>• Implementing Oracle Approvals Management (AME) for Complex Approvals in AP and PO – <i>Susan Behn and Gerald Jones</i></li> <li>• Understanding Next-Generation Media Asset Management – <i>Daniel Kenyon, Oracle, and Paul Sutter, Synergist</i></li> <li>• How Evolutionary Changes in Advertising Are Affecting Media and Entertainment Companies and Their Ability to Manage the Advertising Process – <i>Daniel Kenyon, Oracle, and David Murphy, Solution Beacon</i></li> <li>• Demystifying Fusion – OAUG’s Three Step Program – <i>John Stouffer and Alicia Hoekstra</i></li> </ul>	<p>11/11–15/2007</p>	<p>San Francisco, CA</p> <p>Reserve your seat at <a href="http://www.oracle.com/openworld">www.oracle.com/openworld</a></p>

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