

tips and techniques

May 2001

Application Desktop Integrator (ADI)

From: Steve Bradley [sbradley@sprynet.com]

I use ADI all of the time for loading client historical GL balance and budgets. If you are going to make one big load then you can copy and paste the appropriate data (account and amount info) from your original spreadsheet into the ADI template. Be sure to unprotect the spreadsheet and insert sufficient rows for your data. If you are going to do this for multiple departments, companies, etc. you may want to create a paste area in a second sheet of the ADI spreadsheet that is mapped to the ADI template. This will speed up the copy and paste process.

With this method, your paste area is in the original format of your source spreadsheet but it is mapped to the ADI template via formulas (example ADI Debit Amount E22 = Sheet2!E12). ADI supports negative debits and credits so you don't need to worry about signs or the dr/cr issue. This way you can copy the whole source spreadsheet into the paste area without having to rearrange the data or do multiple copy and paste actions.

This is how I also perform budget loads from spreadsheet prepared by department managers. I have found smaller is better than bigger. It is frustrating to have to reload a 3,000 line ADI file because of one invalid account.

Next Meeting Friday, May 18th at 8:30 AM

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Hosted by Clear Orbit

Atlanta Renaissance Hotel – Downtown

590 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta 404-881-6000

Reservations: Kim Dickerson, 309-243-1125, rsvpatloaug-may2001@clearorbit.com

Agenda

Vendor Spotlight Company: Quest Software, Kevin Halter

"Spotlight Company: Equifax, Lourdes Mallo Godfrey

"Descriptive Flexfields Training" Jay Oliphant, BOSS Corporation,

Breakout Sessions:

Descriptive Flexfields, Jay Oliphant, BOSS Corporation

Bar Coding, Michael Rodgers, J. M. Huber

GL- Eliminations & Intercompany, George Wilson, BOSS Corporation

Database Purge, Archive, and Rebuilding Issues, Rich Butterfield, OuterBay Technologies

Editor's Comments

From: Jim Crum

Jim.Crum@bosscorporation.com

OAUG 13 Oracle 1

I have attended a lot of ERP applications conferences in the past 7 years, including thirteen OAUG national conferences and one AppsWorld conference. All of the conferences were pretty good, and I can easily say that I got good value from each conference. Since I bring 8-10 employees with me to each conference, my costs are significant, and I observe the quality of the conferences carefully.

I am pleased to report, in this writer's opinion, that the Atlanta OAUG conference in April was excellent and probably should rank in the top three best conferences of the 14 that I have experienced. The quality of the papers, exhibit hall, HODA, training, and facilities were all first rate.

One unanticipated benefit was the absence of Oracle Corporation. Since Oracle did not participate, we saw a much higher volume of real users addressing real technology problems and business requirements. It was easy to have a really good conversation with almost everyone you met. The networking was incredible. I am happy to realize that life will go on just fine for OAUG members, sponsors, and the OAUG with or without Oracle Corporation in attendance.

In all fairness, Oracle made a decent first attempt at staging an applications conference in New Orleans. But, the first AppsWorld conference ranks near the bottom on my list of favorite conferences. I hope the Oracle conferences will get better. Or, maybe Oracle will learn to work with the OAUG in the future. But, Oracle should take a few pages out of the OAUG manual on how to provide current content for users and how to set up an exhibit hall.

Your national OAUG organization is focused on us as its customers, and they are innovating and succeeding. I say "Thanks OAUG for a great Atlanta Conference! Keep up the good work, and we will support you."

Financials

ADI

From: Steve Bradley [sbradley@sprynet.com]

I have been loading history with 3,000 lines. The performance is less than desirable. According to the ADI documentation the best performance for journal uploads is:

Set system profile option Validate at Server = Yes.
Select No Validation within ADI when uploading.

No Validation means ADI will not check it but Journal Import will. This is best if you know you have clean data. If the data is not clean then you may want to consider pre-validation.

Another thing I did to speed up the process is to eliminate all of the transaction lines with zero. No sense in wasting time on useless data.

#

From: Teresa_Eng@Playstation.sony.com

You can modify the template by clicking the 'Edit' icon (lower right hand one). You have options to include fields from the JE header and lines level. You can check both Journal Description among other things.

#

From: Steve Bradley [sbradley@sprynet.com]

There is an easy way to get Standard reports to ADI and parse them using standard ADI functionality - Themes. You have 2 options on how to do this: create a theme for each Standard report you want or create one theme to be used by all standard reports.

Custom Themes for each Std Report:

Open a delivered theme that you like (color, logo, etc.). They are found on you PC under one of the 2 directories below:

C:\orawin95\GLDI90\THEMES\GENERIC or
C:\oraNT\GLDI90\THEMES\GENERIC

Modify and save the theme so that each column in the theme is the proper width of the Excel column you want (per-parse). You will need to use trial and error to get the proper number of characters out of the Standard Report to show up in the publishing of the spread sheet. Save the theme with an appropriate name.

One Default Std Rpt Theme:

Open a theme as in the step above. In this case, make column A wide enough to hold all of the characters of the largest report you will use with this theme. Save it under a new name. The published report will show up in Column A and can easily be parsed.

Publishing the report:

Submit the report from ADI using the "Standard (Fixed Format) radio button. Select the "Publishing" button In the "Apply Theme" section, search for the modified theme from one of the above steps. Select "Spreadsheet" as the "Default Output Type" Process request

With the Custom Theme above, you should have a parsed report in Excel.

With the Default Std Theme, you will need to parse the report. It will all be in one column and will be easy to parse. You will need to reduce the Column A width after parsing.

GL

From: Karen Gilbert [KMGilbert@compuserve.com]

FSGs can use multiple currencies. You can either specify it at the row level, in which case every column for that row will have the same currency, or at the column level, in which case every row will have the same currency. For example, if doing a P&L, one column can be currency 1, one column can be currency 2, etc, and you can then see your P&L in every currency you have either booked transactions or translated them.

Stat is a currency. Typically you pull in the stats at a row level, like tons sold, hotel rooms rented, etc. You can then do the calculations mixing currency. For example, to calculate the average room rental price of a hotel room, one row would be a stat currency of number of rooms rented. One row would be the room revenue (functional currency), the third row would be a calculation, room revenue divided by number of rooms.

FA

From: Maness, John [John.Maness@Williams.com]

There is no way to delete an asset in FA once it has been through a depreciation cycle. The only way to get it out of the system is to retire it. We have had to do several of these 'retirements' that are not retirements. We generally give it a special retirement type name (such as 'clean-up') so that when we run FA retirement reports we can exclude these from our real retirements. This will require some manual GL entries. Sometimes we also put in proceeds equal to NBV so there is no gain or loss recorded.

One other alternative is to adjust the asset down to zero. However, this will cause depreciation expense to be understated since the system does a catch up adjustment. Although this may be what you want since the system has taken depreciation in error in the past.

AR

From: Amber Allen-Sauer [amber@allen-sauer.com]

I think there are 3 steps to Lockbox:

1. Running SQL*Loader to get the data from your flat file into the interface table AR_PAYMENTS_INTERFACE. You need to be familiar with SQL*Loader for this part, but the good news is you can test this part outside of Lockbox, just from the OS.
2. Move and validate the data from the interface table into the standard receipts table
3. Posting Quickcash, which applies/posts these invoices.

You need to run all the steps to be complete. But even if Lockbox doesn't end in 'ERROR' doesn't mean it was successful. You will need to check the log and out files carefully, because they will have a number of errors listed there. Also check Lockbox maintenance screen for error messages. There is also some setup on what to do with unapplied/unidentified monies, bank account setup, matching receipts to your customers/invoices that should be completed.

If you are new to lockbox, its best to work through the 3 steps above one at a time and concentrate on them separately. Otherwise you might get overwhelmed by the process. Don't get discouraged though, lockbox is a great process which will save your AR staff hundreds of hours of work!

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From: Ramanathan. M [ram28372@yahoo.com]

Though you can define more than seven buckets in the ageing form, still 7 bucket ageing report will show only the first seven buckets...remaining definition will not considered for creating the output.

Administration

From: Victor Sokovin [laservices@usa.net]

To check for free space in your instance ...

```
select space_all.tablespace_name, sum_free/sum_all*100 perc
from (select tablespace_name, sum(bytes) sum_free
from dba_free_space
group by tablespace_name) space_free,
(select tablespace_name, sum(bytes) sum_all
from dba_data_files
group by tablespace_name) space_all
where space_free.tablespace_name = space_all.tablespace_name
```

#

From: Gretchen Eliason [gretchen.eliason@aspentech.com]

To determine your current patch set level:

There's a utility out there from Oracle that will produce a report. Our DBA downloaded it and here's the header info from the report it produced, containing a link to the Oracle FTP site. With some poking around, I think you'll be able to find it. It analyzes your applptch.txt file.

```
=====
Report Generated: Tue Apr 17 10:53:12 EDT 2001
Patchsets List Updated: Apr 13 22:30
applptch Source: /a01/app/r1103prod/admin/PROD/applptch.txt
Version from APPLPTCH: 11.0.300
Written By: SSANDREW / COE
Program Updates:
ftp://oracle-ftp/apps/patchsets/PATCHSET_COMPARE_TOOL/
Download Patchsets: Go to link below or click on Patches
http://metalink.oracle.com/metalink/plsql/dis_download.startup
=====
```

#

From: Tony M Venkatesh [tonyv@mcsgruops.com]

I have found the solution to changing date parameters for reports. In the Concurrent Program -> Parameters, for the GL Period Name parameter, select a Default Type of SQL Statement and in the Default Value insert this statement 'select to_char(sysdate-30,'MON-RR') from dual'. The sysdate-30 can be altered to get a date before/after or whatever you need.

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Can any kind soul please tell me how to use the browser (ie5.0) for 11i (11.5.3) on Solaris8? We have this working on 10.,7NCA, but can't find any docs regarding setup on 11.5.3

From: Kevin Gillins [kgillins@yahoo.com]

You need to set your view TEXT to "browser". Then the output will be sent to your browser. If you specify a mime type then an application of that mime type will launch on the desktop. IE (word or excel or FTVIEW).

#

Juan Thompson [jthompson@chipotle.com]

I would suggest changing the output format of your report to PDF. We have a situation in which we have lots of users on a wide area network with inkjet printers. It's not feasible to convert each of these printers into network printers, so for those reports that they need to print, we've set the output mode to PDF and installed Adobe Acrobat on the users' computers. When you choose View Output... from the concurrent request window, the report output opens in Acrobat, which they can print to a local printer just as they print any document to a local printer.

Does anyone out there have a good job description for a System Administrator?

From: Roger Drolet [rdrolet@QuixNet.net]

The system administrator is responsible for administering the development system. This person's responsibilities include ensuring hardware is correctly configured; installing, configuring, and maintaining operating and development software; and ensuring that daily backups of the system are performed. The system administrator also designs and maintains the system's security (for example, establishing system accounts).

The system administrator provides first-line support for problems with the development system and ensures faults are quickly rectified. This person may perform the set up and initial maintenance of the production system or advise the client's operational stall on these tasks. The system administrator works with the project team to optimize system performance.

The system administrator installs packaged applications environments and converts data.

#

From: Jo Davis [davisj@redrock.net.au]

Concurrent programs, functions and menus can be migrated between environments using the FNDLOAD utility (refer System Administration User Guide Release 11i).

Loading of custom menus using FNDLOAD is a post-upgrade step, however it usually refers to uploading the custom menus and responsibilities you created in Release 10.7 GUI. No reason it wouldn't work, however.

Just to clarify - when you upgrade, everything that you had defined in the database (concurrent program registration, parameters, value sets, etc) will be upgraded by AutoUpgrade (and some stuff such as dates by the post-upgrade steps). The only things you really need to worry about manually are the actual custom code - if you have customized following the application development standards, then it's simply a matter of copying your \$CUSTOM_TOPs from the test \$APPL_TOP to the production one. This can be done before the upgrade weekend, after the DBA has laid down the R11i file system.

My current site is in the middle of an upgrade from R10.7 Character to R11i (GL,AP,AR,FA,PO). We contemplated a re-implementation initially as they required a Chart of Accounts restructure at the same time, however it proved to be more in line with their requirements (and cheaper) to restructure their COA in 10.7 then upgrade them to R11i. We have, however, done a lot of purging of old information in AP & GL to get rid of old data and reduce the DB size.

#

From: Doig_Phyllis@emc.com

Profile option values are obtained from the User first, and if it is not set at that level then it looks at the Responsibility, and then at the Application, and finally it will look at the Site level setting. What this means, is that if you have a profile option like OE: Item Validation Organization which is often set at the Responsibility level and you forget to provide a responsibility called "Shipment Manager" with a value, then it will look at the Application Level. "Application" does not refer to the application whose menu you are in. Instead, it refers to the Application that you assigned to your Responsibility.

If "Shipment Manager" has a custom menu with a mixture of OE and INV sub-menus, and you happen to choose Oracle Inventory to assign to the Responsibility

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Continued from System Administration
(Page 3)...

If you happened to have a value of OE: Item Validation Organization set at the application level for application = Oracle Order Entry (and no value for Oracle Inventory), then it will not find a value at this level because Shipment Manager is actually pointing to Oracle Inventory.

So, it would look to the Site level for a value. Sometimes you want to put profile option settings at the application level, so you don't have to assign them to each responsibility. But if the responsibility has the wrong application attached to it (i.e. the Shipping Manager pointing to Inventory), then you would never pick up the application-level settings.

Bottom line is, if you are using application-level profile options, then you want to (1) carefully assign applications to responsibilities, since this is required and (2) don't create custom menus which have a mixture of submenus from different applications. This tends not to matter for mfg apps (INV/BOM/ENG/etc), but it does when you mix distribution and mfg, or financials and mfg, etc. If you are not using application-level profile options, then you should check to see if any came seeded (sometimes, they come with values set at the application level).

Manufacturing

INV

From: Larry Sherrod [lsherrod@cyberdude.com]

It's just not a good idea to do BOMs, WIP and on hand inventory in a Master org. If you did, you would have to treat the Master org just like your child org and do all of the stuff you have to do at period close to the Master as well as the child. I realize with 2 child orgs the work is still the same but it just makes for a cleaner setup and people seem to deal with a Master that just manages items better.

#

From: Paul Vandenbrink
[pbrink@colibrilimited.com]

I have not seen any benefit of using a multi segment for the item number. It is my believe that it is better to work with features like Categories or Catalogs to get the same or even better functionality than multi-segment item numbers. There are a bunch of quickpicks and searches, where multi-segment item number is more complex to work with.

The reason why organizations want to have multiple segments are usually not worth the hassle of working with multiple segments. You mention that organizations want to have 'their own items'. What is the reason behind that? Each organization can have its own item by assigning it to one organization only.

Continued next column

This way the other orgs will not even see the item. If they want to have their own items for reporting purpose, you can use a category. This is much more sophisticated than using a multi segment item number. I would challenge the requirement to have multiple segments and find out the true reason why this is required. If you decide to go ahead with it, I would test it to see if you really like to have and redo it. I have switched on a multiple segment item number in some test environments. After one week of testing by the implementation team, the team came back to me and asked to switch it back off since they did not like it. We had to refresh the system the setups. After that, every one was convinced that one segment flexfield was better.

Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 16, 2001
Network Appliance at Perimeter Westin

Presentation

Presentation:
Survivor 10.7 → 11.5 Upgrade
Alan Green, Mirant Corp
Eric Stouffer, System Architech

Presentation:
Driving Process Improvements with ERP Systems
Ed Martinez, BellSouth

Find presentations at
www.atloaug.org/presentations/2001index.html

Breakout Sessions

Oracle Financial Analyzer/Data Warehousing,
Julian Kozicki, JP Kozicki & Associates

Technical – R11i Install from a DBA Perspective,
David Rincon, DBA Group

Imaging/Workflow in Payables, Bill Pipkin,
BellSouth

R11i Upgrade Project Management, Eric
Stouffer, System Architech

Other

An attendee networking game was lead by
Marge Olmstead, Motorola.

The vendor spotlight was DecisionPoint
Software, Mary Ledbetter & Glen Cronin,
www.dpapplications.com

General business, Brenda Carlton, e.Solutions
Consulting

List Server - OAUGNET

OAUGnet offers you a list server with constant monitoring, prompt communication of any list server problems, an easy-to-use web interface, and an archive updated daily.

To subscribe to OAUGnet, send a blank email to: subscribe-oaugnet@lists.ksinet.com
If you have any questions about this new service, please visit OAUG's Web site for full details:
www.oaug.org/public/oaugnet/oaugnet.html

To SUBSCRIBE – Atlanta OAUG List Server
Send an email message to
majordomo@atloaug.org
2) Leave the subject line blank
3) The text of the message should be
SUBSCRIBE atl-apps-l [your email address]
Please send inquires to Atl-Apps-L-Owner@atloaug.org

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to present a topic, facilitate a breakout session, serve on a panel or present their company as the Member Spotlight Company. Send an email to bcarlton@spynet.com

Liaison Contacts

One liaison is needed from each company to forward Atl-OAUG notifications and newsletters to the other Oracle users/consultants within your company. Consultants are encouraged to invite their clients to Atl-OAUG.

Thanks!

Thanks to Network Appliance for providing us with the conference space, breakfast, refreshments, audiovisual equipment, caps for all attendees, and three great door prizes. 65 attendees were present.

Administration

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Liaison Member:

Volunteer needed from each company to spread meeting info

Host Companies/Speakers:

Volunteers (How about You?)