

Tips and Techniques

Volume 8 -6, March-2006

In this issue

From the Editor

Coordinator's Corner

General

*Technology and
Applications Forum*

*OAUG Membership
Benefits*

Functional Articles

*Custom Feature
Implementation to
Automate Scheduling*

*Pick Release - - A Long
Awaited Answer*

Editor's Corner

*Oracle Procurement
Contract*

OAUG Business

*Atl-OAUG Structure
Highlights: March 17th
Agenda*

From the Editor

Welcome to this month's Atlanta OAUG newsletter.

We have a variety of interesting articles in this issue and I thank the authors for their contributions.

I request the members to contribute regularly and share their experiences with the user community.

Lokesh Govindaiah

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Coordinator's Corner

2006 Meeting Dates

Mar 17, May 19, Jul 21, Sep 22, Nov 17

Volunteer Opportunities

- Speakers to give 35-40 minute main presentations.
- Facilitators to lead the informal breakout sessions.

Deadline for contributions to March newsletter - March 6 2006

Credit is given to all contributors.

- Submit in a Word document attached to an email.
- Length – 2 – 4 paragraphs. Maximum – 300 words.

*Brenda Carlton,
Atl-OAUG Coordinator
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General

OAUG Updates

Technology and Applications Forum

April 23-27, 2006

Gaylord Opryland Resort, Nashville, Tennessee

The International Oracle Users Group (IOUG), the Oracle Applications Users Group (OAUG) and Quest International Users Group (Quest) are leveraging their collective strengths to host a leading technology and applications forum for the Oracle community.

Other Upcoming events:

[The Road to Nashville — Dallas](#)

March 31, 2006

Location TBD

Dallas, Texas

Hosted by OAUG and Solution Beacon, LLC

OAUG Membership Benefits

We appreciate your assistance in communicating the benefits of OAUG membership to your Geo and SIG members! OAUG members receive:

- **Advocacy** opportunities to influence Oracle on product enhancements, usability, new features, Oracle support, pricing and quality.
- **Knowledge** that showcases the latest trends and techniques used by industry leaders through our national and regional events

and our publications, such as *OAUG Insight* magazine.

- **Education** through the hundreds of career-enhancing presentations in our conference paper database archive, as well as discounts to conferences and Oracle education.
- **Communication** with other OAUG members worldwide through participation in OAUG committees, leadership positions, interaction with Oracle Corporation's user initiatives, frequent member surveys, and Oracle management briefings.
- **Networking** with Oracle customers, industry experts, third-party software firms, and other Oracle Applications specialists through our Member Database and Online Vendor Directory.

- **Full Web site access**
- **Collaborative opportunities with Oracle**
- **Exclusive content**
- **Special conference discounts**
- **Access to the Oracle Applications community network**

From Geo/SIG eLink newsletter
17th March 2006

Functional Articles

Custom Feature Implementation to Automate Scheduling

Oracle Custom Form to automate scheduling discrete jobs and provides visibility to organizations functional areas.

Business Problem Statement:

Large Gas Grill manufacturer in North America has daily manufacturing downtime due to parts shortages (especially sourced parts) and manually runs discrete job shortage reports to decipher shift by shift part shortages and access updates on shortages from Purchasing department.

Resolution to Problem:

Create a custom Oracle form (Discrete Job Shortage Form) that automatically calculates shortages for all discrete jobs in a specific date range. The form also has an interactive customization that allows users to enter information on part arrivals and other pertinent information to Master Scheduling.

Benefits of Custom Form and Report:

The Custom Discrete job shortage form and report has removed the guess work from the Master Scheduling team. It has provided a single source of truth for the shop floor management, purchasing, Demand planning, and Master Scheduling team to access for improved customer promising for ship dates and truck scheduling. This Oracle customization has saved many thousands of dollars in unscheduled downtime for this grill manufacturer and it has been leveraged to other business units due to its ability to address shortages across manufacturing industries.

Attached are screen shots of the form and how it addresses item shortages for the enterprise.

Parameters like Start Date, End Date, Organization, Plan Type (MPS or MRP items) and Planner Code are entered to narrow items short for Purchasing team members. Clicking on the Find Button brings up results for all jobs scheduled in the Date range. Scrolling over to the right will bring up the interactive input so the user can show when to expect delivery of part short

CB Interactive Discrete Job Shortage Form

Action Edit Query Go Folder Special Help

Start Date: 20-FEB-2006 00:00:00 Organization: COL Planner From:
End Date: 21-FEB-2006 00:00:00 Plan Type: MPS Planning Planner To:
Sort: Yes Find

Job No	Assembly	Item No	Planner Code	Remaining Qty	Job Date	Nettable Qty
PL1062026	463862006	4066061	720	369	21-FEB-06	0
PL1062026	463862006	4080155	718	369	21-FEB-06	-272856
PL1062026	463862006	4080361	718	369	21-FEB-06	-71114
PL1062026	463862006	4080043	718	369	21-FEB-06	-458832
PL1062026	463862006	4080059	718	369	21-FEB-06	-112891
PL1062026	463862006	4065005	606	369	21-FEB-06	71.71
PL1062026	463862006	4254050	718	369	21-FEB-06	-64880
PL1062026	463862006	4065008	606	369	21-FEB-06	-2534.18
PL1062026	463862006	4254086	718	369	21-FEB-06	-56999
PL1062026	463862006	7001729	718	369	21-FEB-06	-10285

Copy Comments

CB Interactive Discrete Job Shortage Form

Action Edit Query Go Folder Special Help

Start Date: 20-FEB-2006 00:00:00 Organization: COL Planner From:

End Date: 21-FEB-2006 00:00:00 Plan Type: MPS Planning Planner To:

Sort: Yes Find

Job No	Assembly	Item No	Planner Code	Required Qty	Short Qty	Comments
PL1062026	463862006	4066061	720	1250	4145	
PL1062026	463862006	4080155	718	738	273594	
PL1062026	463862006	4080361	718	738	71852	
PL1062026	463862006	4080043	718	1476	460308	
PL1062026	463862006	4080059	718	369	113260	
PL1062026	463862006	4065005	606	72.6192	426.29	
PL1062026	463862006	4254050	718	369	65249	
PL1062026	463862006	4065008	606	218.1528	2753.18	22553 in whse 2-22
PL1062026	463862006	4254086	718	369	57368	
PL1062026	463862006	7001729	718	369	10654	

Copy Comments

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Pick Release.. ..A Long Awaited Answer

Pick Release is the process that integrates Oracle Order Management, Inventory Management and Shipping Processes. From a business point of view, this is the process that takes the Order –To-Cash flow from Order Management to Shipping Execution inter linking Inventory.

We have seen some improvements in the Pick Release program since Oracle Apps Release 11 to Release 11i but we still have a long way to go.

We are not talking about something really out of the world here. These functionalities were there in the Application Suite for quite some time and they just need an overhaul.

From an End User perspective whose daily job is to work on Sales Orders and make sure that they are fulfilled; Oracle is yet to provide a One-Stop-Shop kind of Screen to give a snapshot of the inventory of the part number the Sales Order is dealing with.

The Traditional ‘Item Supply/Demand’ screen has its own limitations.(This may be the topic for next newsletter article)

The Pick Release Screen is a great screen and it does provide lot of flexibility but :

If I want to Pick Release a single Order line I cannot do that without customizing the Pick Release screen.

I can however launch Pick Release for a given item number (There could be potentially different lines having the same item number which I don’t want to Pick Release)

I can launch Pick Release for a single delivery detail, and I may have to do this multiple times if the Order line is spread across multiple delivery details.

The most recent addition to this screen in 11i10 Release is - Sub inventory. (Sales order lines booked and scheduled with this particular sub inventory specified will be selected for pick release)

Another big drawback with the Pick Release Process is that it cannot run in parallel without doing lot of customization.

Imagine a situation where Warehouse has scheduled Pick Release runs and also the Order Administrators have to drop Picks manually. They have to make sure that nobody else is running Pick Release at that point of time.

There are other areas that have not been addressed as well like a batch/interface program where we can dump some hundred SO lines based on different criteria and run Pick Release for all of them.

In conclusion, what I have to say is as improvements keep happening lets just wait and see when our questions will be answered.

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Editors Corner

We welcome the Oracle Application user community to find very useful articles about the new features and releases of Oracle Applications published in our editorial corner. This section provide articles for the user about the latest update about the New Oracle Application Modules, Functionality and Enhancements that has come up in the latest releases. In this month newsletter we are going to look at Oracle Procurement Contracts and new features in 11.5.10

Oracle Procurement Contracts 11i10

Overview

Oracle Procurement Contracts extends Oracle Purchasing, Oracle Sourcing and Oracle iSupplier Portal by offering embedded contract negotiation, contract authoring and contract administration capabilities. Negotiated terms are automatically enforced during purchase order execution without the need for additional integration. It enables organizations to standardize contract policies, minimize exposure to contractual risks and simplify the procurement contract process

Oracle 11i10 has the following new features

Contract Terms Library

Contract administrators can maintain a central library of standard clauses and contract templates. For a global organization, contract administrators can use the library to establish enterprise standards and enforce them on a global basis while regional administrators have the flexibility to tailor the standards to local or country specific regulations.

The contract terms library supports the following features:

- *Create standard clauses*
- *Manage clause versions*
- *Search clauses*
- *Define clause relationships*
- *Import clauses*
- *Manage global clauses across business units*
- *Create contract templates*
- *Validate and approve templates*
- *Manage template versions*

Contract Negotiation and Authoring

Buying organizations can easily enhance existing sourcing and purchasing processes with advanced contract capabilities.

- ***Extend Sourcing and Purchasing Documents***
Buyers and contract administrators can now access standard contract terms, customize within permitted boundaries, administer amendments, and monitor compliance.

- **Author and Negotiate Contracts in Oracle Sourcing**
It enables a buyer to author contract terms directly onto a sourcing document that may be a solicitation, tender, request for quotation, auction, etc. The buyer can apply an appropriate contract template, which instantly adds an approved set of clauses and deliverables to the sourcing document.
- **Author Contracts in Oracle Purchasing**
Users can author contract terms directly on a purchasing document such as a purchase order, a blanket purchase order, a global purchase agreement or a contract purchase agreement.
- **Copy Contract**
Enables users to copy the clauses and deliverables from an existing document to a new one with an option to retrieve the latest versions from the contract terms library.

Contract Printing and Communication

The buyer or contract administrator is able to automatically generate the appropriate sourcing or purchasing documents including the contract terms. Users can quickly preview the contract in Adobe® PDF while in the application, or can review the contract details through a structured view online. The supplier can receive a purchasing document through one of the supported communication methods: online via Oracle iSupplier Portal, email, fax or print.

Contract Binding & Electronic Signatures

Buyers can select the preferred binding method, from signing a paper document to audit-worthy electronic signatures. Suppliers are able to view and manage their contract responses through email notifications and Oracle iSupplier Portal.

Contract Deliverables and Compliance

Users are allowed to easily author structured contract deliverables and monitor compliance. Deliverables may be included as part of a contract template so that they are automatically included on a business document when the template is applied.

Contract Change Management

Oracle Procurement Contracts fully supports strict and formal change management, from simple administrative changes to contract renewal or termination.

OAUG Business

Atl-OAUG Structure

Position	Person	Email address
Coordinator	Brenda Carlton, Consultant	bcarlton@sprynet.com
Web Server & Internet Services	David Rincon, The DBA Group, LLC	drincon@dbagroup.net
Web Mistress	Mary Lou Weiss, Solution Beacon	mweiss@solutionbeacon.com
Newsletter Editor	Lokesh Govindaiah, Principle Consultant, Enrich IT	lokesh.govindaiah@enrichit.com
Technical Session Coordinator	Erik Shin, SageWise Group, Inc	eshin@sagewisegroup.com

Highlights:

March 17 - Road to Nashville Workshop

Join OAUG and Solution Beacon for a FREE, one-day event featuring multiple technical and functional presentations.

Time: 9:00 – 4:00

See <http://www.solutionbeacon.com/RTNStops.htm>

Topics:

1. Fusion Middleware
2. ABC's of Workflow - Setup
3. Business Process Execution Language (BPEL)
4. Application Management Tools
5. Release 11i RAC and Linux
6. 11.5.10 New Features: E-Business Suit
7. Care and Feeding of 11i
8. Rapid Migrations to Release 11.5.10

Location: Villa Christina, Dunwoody, GA

Door Prize: Complimentary one-year OAUG membership, a \$595 value.

For more information, please email kzastro@solutionbeacon.com

May 19 2006

- Warehouse Management
- Going Forward With Sarbanes-Oxley
- Maintaining Your Maintenance Shop Using eAM (Enterprise Asset Management), Purchasing and Inventory
- Oracle Internal Control Manager
- Vendor Spotlight: OuterBay Technologies, Inc.

Host: OuterBay Technologies, Inc.

Location: Crowne Plaza Ravinia, Dunwoody, GA

Reservations: Susan Ongman 408-340-1284 songman@outerbay.com