



R11i Newsletter

Solution Beacon, LLC

Volume No.6, October 2002 - OAUG Edition

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 we have performed for our clients. We also welcome your participation in this newsletter. If you would like to contribute on any R11i topic, please send your contact information, topic, and a short abstract to mweiss@solutionbeacon.com.

Mary Lou Weiss and Randy Giefer, Editors, Solution Beacon

R11i Workshops at OAUG

As an official OAUG Training Provider, **Solution Beacon, LLC** is joining OAUG and once again sponsoring the highly acclaimed Oracle Applications Release 11i Workshops at the San Diego Fall OAUG on October 28-29, 2002. The focus of the Workshops is to share "real-world" experience as well as tips and techniques to manage the complex Oracle Application environment delivered with Release 11i. These unique, two-day Workshops are FREE to OAUG attendees. Attendance is on a first come, first served basis and pre-registration will not be available. OAUG will be providing the meeting room and venue for the Workshops, while **Solution Beacon** will be providing the technical and functional expertise on Implementations and Upgrades as well as trainers for the Workshops and the Release 11i knowledgebase for download distribution from the web.

The first day of the workshops will be dedicated to the Implementation of Release 11i. The Implementation workshops will be on the technical Concepts, Installation, Administration, Maintenance and Performance Tuning. There will also be workshops on the functional aspects with new features and functionality and iProcurement. The second day will focus predominately on Upgrading to Release 11i with the exception of a session on Re-implementing versus Upgrading to Release 11i. The rest of the Upgrade sessions will be on the Steps and Approaches, Performance Tuning, Upgrade Tools with an online Upgrade demonstration. There will also be a workshop on functional upgrade issues. Please send any questions or suggestions on the workshops to mweiss@solutionbeacon.com.

John Stouffer, Business Development, Solution Beacon



11.5.5 Startup/Shutdown Scripts Bug

We have found a bug in two of the Oracle supplied startup/shutdown scripts in 11.5.5. The scripts are `adstrtal.sh` (startup) and `adstpall.sh` (shutdown). When these scripts call "`adalnctl.sh`" (sqlnet listener for `fnfds`, `fn DSM`, etc.), they do not pass the correct arguments and the apps listener fails to startup. The correct format to call `adalnctl.sh` is:

```
$ adalnctl.sh {start|stop} listener_name
```

However, the start/stop scripts call the script with this command:

```
$ adalnctl.sh {start|stop} apps_user/apps_password
```

To fix, add this line to the start/stop scripts:

```
$ adalnctl.sh {start|stop} APPS_${ORACLE_SID:-$TWO_TASK}
```

The problem is fixed in the 11.5.7 start/stop scripts.

Jeff Holt, Solution Beacon

Oracle Tutor R11i

What is Oracle Tutor 11i?

Oracle Corporation purchased the Tutor program from another company in the latter part of the 1990's and made it part of their documentation support system for Oracle implementations. Tutor is an add-on to MS Word and as Word has progressed from Office 95 to Office 97 to Office 2000, ad infinitum, Oracle has improved Tutor to conform to each new edition of Word. It does not utilize any part of the Oracle Database or Tools.

There are two parts to Tutor: Author and Publisher. Author is the part that looks exactly like MS Word, except for a couple of extra toolbars and is used to create documents which, in most cases, are relatively small in size. Tutor helps prevent some of the large document problems inherent to Word. Publisher is the second part of Tutor and looks nothing like MS Word. Publisher combines the documents produced in Author into several types of larger and more complex documents that include such document-types as student guides, desk manuals and procedures.

While Tutor started out as a fairly simple program, its functions have been enhanced version by version until it now has the ability to import PowerPoint presentations into the .doc Word format, publish documents in HTML and, in conjunction with Adobe Distiller, produce PDF format documents. It can create flowcharts in procedure-style documents, update Distribution sections and produce owner manuals from the



R11i Newsletter

Solution Beacon, LLC

Volume No.6, October 2002 - OAUG Edition

Ownership sections of documents. Tutor is a very powerful tool for documenting role- or subject-based instructional materials and its uses are only limited by the imagination of its users.

Why use Tutor 11i?

By using the Oracle documents that are included with Tutor 11i, most course materials relating to any of the Oracle products can be produced with a minimum of document creation. This creation mainly involves the editing of the documents provided. The content is identical to that of the Oracle Education courses and there are hundreds of documents included with Tutor 11i.

The general format of all Tutor documents starts with a Distribution and Ownership section, which can be omitted to save space. Each section is used in the creation of certain types of documents and updating. When used by Publisher, the Distribution and Ownership sections are stripped from the new documents, but the other formatting remains the same. Author uses the preformatted method which means that you select the style to be used for each section of the document and do not have to edit the document by bolding or italicizing word by word. It allows for fast document preparation in a standard and attractive format. All in all, Oracle has produced a very powerful and useful word processing tool named TUTOR 11i!

Howard Penn, Solution Beacon

Oracle Applications Manager (OAM) - Part II

The Oracle Applications Manager utility that comes bundled with Release 11.5.7 of the e-Business Suite of Applications is a powerful new tool for Application Administrators. The base functionality includes numerous items that Database and Applications administrators have spent thousands of dollars and untold man hours trying to replicate. Upon initial sign-on by a user with SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR privileges, the user is presented with an html page for each environment. The information is graphically presented.

Wouldn't you like to know how many wait events the database is sustaining in the DEVL environment? Or how about how the forms are being served in your TEST instance? Both are just a few mouse clicks away. Simply click on the link for the instance to be reviewed, and OAM presents a page showing the number of database sessions, the number of concurrent requests, as well as the services available for the represented instance. There are also default links for database status or to submit a new request. All of this is done via html and java.

Would you like to know the patch level of instances? The actions associated with a specific patch? The sight level profiles settings in a particular instance? All of the



11i Newsletter

Solution Beacon, LLC

Volume No.6, October 2002 - OAUG Edition

above and more are viewable via the OAM tool. OAM bundles almost all of the old functionality of OEM with new Applications flexibility. This includes the ability to monitor and view everything from the site level profile options to the exceptions generated during concurrent processing. All is done via a web interface. The new tool truly gives flexible and real-time abilities to remote monitoring.

OAM also helps in monitoring the Workflow cartridges. The Workflow Manager adds an ability to monitor remotely or across the network, the individual workflow engines and background processes. The ability to truly submit a new maintenance request via a web page adds a level of flexibility not seen before.

The ability to actually see what is happening in the database, including the number of sessions and bgin requests, as well as a graphical breakdown of the concurrent request queue enables multiple support personnel to be able to maintain the new and ever increasing complex application environments.

Overall, the tool has a lot of wonderful features and far too many features to list here individually. The tool comes fully enabled with 11.5.7. We highly recommend that Database and Application Administrators begin exploring OAM and utilizing its powerful capabilities.

James Jones, Solution Beacon

New Rapidwiz for 11.5.7

According to Oracle Applications Release Notes for 11.5.7 (Part Number A92168-01) "The current version of Rapid Install wizard is 11.5.7.32. Verify that you have this version by using the RapidWizVersion executable located in the rapidwiz directory on the Start Here CD (included in the Oracle Applications Release 11i CD Pack)."

UNIX OS:

```
$ cd /cdrom $ cd rapidwiz
$ ./RapidWizVersion
```

Windows OS:

```
C:\> D: D:\> cd
rapidwiz D:\> RapidWizVersion.cmd
```

If your current version is not 11.5.7.32, apply Rapid Install patch 2479028. This patch is available on Oracle MetaLink under the Rapid Install product.

John Stouffer, Solution Beacon



R10.7 De-support Meeting at OAUG

At the Fall OAUG Conference in San Diego the OAUG Customer Support Council is planning to have a Focus Group session to discuss the Release 10.7 De-support and what type of support may be available from Oracle after the de-support date. OAUG has invited Oracle to attend this meeting which will be held October 28th from 10:00 - 11:30am in Room 14B. This meeting is in response to a De-support Gap Survey by OAUG. OAUG received many responses from OAUG member companies who are concerned that they may not be able to migrate from 10.7 to 11i prior to de-support date of June 30, 2003. Please contact Pat Dues (PDues@ci.las-vegas.nv.us) if you are interested in attending the meeting or seeing the survey results.

John Stouffer, Solution Beacon

Oracle Objects for OLE

The Oracle Objects for OLE is a software package freely downloadable that one can use in Excel and Word using VBscript and VBS scripts to connect to the database and return data directly into the format these tools understand. For example, it will return select list data into an excel worksheet as rows/columns.

Observations about the product are:

- 1) The end user must know vbs or vbscript AND understand how to use the OLE data object to issue queries.
- 2) The user needs a SQL*Net connection from the client pc to the database, which complicates the matter for thin client users.
- 3) The user needs a database account setup to allow access to all the tables in your queries.
- 4) This method of access does not restrict from querying only. Unwanted update, insert, and delete commands could be executed.
- 5) Each desktop must have the oo4o software installed.

A sample vbs program is:

```
Sub Startup()  
Dim OraSession As Object  
Dim OraDatabase As Object  
Dim ExcelDynaset As Object  
Dim Row As Integer 'Row placeholder  
Dim Col As Integer 'Column placeholder  
Dim Records As Variant 'Variant so can add to strings.  
'Number of Rows to fill  
Dim Statement As String 'SQL statement  
Dim CodeName As String 'Temp variable to hold Code  
Dim FirstMonth As Integer 'First month so set need to create
```



R11i Newsletter

Solution Beacon, LLC

Volume No.6, October 2002 - OAUG Edition

```
Dim MonthCol As Integer 'dynaset
                                'Month column

'Create connection to OLE server and logon to database.
Set OraSession = CreateObject("OracleInProcServer.XOraSession")
Set OraDatabase = OraSession.DbOpenDatabase("DB1", "scott/tiger",
ORADB_DEFAULT)

'Set up the first part of the SQL statement and initialise counters
Statement = "select code, month, value from excel where period_id =
:period and code in ("
Records = 0
Row = 4
Col = 2

'Loop picking up the codes and creating the parameters, assigning
the 'values and adding to the statement.
While Worksheets(1).Cells(Row, Col) <> ""
Records = Records + 1
CodeName = "code" & Records
OraDatabase.Parameters.Add CodeName, 0, 1
OraDatabase.Parameters(CodeName).Value =
Worksheets(1).Cells(Row, Col).Value
If Records = 1 Then
    Statement = Statement + ":" + CodeName
Else
    Statement = Statement + ",:" + CodeName
End If
Row = Row + 1
Wend
Statement = Statement + ") and month = :month"

'Add remaining parameters - month will vary with the column
OraDatabase.Parameters.Add "period", 0, 1
OraDatabase.Parameters.Add "month", 0, 1
OraDatabase.Parameters("period").Value = Worksheets(1).Cells(1,
2).Value

'Loop round fetching for and populating each month
FirstMonth = True
MonthCol = 4 'starting month column

While Worksheets(1).Cells(3, MonthCol).Value <> ""
OraDatabase.Parameters("month").Value = Worksheets(1).Cells(3,
MonthCol).Value

If FirstMonth = True Then

'Create the dynaset - executes the query and does an array
fetch.
MsgBox Statement 'so we can see the statement being
built
Set ExcelDynaset = OraDatabase.DbCreateDynaset(Statement,
ORADYN_DEFAULT)
FirstMonth = False 'so we don't do this again
Else
'Simply refresh the dynaset to re-execute the query with the
new
'month value
ExcelDynaset.DbRefresh
End If
ExcelDynaset.DbMoveFirst
```



```
Col = 2

While ExcelDynaset.EOF <> True
  Row = 4          'starting row for first record

  'Need to match returned value to code.
  CodeName = ExcelDynaset.Fields("code").Value

  While Worksheets(1).Cells(Row, Col).Value <> CodeName
    Row = Row + 1
  Wend
  Worksheets(1).Cells(Row, MonthCol).Value =
ExcelDynaset.Fields("value").Value
  ExcelDynaset.MoveNext
Wend
MonthCol = MonthCol + 1
Wend

End Sub
```

Not exactly intuitive, but for power users with programming backgrounds, it could be a quick way to get data into an Excel spreadsheet with powerful manipulation capabilities.

Jeff Holt, Solution Beacon

Upgrading from 11.03 to R11i with Rapid Install

If you are currently in the process of upgrading from 11.0.3 to 11i but are already running the 8.1.7.4 database, please be aware of an issue with Rapid Install overlaying your current 8.1.7.4 Oracle Home with 8.1.7.3.

You should specify a new directory for the Rapid Install 8i database. Follow the modified OFA directory structure for Oracle Home and keep the Rapid Install scheme that would use 8.1.7 (without minor release number like 8.1.7.3 and 8.1.7.4). If you've already installed in a directory of 8.1.7.3.0, this should not be a problem. You can change it later if you want.

Performing the following steps helps to keep things separate, but in sync with each other.

1. Let rapid install create it's own 8.1.7 Oracle Home using rdbms version 8.1.7.3
2. Afterwards, upgrade the rapid install 8.1.7.3 database Oracle Home to 8.1.7.4 using the oui (Oracle Universal Installer) that rapid install provides.
3. Perform the 11i upgrade using the new 8.1.7.4 Oracle Home.
4. If your other databases are not Oracle 11i, keep them separate using their existing Oracle Home(s).

Jeff Holt, Solution Beacon



New Oracle Alerts/Errors

9i Connectivity To Oracle7 Databases

Contrary to references in the documentation that may indicate otherwise, connections from an Oracle 9.2 client to any Oracle7 database are NOT supported. Oracle issued an alert on 13-SEP-02 in MetaLink Note 207319.1.

2000 and 2001 Mini-packs Availability

Oracle sent an alert on 9/24/02 that "Oracle Payables Support will be adopting a new policy of removing MetaLink download access for old Payables mini-packs, effective September 30, 2002. The mini-packs affected this time are 11i.AP.A through 11i.AP.F, which were all released in 2000 and 2001."

Oracle states that they will continue to "support customers who are currently on these versions (i.e., 11i.AP.A through 11i.AP.F). However, if you are planning to implement a newer version of Payables, you will only have access to 11i.AP.G and later. We always recommend that you implement the latest version of Payables -- which is currently included in Financials Family Pack C (2380068)."

ORA-600 Internal Errors Library

ORA-600 errors are raised from the kernel code of the Oracle RDBMS software when an internal inconsistency is detected or an unexpected condition is met. The errors may not necessarily be bugs but might also be caused by problems with the Operating System, hardware failures, inadequate resources, or other problems directly related to a particular environment. Oracle made updates to the existing knowledgebase available for ORA-600 internal errors on 02-OCT-2002. The knowledgebase lists sections on Getting Started, Alerts, Top ORA-600's errors and Known Problems. The Getting Started section even has a Lookup Utility (MetaLink Note 153788.1). For more information about the ORA-600 Knowledgebase see MetaLink Note 144652.1.

Randy Giefer and John Stouffer, Solution Beacon

Release 11.5.8

Oracle announced 11-OCT-02 that Release 11.5.8 maintenance pack will be available in November 2002. They also announced that "Effective immediately, MetaLink will be hosting eTRM content for Oracle E-Business Suite 11.5.4, 11.5.5, 11.5.6, 11.5.7 and the new 11.5.8 release. The arrival of 11.5.5 content may be of particular interest to some customers because it has never before been hosted on MetaLink."

John Stouffer, Solution Beacon



Product Spotlight

MERANT APPLICATION CHANGE MANAGEMENT

Oracle Corporation is the world's largest enterprise software company, providing enterprise software to the world's largest and most successful businesses. These companies have invested a great deal of time and money in their Oracle environments. Most of them have extended or built applications to meet business requirements and needs. Typically this involves creating business-specific customizations, extensions or interfaces to Oracle's packaged applications, as well as ongoing development to assure the integrity of the Oracle environments on a day-to-day basis. To remain cutting edge technology, Oracle regularly releases new capabilities that can further add business value but may require extensive changes to existing forms, database schemas, libraries and dependent code. These upgrades often contain bugs, which will require Oracle patches to be applied. Application Change Management increases production stability, code traceability and added security across all environments. The goal is to simplify the management of "change" for organizations that own either the Oracle Applications or build homegrown applications using Oracle Developer technology. Application Change Management provides you with the ability to identifying what has been customized/extended and then tracks and carries them forward. Application Change Management also manages the effect of changes created by Oracle upgrades, patches or new revisions of extended code. It then deploys custom code changes across all environments while maintaining dependency integrity. Application change management prevents the changes from getting out of control and affecting your production system.

PVCS Change Manager for Oracle offers a powerful, easy-to use and automated solution that increases Production stability while reducing your Oracle total cost of ownership. Automated processes reduce the chance for time and budget overruns and replaces many of the current manual resource-intensive practices you have today.

Merant's PVCS Change Manager for Oracle provides the industries best Application Change Management solution by providing customers a way to automate many of the resource intensive practices you have today. PVCS Change Manager for Oracle enables customers to identify what they have customized or extended within Oracle, and to assess the impact of Oracle patches and upgrades at the industry's deepest level, all with automated processes. Automated processes also track and document development changes as they occur, while providing traceability for both internal and external audit needs. Once your developed code is ready, automated processes deploy your code across all you Oracle platforms while maintaining dependency integrity. Email notifications are sent if something goes wrong, which allows you to proactively deal with change instead of reacting to it after something breaks. PVCS Change



R11i Newsletter

Solution Beacon, LLC

Volume No.6, October 2002 - OAUG Edition

Manager for Oracle also eliminates the chances that an unauthorized change could be made to your code or database without your knowledge. Your IT team will see increased productivity with less rework and fewer mistakes during patching, upgrades or when extending the Applications.

For more information, contact Merant at 800-547-7827

R11i Upgrade Chat Sessions

Oracle and OAUG with the assistance of the OAUG Upgrade SIG is continuing to sponsor chat sessions on upgrading from 10.7/11.0.X to Release 11i. The first chat on August 29, 2002 was well attended though many users experienced technical difficulties getting access to the chat. Oracle has fixed the access problem and has scheduled another chat for October 24, 2002 at 6PM PDT. The late hour for the next chat was chosen to allow people in other time zones to participate in the chat. Plans are to post the transcripts for the chats at <http://www.oracle.com/appsnet/content.html>. The calls are in the format of live Internet chats. Questions were, and will continue to be, solicited from the OAUG membership in advance so that the appropriate personnel from Oracle can be a part of the call. Please send your questions to mweiss@solutionbeacon.com. We will compile the questions and pass them on to Oracle to be addressed during the call.

An effort will be made by Oracle to provide these chat session at times to accommodate OAUG members in all time zones. Plans are to archive the chat sessions and to make them available on the OAUG and Oracle websites. If very specific questions cannot be answered in a chat session, Oracle will assign someone to take the question offline and provide answers to the participant. These answers will also be archived for review by the OAUG membership. Please see

http://www.oracle.com/appsnet/community/usergroup/docs/chat/transcripts/082902_noble.html

for the transcript of the August 29, 2002 Chat Session. Check <http://www.oracle.com/appsnet/content.html> for how to access the chat sessions. Please feel free to send jstouffer@solutionbeacon.com comments and/or suggestions on how to make these calls as productive as possible for the OAUG membership

John Stouffer, OAUG Upgrade SIG Chair, Solution Beacon

OAUG Upgrade SIG

The Upgrade SIG will meet on October 27 at 3-4pm in Room 5AB at the OAUG Conference in San Diego. The SIG is soliciting people to provide useful information for the Upgrade SIG website at <http://www.oaug.org/upgdsig/>. If you would like to join



R11i Newsletter

Solution Beacon, LLC

Volume No.6, October 2002 - OAUG Edition

the Upgrade SIG or have suggestion, please send email to UPGSig@solutionbeacon.com.

John Stouffer, Upgrade Chair, Solution Beacon

OAUG Sys Admin SIG

The newly formed Sys Admin SIG will have its second meeting at the OAUG Fall 2002 Conference in San Diego on October 27 at 1-2 pm in Room 6D. If you would like to join the Sys Admin SIG or have suggestion, please send email to sysadminsigs@solutionbeacon.com.

Randy Giefer, Sys Admin Chair, Solution Beacon

Helpful Links

Here are some good links for Oracle training:

Oracle Learning Network (OLN) - <http://oracle.com/education/oln/>

Oracle iSeminars - <http://oracle.com/iseminars>

Oracle Webcasts - <http://partner.oracle.com/webcasts>

OAUG - Online Help & Hotlinks - http://www.oaug.org/public/online_help.htm



R11i Newsletter

Solution Beacon, LLC

Volume No.6, October 2002 - OAUG Edition

Upcoming Solution Beacon Events

EVENT	DATE/TIME	LOCATION
OAUG Fall 2002	October 27-30, 2002	San Diego, CA
OAUG Upgrade SIG Meeting, John Stouffer, Chair	October 27, 2002, 3-4pm in Room 5AB	San Diego, CA
OAUG SysAdmin SIG Meeting, Randy Giefer, Chair	October 27, 2002, 1-2pm in Room 6B	San Diego, CA
OAUG Concurrent Manager Panel Randy Giefer	October 28, 2002, 11:30am-12:30pm in Room 11AB	San Diego, CA
OAUG Fall 2002: R11i Workshops	October 28-29, 2002	San Diego, CA
App Object Lib, AutoInstall, Tools, DBA stuff Q&A	October 29, 2002, 12:30-1:30pm in Room 2	San Diego, CA
OAUG Fall 2002 Presentation: R11i Apps DBA - Teaching An Old Dog New Tricks, Randy Giefer	October 30, 2002	San Diego, CA
OAUG Fall 2002 Presentation: Upgrading to Release 11i : Lessons Learned, John Stouffer and Alicia Hoekstra, BearingPoint	October 30, 2002	San Diego, CA
AppsWorld: Migrating in 11i, John Stouffer	January 19-22, 2003	San Diego, CA
AppsWorld: SysAdmin SIG Meeting, Randy Giefer, chair	January 19-22, 2003	San Diego, CA
AppsWorld: Upgrade SIG Meeting, John Stouffer, chair	January 19-22, 2003	San Diego, CA

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