



# 11i Newsletter

Solution Beacon, LLC

Volume No.9, April 2003

## 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](mailto:mweiss@solutionbeacon.com).

*Mary Lou Weiss and Randy Giefer, Editors, Solution Beacon*

## OAUG Event Announcement – Release 11i Workshops



OAUG and Solution Beacon have teamed up to bring Solution Beacon's highly acclaimed and informational Release 11i Workshops to four cities across the United States this year. These free workshops are designed to provide assistance to people dreading or struggling with their upgrades or re-implementations before Oracle's June 2003 de-support date. The locations are centralized in dense "Oracle-populated" areas to minimize travel costs for the attendees.

Two, 2-day workshops will be given in the Midwest in May 2003. Solution Beacon will provide a 2-day workshop in Chicago, IL on May 19-20, 2003 and another 2-day workshop in Dallas, TX on May 21-22, 2003. The first, a one-day workshop, occurred in Washington, D.C., March 25. These Workshops are **FREE** to the attendees, but space is limited so [register now](#). For additional information, visit [www.solutionbeacon.com](http://www.solutionbeacon.com). Send any questions to [roadshow@solutionbeacon.com](mailto:roadshow@solutionbeacon.com). If you are interested in attending either or both of the upcoming workshops in May, the location details are listed below:

Release 11i Workshops – Embassy Suites O'Hare, Chicago, IL, May 19-20, 2003

Release 11i Workshops – The Guest Lodge at The Cooper Aerobics Center, Dallas, TX, May 21-22, 2003

The Release 11i workshops will also be part of the offerings to registered conference attendees at the OAUG Conference in San Diego in September 2003.

*Mary Lou Weiss, Solution Beacon*



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## E-Business CRM 11.5.8 Upgrade Now Available

The new Oracle E-Business CRM Upgrade is now available. To get started, [Instructions for the new CRM Upgrade for Release 11.5.8](#) can be obtained via Oracle Metalink (Note 232395.1). Customers on Oracle Applications 10.7 or 11.0 that have CRM Applications can use this document to upgrade directly to version 11.5.8. The following modules are covered in this new upgrade process:

- o Marketing
- o Sales
- o Incentive (Sales) Compensation
- o Service
- o Contracts
- o Install Base

Highlights of the new CRM upgrade process includes a substantial reduction in the number of manual upgrade steps, minimization of system downtime and full integration with the Upgrade Support Assistant (USA) program. The 11.5.8 CRM Upgrade is fully supported and Customers with inquiries or in need of assistance may log Technical Assistance Requests (TARs) with Oracle Support Services.

Additional information on the CRM Upgrade can be found on Oracle Metalink ([see E-Business 11i](#)).

The CRM Upgrade will be re-certified on Release 11.5.9 when it becomes available.

*Alicia Hoekstra, BearingPoint*

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## Unix SendMail Vulnerability (and Workflow)

Oracle Workflow works best when set up with Unix Sendmail (assuming you are running the Oracle database on Unix). However, Sendmail, being a common application, is open to attack from the outside. The Houston Chronicle (April 23, 2000), crediting CERT, reported that sendmail could be used by an attacker to execute code on remote systems (i.e. your database server). It is quite probable that your server manufacturer is already aware of this problem and has fixed it, but to be sure, check out the web site [www.sendmail.com/security](http://www.sendmail.com/security).

*Karen Brownfield, Solution Beacon*



## Invoice Validation Process

Recently upgrade or re-implement Oracle Payables? Can't seem to find the payables approval process or reports? Well, here's why: Oracle has updated these processes to prevent confusion with the new workflow and to more accurately reflect its functions.

With the invoice validation enhancements in mind here are a few changes to assist the user during the transition.

- ✦ The Payables Approval program
  - Renamed to Invoice Validation program.
- ✦ The Accounts Payable Approval Report
  - Renamed to Invoice Validation Report.
- ✦ The Invoice Approvals window
  - Renamed Invoice Hold and Release Names window.
- ✦ Invoice status renamed from Approved, Needs Reapproval, Never Approved, and Unapproved Prepayment
  - Change to Validated, Needs Revalidation, Never Validated, and Unvalidated Prepayment.
- ✦ In the Invoice Actions window, Approve check box renamed Validate and Approve Related check box
  - Renamed Validate Related Invoices.
- ✦ In the Invoice tabbed region of the Payables Options window, Allow Online Approval check box
  - Renamed Allow Online Validation.
- ✦ In the Withholding Tax tabbed region of the Payables Options window, Apply Withholding Tax option, At Invoice Approval Time
  - Renamed At Invoice Validation Time.
- ✦ In the Withholding Tax tabbed region of the Payables Options window, Create Withholding Invoice option, At Invoice Approval Time
  - Renamed At Invoice Validation Time.
- ✦ In the Control tabbed region of the Suppliers window, Hold Unapproved Invoices check box
  - Renamed Hold Unvalidated Invoices.
- ✦ In the Control tabbed region of the Supplier Sites window, Hold Unapproved Invoices check box
  - Renamed Hold Unvalidated Invoices.

As always, the user should continually monitor any on-going application updates or changes on Metalink.

*Ronda Ellis, Solution Beacon*

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## Property Manager



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Do you pay rent, lease property to others, or even both? Do you need to bill/pay for taxes, utilities, security or other costs associated with property? Do you also need to be reminded when options on your leases are due? Do you wish Payables would let you generate recurring payments for an entire month without paging through every recurring payment definition? If you have licensed the e-Business suite or just the Financials suite, then you can, because you also own Property Manager.

Property Manager was introduced in 11i.5, and has received major increases in functionality with each additional point release. This article will discuss some of the functional highlights available with 11i.8 (PN.H).

Property Manager supports making payments to a landlord, billing tenants, and sub-leases. You can rent/bill entire buildings, floors(s), and/or office(s) (or land/parcels/sections). You can set up payments for rent, taxes, utilities, security, or anything else. For each lease you can set up contacts, insurance, rights, obligations, and options. Changes to leases are tracked and you can view the history of all changes to the lease.

Payments/Billings can be set up to be due/billed at any frequency and on any day of the month. You can set up multiple payments, each to a different or same supplier, each for a different purpose, different amount, due on different days. You can set up actual payment/billing amounts or estimated payments/billings. If you are the landlord of a shopping center, you can even base your billings on the revenue of your tenants (variable rent). Property Manager also supports indexed rents and normalized payments/billings. You can set up multiple liability/receivables accounts, multiple accrued liability/accrued receivables accounts, and/or multiple expense/revenue accounts for each payment/billing. Duration of payment schedules can be for any duration, as long as the start/end date is within the dates of the lease.

Once the lease is finalized, Oracle creates all the payments/billings in draft mode. So at any time you can go to the Generate Payments/Billings screen and search for records by date range, by lease number, or by period. If you know that all the amounts are correct you can approve payments/billings for an entire month in one click. If you have estimated payments/billings, you can fill in the actual amount and then approve them.

Since Property Manager was designed to work with Payables and Receivables, the "required" setup, so that you can begin defining locations and leases, takes less than an hour. You will want to create standards for naming buildings/land/offices and leases. Please read the section in the Property Manager User's Guide on how aliases function before you set up your first building.

With Property Manager you can track space utilization by employee or cost center or both. While the product does not currently support automatically allocating expenses by employee or cost center, it does produce the reports necessary to create the appropriate journal entries.



When you define each lease, you can set up milestones or reminders of key events such as options to renew, insurance and tax due dates, rent increases, etc. The reminders are not yet workflow enabled, but it is easy to schedule alerts for these reminders, or you can rely on the Oracle supplied report.

Property Manager is still the “new kid on the block” and Oracle development is rapidly adding new features. While PN.H is the current release, PN.I just came out in Financials Family Pack D, and PH.J (Family Pack E) is already under development. With each family pack the product becomes richer.

The latest users guide is dated February 2003 and can be downloaded from Metalink by clicking on ‘Top Tech Docs’, then clicking on ‘e-Business Suite ERP’, navigate to the Financials section, click on ‘Property Manager’, then click on ‘Documentation’. Additionally on this page are some free video training sessions on some of the newer features like Variable Rent.

The product may be new, but it is included in the Financials suite at no additional cost and the functionality far surpasses the recurring payment functionality in Payables and repeat billing functionality in Receivables. So try it, you’re in for a pleasant surprise.

*Karen Brownfield, Solution Beacon*

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## Oracle FIN\_PF.D

After a significant delay, Oracle just released FIN\_PF.D - 2629235 (April 2003). What does that mean to you, you ask yourself?

To apply FIN\_PF.D (which includes FV.G amongst many, many other patches):

- 2629235 Pre-requisite patches
  - 2085104 - Self Service Framework V5.5.2C
  - 2278688 - Self Service Framework V5.6E
  - 2350501 - Workflow Update V2
  - 2771817 - Self Service Framework V5.7H

Refers to MetaLink Doc 215823.1 - About Oracle Financials Family Pack D

- Additional Pre-requisites
  - 2344175 - AD.G Mini-pack
  - 2855600 - Post AD.G Consolidated
  - 2404698 - FND.F Mini-pack
  - 2631776 - FND Duplicate Record Fix
  - 2771817 - Self Service Framework V5.7H
  - 2440710 - ECX.C Mini-pack
  - 2657249 - FIN\_PF.D Documentation (can apply anytime)



Depending on products/features installed or used the following patches must be applied:

#### Functional Prerequisites

- HRMS 2502761 - Patch 11i.HR\_PF.C.1
- AME 2198768 - Oracle Approvals Management v1.0
- OTL 2139372 - OTL / OIE integration patch
- PER 1988754 - 11i.PER.G
- GMS 2166451 - 11i.GMS.I Mini-pack
- GMS 1923002 - Grants/OIE Integration
- GMS 1769725 - GL Fundscheck
- GL 2458727 - Account Hierarchy Manager with JInitiator 1.1.8.x
- GL 2424656 - Account Hierarchy Manager with JInitiator 1.3.1
- IBY 2340178 - Standalone IBY patch
- AME 2198768 - Oracle Approvals Management
- PRC 2320032 - Procurement Family Pack H
- HRMS 2418091 - PSB Integration with HRMS Position Control
- OWF 2580807 - Custom callback and notification/event API signature issue
- BNE 2602414 - Oracle Web ADI 8.2.1.8
- AMS 2304444 - Marketing Online Release 11.5.7B
- AMS 2415884 - Automation of the settlement processes for Deductions and Overpayments created from AR
- AMS 2455761 - Consolidated claims and deductions updates
- IBY 2340178 - Standalone IBY patch
- OM 2250333 - 11i.OM\_PF.H
- RDBMS - Oracle Database 8.1.7 or higher
- RDBMS patch for bug 2456761 - Oracle Database 8.1.7 or higher
- OWF 2649327 - Corrupted value set FND\_WF\_AGENTS
- OWF 2505492 - Include event name in AQ correlation ID when enqueued

This is a significant effort with the Database, Tools and Desktop Upgrades (Database, Account, Hierarchy, ADI, Workflow, JInitiator).

*John Stouffer, Solution Beacon*

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## Installing Sun JDK 1.3 on Solaris

It is recommended to install the latest J2SE Solaris patch cluster for your Solaris OS prior to installing JDK 1.3. You can download the latest patch cluster from <http://sunsolve.sun.com/pub-cgi/show.pl?target=patches/J2SE>. Follow the steps documented in the readme file.

Download the JDK 1.3 tar file from <http://java.sun.com/j2se/downloads.html>. Use the package installation, not the self-extracting version.



Extract the contents of the tar file into a temporary directory:

```
# zcat j2sdk-1_3_1_<version number>-solaris-sparc.tar.Z | tar -xf -
```

This will create seven packages (SUNWj3dmo, SUNWj3dev, SUNWj3man, SUNWj3rt, plus three packages containing Japanese man pages: SUNWjej3m, SUNWj3m, and SUNWjuj3m).

If not already, become root by running su. The default installation location for J2SDK 1.3.1 versions is /usr/j2se. If you have previously installed the packages for J2SDK 1.3.0, remove them.

```
# pkgrm SUNWj3dmo SUNWj3man SUNWj3dev SUNWj3rt
```

Run the pkgadd command to install the packages:

```
# pkgadd -d . SUNWj3rt SUNWj3dev SUNWj3man SUNWj3dmo
```

You may now delete the tar files and extracted directories as they are no longer needed. Test the Java compile and runtime engine.

If your /usr/java symbolic link was pointing to the J2SDK 1.2.2 installation at /usr/java1.2, you may want to update it to point to /usr/j2se where the J2SDK 1.3.1 version will be installed. This will effectively make JDK 1.3.1 the default Java version on your system:

```
# cd /usr  
# rm java  
# ln -s j2se java
```

*Jeff Holt, Solution Beacon*

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## **New Features Arriving with Internet Expenses and Financials Family Pack D**

Oracle has recently introduced a large number of new features to its Internet Expenses product in mini-packs F and G (mini-pack G is part of Financials Family Pack D, just recently released). As is typical with Oracle's newer products, the degree of change is quite high as compared to the older core applications products.

New features in OIE.F seem to focus on ease of data entry, the ability to enter more detailed information, and in providing some degree of reporting to management on expense reports (functionality that had been lacking in earlier releases, forcing customers to write and maintain custom reports).



Some of the valuable features include:

- line level cost center overrides (previously only available at the header level)
- the ability to withdraw expense reports
- ability to duplicate expense reports based on a prior report
- a new responsibility created for management reporting
- more credit card reports
- the ability to end date certain items on the expense report templates.

New Features in OIE.G build upon changes made to OIE.F. New features include functionality that supports compliance to travel and expenses policies, better mileage and per diem support, additional audit and reporting capabilities, and abilities to apply tolerances to entered exchange rates versus actual exchange rates.

Of course, all of this new functionality means that the existing forms and reports are often modified to support the change, as well as changes to the workflow definitions as shipped from Oracle. For customers that have made modifications, it is recommended that all of the new features be examined to see if they can meet business requirements allowing customizations to go away. The in-house collection of test plans should be augmented to address the new functionality to better support future patching and upgrades.

For more information about all of the changes brought about in OIE.F and OIE.G as well as other versions, please see metalink and look for the item entitled Oracle Internet Expenses 11i+ Features Matrix.

*Mark Clark, O2Works*

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## Which Login Page is Best?

With the 11i release, signing into the applications became possible from two pages, the Personal Home Page or the "old" sign-in screen. However, as the 11i cycle has progressed and the self service applications increased, Oracle has now de-supported the use of any sign-on screen except the Personal Home Page. (see note 177240.1)

How can you tell which page is which? If the URL you are using to sign in is `http://<machine_name.domain_name>:<port#>/dev60cgi/f60cgi` then you are using the "old" sign-in and should change. The correct URL is `http://<machine_name.domain_name>:<port#>/OA_HTML/US/ICXINDEX.htm`

Bypassing the Personal Home Page sign on bypasses loading the ICX parameters. Additionally, users are not authenticated, which may cause some issues with Action/Export and other utilities. You may even get "Your session is no longer valid" messages when trying to sign in. And with the logon expiration in 11i.7 and following, you may not be able to log back in.



In a related note (135005.1), if you switch to the Personal Home Page login and suddenly you are getting FRM-92100 errors, "Your connection to the server was interrupted", this may be the result of a network error or a failure on the server. You will need to reestablish your connection, then the probable cause is the presence of quotes in the value for parameter ICX\_NUMERIC\_CHARACTERS. The setting for this value should be ., not ".". Be sure to check this profile option at all levels; site, application, responsibility, and user.

*Karen Brownfield, Solution Beacon*

## Product Spotlight

### A Revelation in Applications Evolution

Whether upgrading or newly implementing Oracle 11i, integrating additional flexibility, adaptability and security within your Oracle Applications can be beneficial and crucial when rapid changes in your business environment requires immediate response. Traditionally, most applications have been slow to react to business needs, requiring deep and complex "system surgery" to create agile applications. The need for business flexibility has lead to innovative new approaches on how business rules are deployed within the applications.

#### Business Rule Driven Applications...Because Change Happens

Applications driven by business rules are agile and architected to provide the flexibility to change whenever your business changes. They create a more "adaptive" business by applying business rules to improve business processes. A business rule driven application gives the control of the enterprise's business rules back to the business.

#### Logical Apps Rewrites the "Rules"

As a leader in Business Process Management solutions, Logical Apps "rewrites the rules" on optimizing your Oracle Applications. We transform your business processes, enabling the use of sophisticated business rules to support the changes necessary throughout your organization. Designed specifically for an Oracle Applications environment, AppsRules (formerly BizRules) provides users the ability to deploy business rules, customize Oracle forms, and enforce advanced forms security in a matter of minutes. AppsRules allows for rule adaptability, creating intelligent Oracle Forms that fit your business requirements.

#### Decrease Costs and Resource Bottlenecks

In most environments, defining, implementing, and maintaining business rules is typically the responsibility of developers and requires extensive complex programming. AppsRules (formerly BizRules) allows business process owners to define and maintain rule changes through a simple user interface to the Oracle Custom Library that



dynamically generates required code. It empowers your business process owners, and relieves your IT development team from the constant maintenance tasks to change business logic. Development costs and maintenance expenses are dramatically reduced, and the inherent risks associated with complex coding are minimized.

## Complete, Integrated Solution

Utilizing a unique metadata driven business rule engine, AppsRules (formerly BizRules) provides control for your Business Processes and Security Requirements. Fully integrated with the Oracle Applications, AppsRules enables form changes to be completed in minutes rather than weeks or even months. Restricting access to sensitive data, validating and enforcing data entry requirements, streamlining navigation, creating a complete audit trail, and centralizing enhancements are some of the immediate and tangible benefits of AppsRules.



### Free Webinar:

Insecure about Application Security? Implement Advanced Security Rules in Minutes!

Discover why industry leaders are using AppsRules for Oracle Applications to deploy business rules, enhance Oracle forms, and enforce advanced forms security in a matter of minutes. Learn how leading companies are using AppsRules to restrict access to sensitive information, and prevent users from updating specific forms, blocks, and fields. Quickly understand how to enable complex security rules without coding, and learn to create intelligent Oracle forms that fit your changing business requirements.

Sign up for one of our scheduled Webinars, or contact one of our Account Managers to set up a personalized demo: <http://www.logicalapps.com/webinar>

Contact: [sales@logicalapps.com](mailto:sales@logicalapps.com)

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## R10.7 De-Support

The OAUG Customer Support Council compiled a list of questions from the 10.7 De-Support Focus Group. See Oracle's response to the questions at url:

[http://upgdsig.oaug.org/oaug10\\_7answers.htm](http://upgdsig.oaug.org/oaug10_7answers.htm)

Please visit De-Support webpage on the OAUG Upgrade SIG's website for the latest de-support information: <http://www.oaug.org/upgdsig/>

Also, please send an email to [desupport@solutionbeacon.com](mailto:desupport@solutionbeacon.com) if you would like to be added to the de-support distribution list.



John Stouffer, Solution Beacon

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## R10.7 Extended Support

Oracle has announced that they have extended support of 10.7 through June 30, 2004. They have stated that the extended support does not include "error correction support". What does this mean? Error Correction Support means that Oracle WILL NOT support further bug fixes or errors found with Release 10.7 after June 30, 2003. Extended support means that Oracle WILL log TARs, provide assistance and bug fixes for known errors but will not develop any new fixes. Also, MetaLink access to customers in good standing for 10.7 topics will still be available.

From MetaLink:

"E-Business Suite (Oracle Applications) 10.7 customers will continue to receive patches for P1 and P2 bugs until 30-JUN-2003. There will be no maintenance releases and no new operating system or database certifications." ECS Support will end June 30, 2003.

Check out the OAUG Upgrade SIG/Desupport Webpage at:  
<http://www.oaug.org/upgdsig/desupport.html>

For other De-support news see:

[http://news.com.com/2100-1017-981728.html?tag=cd\\_mh](http://news.com.com/2100-1017-981728.html?tag=cd_mh)

Send email to [desupport@solutionbeacon.com](mailto:desupport@solutionbeacon.com) if you would like to be on the de-support email list.

John Stouffer, Solution Beacon

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## Upcoming Solution Beacon Events

EVENT	DATE/TIME	LOCATION
Release 11i Workshops sponsored by Solution Beacon and OAUG	May 19-20, 2003	Embassy Suites O'Hare, Chicago, IL
Release 11i Workshops sponsored by Solution Beacon and OAUG	May 21-22, 2003	The Guest Lodge at The Cooper Aerobics Center, Dallas, TX
SCOUG Roadshow	June Date TBD	Dallas, TX
OAUG OATS - Care and Feeding of Release 11i - John Stouffer	June 9-10, 2003	Worcester, MA
OAUG OATS - Working the Flow in Workflow - Karen Brownfield	June 9-10, 2003	Worcester, MA
OAUG 2003	September 14-17, 2003	San Diego, CA
OAUG 2003: Release 11i Workshops by Solution Beacon, LLC	September 14-17, 2003	San Diego, CA

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