



R11i Newsletter

Solution Beacon, LLC,

Volume No.8, February 2003

Oracle Applications Release 11i Newsletter

The contents of this newsletter were contributed by **Solution Beacon** consultants and other contributors who have accumulated extensive experience during the numerous installations, implementations, and upgrades of Release 11i we have performed with 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



Release 11i Workshops



Solution Beacon is bringing our highly acclaimed and informational Release 11i Workshops to an area near you! Don't worry about missing all the great R11i information shared at the prior OAUG Conferences, because Solution Beacon will help by providing three Workshops relating to Release 11i in 2003. The locations are centralized in dense "Oracle-populated" areas to minimize travel costs for the attendees. We at Solution Beacon will share our knowledge by providing this free assistance to people dreading or struggling with their upgrades or re-implementations before Oracle's June 2003 Release 10.7 de-support date.

The first Workshop is an abbreviated, one-day only session in the D.C. area on March 25, 2003. Two, 2-day workshops will then be held in the Midwest in May 2003. Solution Beacon will provide a 2-day workshop in Chicago, Illinois on May 19-20, 2003 and another 2-day workshop in Dallas, Texas on May 21-22, 2003. The R11i Workshops will be FREE to the attendees, but space will be limited. Please send an e-mail to roadshow@solutionbeacon.com if you are interested in attending one or more of the Workshops. Attendance will be by RSVP only, so please sign up now. The agendas will be announced in the next R11i Newsletter and on our website, but will cover content similar to the OAUG R11i Workshops, viewable under the R11i Workshops 2003 link at www.solutionbeacon.com. The location details are listed below:

Release 11i Workshop - Washington D.C. Marriott, March 25, 2003

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

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

Mary Lou Weiss, Solution Beacon



Differences between 11.5.8 Rapid Clone and 11.5.7 Clone with AutoConfig

Here are just a few observations concerning cloning with 11.5.8 vs. 11.5.7, based on a quick review of the "Rapid Clone" whitepaper.

11.5.7 Clone with AutoConfig

- Requires you to run 11.5.7 Rapid Install again to build the installer inventory files IF you desire to patch the target 8.1.7 database oracle home.
- Uses the Rapid Install config.txt file to rebuild AutoConfig context for the target environment.
- Uses AutoConfig to rebuild environment and configuration files.
- For versions prior to 11.5.7, you must perform the "Convert to AutoConfig" procedure prior to cloning on the source environment.

11.5.8 Rapid Clone

- Does not require you to build OUI inventory files for the target 8.1.7 database oracle home. A separate RDBMS context is built by Rapid Clone for this purpose.
- Uses the Rapid Install config.txt file to rebuild AutoConfig context for target environment.
- AutoConfig is still required by Rapid clone as a dependent component for versions prior to 11.5.7; you must perform the "Convert to AutoConfig" procedure prior to cloning on the source environment.
- For versions prior to 11.5.8, you must apply several patches that supply Rapid Clone functionality.
- Some database administration functions are supplied by Rapid Clone. For example, the names and locations of the datafiles are gathered by Rapid Clone.

Jeff Holt, Solution Beacon

Cloning Problems

After the clone script completes, check the essential environment files to be sure that adconfig.sh worked. The adadmin tasks should work without any additional fixes. If



not, you will have to run `adbldxml.sh` and `adconfig.sh` manually to get it to work. This procedure is described in Metalink 165195.1. An alternative solution is that you could comment out the irrelevant sections in the clone script and rerun.

After that, proceed to the forms/web tier and run the clone script there. There should be an updated version for this because the web/forms tier has slightly different steps involved.

If you had to run `adconfig.sh` manually, most likely there will be `jserv/apache` config files that `adconfig` messed up:

- tnsnames.ora** - duplicate Net8 FND FS entries causes problems
- `adtcctl.sh` - always enabled

- httpd.conf** - had to restore from backup!
- `oracle_apache.conf` - xdk and ojsp path incorrect

- jserv.conf** - `mod_jserv.so` patch incorrect

- jserv.properties** - ojsp path incorrect

- jserv.properties** - Oracle portal entries missing

- jserv.properties** - add `webadi` path back in

- apps.conf** - add `rda` path and `statspack` path back in\

One way to fix this is to copy from the source environment and use `vi` to globally change all reference from the old `sid/directories` to the new. This method is error prone though. Another way is to use the clone script, but this method may need some additional attention.

Jeff Holt, Solution Beacon

11.5.8 Known Install Issues

The following section contains known issues in running Oracle Applications on HP Tru64 UNIX. (These issues may also be applicable to other platforms.)

Net8 Listeners (Oracle8i Database or Report Review Agent) Fail to Start During a Multi-User Installation

The `lsnrctl` executable writes into the `/tmp/.oracle` directory when it runs to start the listeners. If this directory is not writable for any of the users in a multi-user installation, the listeners fail to start during the Rapid Install.

Workaround: Make the `/tmp/.oracle` directory writable for all users of a multi-user installation. For example: `$ chmod 777 /tmp/.oracle`



Upgrading to Oracle Applications 11.5.8 using the Apps-11.5.8 Maintenance Pack

If you are upgrading to Oracle Applications release 11.5.8 using the Apps-11.5.8 Maintenance Pack, you must apply the following patch before you apply the Apps-11.5.8 Maintenance Pack:

2597726 - PLE1158.13 INSTALL: JRE needs extra memory while applying c2293243.drv

After applying the copy driver for this patch, perform the following:

- Log in as the APPL_TOP file system owner.
- Source the APPL_TOP environment file (APPSORA.env).
- Change directories to <AD_TOP>/patch/115/bin.
- Execute the following shell command: ./b2597726.sh
- Source the APPL_TOP environment file (APPSORA.env) again to pick up changes.

This patch will perform the following:

- * It will update the adovars.env file in the <APPL_TOP>/admin directory so that ADJREOPTS is set to use 256 MB of memory instead of 128 MB.
- * If the system is using AutoConfig, it will update the Applications Context file so that it knows that the value for adovars.env ADJREOPTS is now using 256 MB instead of 128 MB of memory.

Running "Maintain Multiple Reporting Currencies Schema(s)" Against 11.5.8 Vision Demonstration Database

If you are going to run the adadmin task "Maintain Multiple Reporting Currencies schema(s)" against your 11.5.8 Vision Demonstration database, you must first:

Drop the synonym APPS.WWSTO_API

Connect to the APPS schema and run the following:

```
SQL> drop synonym APPS.WWSTO_API
SQL> commit
```

John W. Stouffer, Solution Beacon

9i Database New Functionality

The latest release of the Oracle Database 9i Release 9.2.0.2 contains many advantages over the prior release 8i used in conjunction with the Applications. The move to a greater utilization of cost based optimization, as well as improvements to the optimizer itself, dynamic memory management, and latch contention improvements are just a few of the enhancements Oracle has been able to package into the new release of the database. The inclusion of features such as Oracle Managed Files (OMF), Auto Undo



Management, and Automatic Segment Space Management are intended to ease the life of the Database Administrator.

The newest features included with the latest release of the database fall into two groups. The first group is in the technical performance area and includes the latch management, optimizer, and memory management features listed above, as well as the ability to monitor index usage, intended to increase the performance of the database over prior releases. While most of this group is transparent, there are some caveats to implementing these features. The second group of new features within the database is intended to automate and simplify the duties of the Database Administrator. The use of Oracle Managed Files (OMF) is designed to allow the database to control the creation and sizing of data files. The database itself is responsible for monitoring the data and control files of the database; however, this means the DBA is no longer in control of the location and sizing of the datafiles. One other requirement is that all files associated with the database must be located on the same disk partition. This means that all data files, log files and control files are on the same logical volume. Depending upon one's environment, this may or may not be feasible. The key phrase is "may or may not". The one key is to investigate each feature of the database and its appropriateness of use in your environment.

The other key to remember is that in an environment upgraded from a prior release, many of the new features are only accessible when the COMPATIBLE parameter in the init.ora file is set to 9.2.0. This parameter ensures the upgraded database can access the new features of the database. When set to a prior release, the features are not accessible. Overall, the new features from bitmap join indexes, and cursor sharing will improve performance; however, some features such as the automatic undo management and the Oracle Managed Files require investigation to the appropriate use in your environment. The time spent investigating is better spent than time spent correcting inappropriate settings in your database

James Jones, Solution Beacon

Metalink Documents for Single Sign-on

We have successfully enabled Single Sign-on functionality using the Oracle Applications by following the series of steps laid out by five Metalink documents. The Metalink documents for enabling single sign-on and portal are:

- 146469.1 "Configuring Oracle Applications with Oracle Portal"
- 146468.1 "Installing Oracle9i Application Server with Oracle Applications 11i"
- 186981.1 "Oracle9i Application Server (9iAS) with Oracle E-Business Suite Release 11i FAQ"
- 150832.1 "Implementing Oracle Applications Synchronization with LDAP"



209619.1 "Installing Oracle Single Sign-on SDK with Oracle Applications 11i"

Jeff Holt, Solution Beacon

Secure That Net8 Session!

Without the "Advanced Security" option, available only as a licensed option for Enterprise Edition databases, Net8 traffic is unencrypted. During authentication, the username is sent in clear text and the password is encrypted via an unpublished algorithm.

I would like to introduce a tried and true friend for many a system and database administrator - SSH. Many of you have used SSH to tunnel X11 connections in order to take advantage of *nix graphical interfaces on your desktops. You may also have used SSH to tunnel POP3 traffic. Did you also know that SSH can be used to tunnel your Net8 traffic?

All that is needed to tunnel your Net8 connection is an SSH client on the client machine in conjunction with an SSH daemon running on a server that has access to the database host and database listener port. In the simplest scenario, the SSH daemon would be running on the database server itself.

Assuming that port 22 (SSH default port) is already open inbound to the server running the SSH daemon, the only configuration required is on the SSH client side. When we configure the SSH client for tunneling, we are essentially telling the client to do the following:

1. Intercept traffic going to a specific port on the localhost
2. Encrypt the intercepted traffic
3. Send it over the SSH port to the SSH daemon
4. The daemon will unencrypt the traffic
5. The daemon will then forward the traffic to the specified host and port

An affordable Windows SSH client (i.e., free) is PuTTY, which can be downloaded at the following link:

<http://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/~sgtatham/putty/download.html>

Please keep in mind that although PuTTY may be free, all this functionality does come at a cost. Introducing encryption into the equation can impact performance quite severely. I will avoid posting any performance measures I have taken because your mileage may vary. My recommendation is that you test your particular scenario before you go to management proffering this as an enterprise solution for encrypting traffic between your application server and database server!

In this example, we are running our very good friend TOAD (Tool for Oracle Application Developers from Quest) on our desktop at home and need to connect to a customer's database in order to troubleshoot some bespoke code that is believed to be



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causing performance issues. We know that SSH on the application server (app.sb.com) is open to the Internet and that the database server (db.sb.com) is completely isolated from the Internet via the firewall. The database listener port for database VIS is 1521.

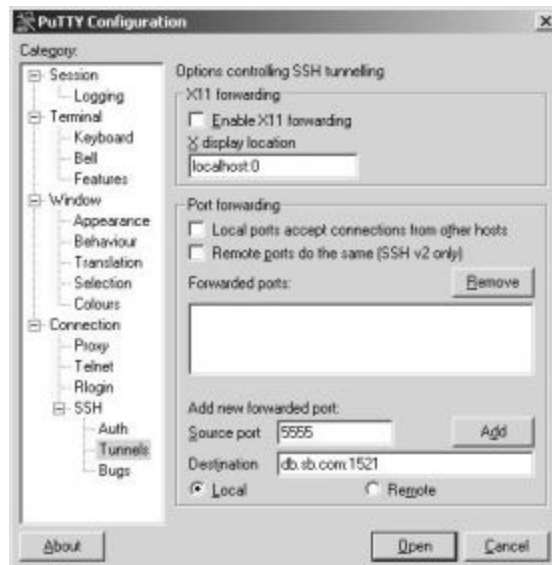
Client configuration steps start on the following page.



Step I: Define the SSH daemon server to which you will be connecting by selecting the Session Category in the left-hand pane of PuTTY, specifying “app.sb.com” as the Host Name and selecting the Protocol of “SSH” (the Port number of 22 will default).



Step II: Define the tunneling criteria by selecting the SSH Tunnels Category in the left-hand pane, specifying any available port (i.e., 5555) on the client machine in the “Source port” field and recording the database server and port in the “Destination” field as follows: app.sb.com:1521. Be sure to select the Add button.





Step III: Go back to the Session Category in the left-hand pane and enter a name in the Saved Sessions field and select Save.

Step IV: Remember in Step II above where we specified an arbitrary open port on the local host for SSH to tunnel? Well this is where we tell TOAD to connect to that port using Net8. The tnsnames.ora entry should look something like this:

```
VIS =
  (DESCRIPTION =
    (ADDRESS_LIST =
      (ADDRESS =
        (PROTOCOL = TCP)
        (Host = localhost)
        (Port = 5555)
      )
    )
    (CONNECT_DATA = (SID = VIS)
  )
)
```

Now it is time for a test drive. To start our tunneled Net8 session, we initiate our SSH session to app.sb.com, followed by firing up TOAD and connecting to the VIS instance. It's that simple!

The configuration of a *nix SSH client is left as an exercise for the reader. Enjoy!

Will Cordle, BearingPoint

Decisions, Decisions ... Implementation Tips of the Trade!

Confused on what path to take, can't decide whether to upgrade or re-implement? Remember that either path will take a considerable amount of time and planning. Industry experts state that even an upgrade could cost 65 to 85 percent of your original implementation expense. A little advice before undertaking such a project – ensure that you have a clear and concise understanding of the company's business goals and objectives. Leverage in-house expertise along with your system integrator to receive the optimal Return on Investment (ROI).

After a careful review of the company's current business condition, still not sure which is best? Here are a few suggestions that may assist you in the decision making process: changes in business, chart of accounts, new calendar, new functionality, customizations or multiple installs of the application. Therefore, if any or all of these circumstances apply, then a re-implementation might be the best solution; otherwise an upgrade could facilitate the company's business objectives.



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Other things to consider are the identification of the core project team, system level review of the current technical architecture and the establishment of a high-level project plan. Finally, make sure that you don't over manage the project. These mistakes can increase the project cost and burden productivity.

Listed below are a few of the suggested checklist items that may be useful for any project:

- ❖ Project Team selected
- ❖ Hardware on site
- ❖ Software on site
- ❖ Database available and ready for use
- ❖ Process Documents prepared
- ❖ Setup Documentation
- ❖ Test Scripts
- ❖ Project Plan
- ❖ Go-live Checklist

In addition, a list of standard industry suggested repository documents for any implementation are provided:

- ❖ Implementation Checklist
- ❖ Standard Patch List
- ❖ Interface Library
- ❖ Customization Library
- ❖ Questionnaires
- ❖ Setup Documents
- ❖ Test Scripts
- ❖ Issue Tracker
- ❖ Go-live Checklist

Ronda Ellis, Solution Beacon

Product Spotlight

On January 23, 2003 Applimation, Inc., a leading provider of software to manage Oracle Applications, announced an agreement with Merant, a leading provider of software and services that deliver flexible control of code, content and other business-critical assets, that gives Applimation the exclusive licensing rights for distributing, enhancing and rebranding the Change Manager for Oracle (CMO), effective February 1, 2003.

CMO offers a compelling solution for anyone who is developing in Oracle Developer or Oracle Applications, or is looking to implement or upgrade to Oracle 11i. CMO significantly improves the stability of these environments since it prevents anything from being added, deleted or modified without notification. It also provides automated



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processes to capture and track changes made within Oracle Applications environments, saving time and enhancing security. Moreover, CMO is the only product on the market to offer a thorough impact analysis of patches, new releases and development changes, clearly identifying every line of impacted code along with every application dependency to allow developers to plan and manage their change implementation strategies, speed deployment and avoid breaking customizations and extensions.

The addition of CMO adds to Applimation's suite of change management products including Setup Reporter, which provides change management for Oracle setups.

Applimation, Inc. is the premiere provider of a suite of software products that optimize the management of Oracle's E-Business Suite. The Applimation product suite enables organizations to manage change, improve operating performance, control enterprise data growth, and reduce total cost of ownership of Oracle Applications. A member of the Oracle Partner Program, Applimation is headquartered in New York City, with sales and development offices in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Boston, Los Angeles, and Ann Arbor, MI. Additional information can be found at www.applimation.com.

Mark Nelson, Applimation

R10.7 De-Support

The OAUG Customer Support Council has 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

Please visit the 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 if you would like to be added to the de-support distribution list.

John Stouffer, Solution Beacon

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" (ECS). 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.



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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, 03.

Check out the OAUG Upgrade SIG/Desupport Webpage at:

<http://upgdsig.oaug.org/desupport.html>

For other De-support news see:

http://news.com.com/2100-1017-981728.html?tag=cd_mh

John Stouffer, Solution Beacon

Federal Financials SIG

The OAUG Federal Financials Special Interest Group is sponsored by OAUG so that the SIG can facilitate distribution of issues and topics related to federal financials features of Oracle applications. The Federal SIG now has a website and list server! The website is currently at url:

<http://206.126.46.98/fedsig/fedsigindex.html>

but will soon be moving to the new OAUG server. The list server, fedlist@solutionbeacon.net, is provided by Solution Beacon, LLC. If you would like to subscribe to the federal list, please send email to fedsigad@solutionbeacon.com. If you have questions about the Federal SIG, please contact Eric Ziegler at ZIEGLER@wapa.gov.

Mary Lou Weiss, Solution Beacon

OAUG Upgrade/10.7 De-Support SIG

Solution Beacon was pleased to host the Upgrade SIG meeting held in San Diego at AppsWorld on OAUG Day, January 19, 2003. John Stouffer reviewed the resources available through the SIG: Upgrade Chat Sessions, the Oracle/OAUG 10.7 De-support focus group, various upgrade tools, presentations, white papers and technical articles. Please visit <http://upgdsig.oaug.org/desupport.html> for more information.

Also in attendance was Bill Swanton, VP and Research Fellow for AMR Research, who shared information on a study regarding ERP Instance Consolidation projects to help



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companies assess their feasibility and to plan for success. If you have been, or are involved in such a project, Bill would like to visit with you. Please contact Bill at bswanton@amrresearch.com

Mark Nelson, VP with Applimation, was on-hand to layout the product offerings available to assist owners of Oracle's E-Business Suite in their upgrade efforts. These include Setup Reporter, a Configuration Management tool, Xpress Archiver for archive/purge, DB Downsizer to create smaller test and development instances, Flex Changer to change Chart of Accounts Structure and Change Manager for Oracle (CMO) to identify code differences in forms, reports and objects. See the Product Spotlight in this month's newsletter for more information on CMO.

Jeff Linden, Host/John Stouffer, OAUG Upgrade Chair, Solution Beacon

OAUG Sys Admin SIG

The Sys Admin SIG met at AppsWorld on January 19, 2003. The meeting was chaired by Randy Giefer of Solution Beacon. Minutes for the meeting as well as information about the SysAdmin SIG can be found on the OAUG SysAdmin SIG website located at: <http://sysadminsigsig.oaug.org>. The SIG will meet again at OAUG Fall 2003 in San Diego, September 14-17, 2003.

Randy Giefer, Sys Admin Chair, Solution Beacon

Winter 2003 NCOAUG Training Day

Save the date - Monday, March 3rd! The North Central Oracle Applications User Group will be holding its semiannual Training Day at the Hyatt Woodfield in Schaumburg, IL (just outside of Chicago) on Monday, March 3rd, 2003. This one-day event is jam-packed with all the latest and greatest information on Oracle Applications, including in-depth training/information tracts designed to bring users up to speed on application functionality, enhancements and implementation techniques. We will also be featuring module overviews, industry specific breakout sessions, live demos at the Oracle Campground, numerous vendor exhibits and presentations...we've got it all! John Stouffer of Solution Beacon will also be doing a presentation on the Care and Feeding of R11i. And the best part is, this event is free for anyone to attend. Simply register online at our website: www.ncoaug.org

Mark Clark, O2Works



Solution Beacon Announcements

Longtime industry veteran Jeffrey J. Linden has been named as President and Chief Operating Officer of Solution Beacon, LLC. Prior to joining Solution Beacon, LLC in May 2002, Linden was VP of Information Technology at Accor North America, which operates Red Roof Inns, Motel 6, Studio 6 and the upscale Sofitel and Novotel brands. The 12 years prior to his tenure at Accor were spent in senior technology consulting roles for clients such as EDS, Travelers Express and Sealand Corporation. For more information, see <http://206.126.46.98/news010803.pdf>.

Mary Lou Weiss, Solution Beacon

Upcoming Solution Beacon Events

EVENT	DATE/TIME	LOCATION
NCOAUG : Care and Feeding of R11i - John Stouffer	March 3, 2003	Hyatt Woodfield, Chicago, IL
R11i Workshop sponsored by Solution Beacon	March 25, 2003	Washington D.C. Marriott
HOUG Meeting - Care and Feeding of R11i - John Stouffer	April 16, 2003	Houston, TX
DOUG Meeting - Care and Feeding of R11i - John Stouffer	April 17, 2003	Dallas, TX
SCOUG Southern Oracle Regional Conference	May 12-13, 2003	Dallas, TX
R11i Workshop sponsored by Solution Beacon	May 19-20, 2003	Embassy Suites O'Hare, Chicago, IL
R11i Workshop sponsored by Solution Beacon	May 21-22, 2003	The Guest Lodge at The Cooper Aerobics Center, Dallas, TX
OAUG 2003: R11i Workshops by Solution Beacon, LLC	September 14-17, 2003	San Diego, CA

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