

# Tips and Techniques

Volume 6 -3, Nov-2002

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## From the Editors

Welcome to another edition of Atlanta OAUG's newsletter. This is also the last edition for this calendar year.

In this issue, we have interesting insights from recently concluded national OAUG conference in San Diego.

I want to make a suggestion for contributions to this newsletter. We have many good writers among our members. Many times, they just can't get started with what to write about! I invite members to post their questions / suggestions about future articles to the list. That tells the writers what is of current interest in the user community, giving an indication of what to write about.

I also have a suggestion to writers. Some 'would-be' writers have asked me in the past about the size limitation. I want to let everyone know that it is only a guideline for you to get started. If your subject warrants, you can write more than the suggested size. Also, if your subject is too big but can be divided into two distinct parts, we can include it in two different issues as two parts.

Looking forward to your continued participation.

Thanks!

Satyakanth Abbaraju

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## General

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### **San Diego or bust!!!**

You may be wondering at the title of my article. There is actually an amusing story behind it; I know the seasoned travelers will get a chuckle from my naiveté. I was originally slated to go the Spring 2002 OAUG conference in Toronto. I was all packed and at the airport (no nail clippers or tweezers on me) when I discovered I did not have appropriate “proof of citizenship”, I must have appeared to be a shady looking character posing a threat to the national security of the Canadian government because they wouldn’t let me in the country. I was disappointed at the time but I really did understand their position. See how forgiving I can be, especially since it was my fault for not reading the itinerary. Luckily, I was able to transfer my registration to the Fall 2002 OAUG conference in San Diego. This time I did read the itinerary, and discovered that I only needed a driver’s license for this trip. See, an old dog can learn new tricks. The flight was uneventful, but I did discover that the San Diego Airport has much nicer restrooms than Hartsfield.

Well, enough personal chit-chat and on to the purpose of my article. Opportunities for learning and networking were endless at the conference.

The keynote speaker, Susan RoAne, helped us all with our social and networking skills. Many of us practiced these skills at mealtime. The conference coordinators made it easy for people with like interests to get together by putting “Area of Interest” signs on the tables. I met with fellow Southerners at the “Atlanta Geo” table for breakfast and had great discussions with PO module users at the “Purchasing SIG” table at lunch. You will be gratified to know that our local Atlanta OAUG website, [www.atloaug.org](http://www.atloaug.org), is visited by OAUG members around the country. They were very impressed by the content of our meetings. The following are a few white papers that I found well written and informative.

### **Internet Expenses: Simple Implementation, Clear ROI**

Written by Teresa Reynolds with Braun Consulting.

This white paper gives clear, concise instructions on how to set up your iExpense application. It lists various options for approval methods which we were not aware of.

### **iProcurement for Seasoned Core Users? Absolutely!**

Written by Eric Cencer with DARC Corporation.

This white paper gives a good high level view of the features offered in the iProcurement module. The presentation itself was exceptional. Eric obviously knows his stuff!

### **Building an Oracle Applications Support/Project Team. How to Cover All the Bases**

Written by Stephen Kirby with Oregon Steel Mills

This paper presents all aspects of Project Management and gives some good modeling tools to assist in allocating your resources between application support and project tasks.

I also managed to attend several sessions in regards to Web ADI. It appears as if the direction of this application is terrific ... but ... don’t give up your client/server version yet. Currently the ONLY functionality available is GL journal upload. The remaining GL functionality, budget upload, FSG publishing, etc is slated for future releases. The Oracle Asset upload is also slated for future release. The exciting thing about Web ADI is that the architecture is in place for other applications to develop on, if they so choose. Wouldn’t it be great if there were a Payables Invoice, or a Purchasing Vendor upload?

All in all, the conference was a success!!! I hope to attend future national conferences and hope to see you all at the Atlanta OAUG meetings.

*Toni Cobb,  
NDC Health.  
[toni.cobb@ndchealth.com](mailto:toni.cobb@ndchealth.com)*

## 11i Upgrade

Those of us still on the pre-11i bandwagon were treated to a taste of what's to come with the 11i Upgrade Panel presentations at the Atlanta OAUG meeting on September 20, 2002. Don Lastine and David Griffin from McKee Foods, Dan Strain from Chick Fil-A, Mark Robertson from Equifax, Hank Edwards from Tensar and John Faucher from BOSS Corp all provided their viewpoint on the upgrade process, common pitfalls, what works and what to avoid.

Based on feedback I'd previously received on 11i upgrades, I guess I don't know what I was expecting - certainly dark circles under the eyes, bad tempers, maybe scars, or at least trembling hands, but all of the presenters appear to have survived their experience unscathed. Even more remarkably, all were able to talk about it in a relaxed state of mind and offer some helpful tips. While it hasn't completely alleviated my own sense of unease (akin to camping under low-flying aircraft or a daily commute on GA 400), their tips should help all of us as we look forward to joining their ranks of 11i users.

In a nutshell, remember the following to succeed in any 11i implementation.

- ❑ Review and document procedures and customizations prior to beginning the upgrade.
- ❑ Use experienced consultants and project managers.
- ❑ Establish project scope, deadlines and responsibilities early.
- ❑ Involve functional areas in development, training, and for buy-in.
- ❑ Meet often to review and track project status, open issues, patches and TARs.
- ❑ Provide a central repository for information.
- ❑ Test, test and retest. Then test again.
- ❑ Hold upgrade timing trials. Improvement comes with practice.

And lastly, my favorites - enjoy cold pizza and expect a few sleepless nights.

Thanks to the presenters for sharing their time and efforts.

*Christine Adam,  
Schweitzer-Mauduit Intl,  
Kristine\_Adam@SWM-US.COM*

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## Functional

### Credit Cards Vs. Procurement Cards –A Comparison

Functionality	Credit Card for Travel Expenses	Procurement Card
Setup	Card Program Credit Cards	Card Program Card Profiles GL Code Sets Credit Card Code Sets (SIC or MCC) Credit Cards
Transaction Load	American Express (or other card name) Transaction Loader	Credit Card Transaction Loader Preformat
Validation	Credit Card Transaction Validation Report	Procurement Card Transaction Validation Report
Verification	No verification. Employees will query	<b>Distribute Employee Card Transaction</b>

Functionality	Credit Card for Travel Expenses	Procurement Card
	and place the transactions on Expense Reports.	<b>Verifications:</b> Initiates <u>AP Procurement Card Employee Verification</u> workflow.
Categorization	Employees categorize transactions as Business or Personal. They can charge to different account only by choosing an Expense Type (itemize receipts).	Employees can change / split default account values for cost center and natural account segment as part of verification process.  Transactions status can be: Disputed, Hold, Personal, Validated, or Verified
Approval	Manager's approval is processed via AP Expense workflow	<b>Distribute Manager Card Transactions Approvals:</b> Initiates <u>AP Procurement Card Manager Approval Transaction</u> workflow.
Invoicing	Create Credit Card Invoice Interface; Credit Card Outstanding Charges Report	Procurement Card Invoice Interface Summary
Payment	Company Pay [Company always pays]  Both Pay [Company only pays business expenses and employee pays personal expenses]  Employee Pay [Employee always pays and is reimbursed for business expenses]	Company Pay
Workflows used	AP Expense Report; and AP Credit Card.	AP Procurement Card Employee Verification; and AP Procurement Card Manager Approval Transaction.
User Interface	Corporate Card tab/Get Transactions button, on Expense Reports page in iExpenses.	Search Open Transactions page; Open Transactions page; and Verify Open Transactions page.

This high level comparison is based on a Metalink document that explains the functionality of these two types of cards in detail. In the next issue I will discuss Oracle Internet Expenses and its integrated credit card functionality, to be followed by iExpenses customization tips.

*Satyakanth Abbaraju*

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## **Inventory - Automated Open/Close Periods Program**

So month end close falls over the weekend and you're in charge of closing the inventory module. Guess that means you're working the weekend. NOT! One of the nice, new features in R11i Inventory module is the Open Periods Program and the Close Periods Program. These programs allow you to open periods and close periods for multiple organizations and periods in a single request. Define a hierarchy which the inventory org is a member. Open, or close, the period for all

organizations below the parent level (inclusive). Use Oracle's scheduling feature for requests and automate the programs to run at night or over the weekend.

This and many of the other new features for INV R11i are described in the white paper *Managing Large Organization Structures in Oracle Applications* located on Metalink.

*Brenda Carlton,  
Independent Consultant,  
[bcarlton@sprynet.com](mailto:bcarlton@sprynet.com)*

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## **Technical**

### **New Features in 11i – Technical**

#### AutoConfig

This is a tool that stores all of the information required to configure Oracle Application into a central repository. It uses the information to generate all new configuration files for the APPL\_TOP and the ORACLE\_HOMEs in its supporting technology stack, and update database profiles. This provides a mechanism to configure or re-configure an Applications instance through one centralized procedure.

An Oracle document, 165195.1 on Metalink shows how to maintain system configuration with AutoConfig.

#### Expiring inactive session in Self Service and CRM applications

By setting the system profile, 'ICX:Session Timeout' to X (where X is the number of minutes), you can have an inactive session timed out. A user session is inactive when no information is saved to or queried from the database. Session expiration can happen from one of 3 ways:

- ❑ Idle time exceeds ICX:Session Timeout
- ❑ Total session time exceeds ICX:Limit Time
- ❑ Total number of times the session is validated exceeds ICX:Limit Connect

Check an Oracle document, 171261.1 for details.

#### Changing APPS and APPLSYS passwords on the command prompt

Now, you can change a password for an application module schema in a batch mode. You do not have to log on to the application any more. You need to download and apply a patch, 1685689, and use the FNDCPASS command as follows:

```
FNDCPASS apps/apps 0 Y system/manager  
SYSTEM APPS <new password>
```

You can use the same command for Oracle Application v.11 by applying a patch, 1430422.

Check an Oracle document, 159244.1(v.11i) and 159270.1(v.11) for details.

#### Generic Service Management (GSM)

This is an extension of Concurrent Processing, which allows you to manage the various processes such as the Oracle Forms Listener, Oracle Reports Server, Apache Web Listener, and Oracle Workflow across multiple hosts. You install an agent, Service Manager on each hosts, and the Internal Concurrent Manager (ICM) monitor and control these agents. You have to start GSM before the Concurrent Manager is started.

To start the Concurrent Manger without GSM on one node installation, you can disable GSM as follows:

```
set Profile > System Option "CONCURRENT: GSM  
Enabled = N".
```

For detailed instruction to configure the GSM, check an Oracle document, 210062.1

### Applying a patch (Adpatch)

The process of applying patches has not been changed. There is a little improvement - you do not have to specify which of application components are installed on a node you are applying a patch. This information is stored at \$APPL\_TOP/admin/adconfig.txt, which is created by 'adaimg'.  
  
*This article was compiled by Erik Shin.  
For additional information, please contact him at [eshin@sagewisegroup.com](mailto:eshin@sagewisegroup.com)*

## **Oracle Requires Customers To Convert to Multi-Org**

Oracle has announced its intention to require all 11i customers running any Multi-Org-enabled product to convert to Multi-Org. All patches released after September 30, 2002, will have this requirement. Defining no organization as a default will no longer be allowed in products that are Multi-Org-enabled. Following is the list of Multi-Org-enabled products:

- Oracle Payables
- Oracle Receivables
- Oracle Cash Management
- Oracle Sales Compensation
- Oracle Service
- Regional Localizations
- European Localizations
- Latin America Localizations
- Oracle Order Entry
- Oracle Order Management
- Oracle Projects
- Oracle Sales
- Oracle Property Manager
- Oracle Purchasing
- Oracle Release Management Integration Kit
- Oracle Release Management

- CRM Foundation
- Customer Intelligence
- Oracle Banking Center
- Oracle Collections
- Oracle Scheduler

New features of Oracle RDBMS Release 9i are being implemented to improve overall performance of the E-Business Suite. Future releases will eliminate the existing Multi-Org view layer, which is being replaced with Oracle 9i Virtual Private Database technology. Another new feature, Multi-Org Access Control, will allow users to process and report on data from an unlimited number of operating units within a single applications responsibility.

To convert to Multi-Org, run ADADMIN and choose the Database Objects submenu. The Convert to Multi-Org process upgrades a standard product group into a Multi-Org product group. The option to convert will only show up on the menu if you have not already done so, and if you do not currently have Multiple Sets of Books Architecture.

Oracle suggests that any customer who implemented Multiple Sets of Books Architecture should migrate to Multi-Org prior to upgrading to Release 11i. Recent versions of AutoUpgrade will detect a Multiple Sets of Books Architecture implementation and not attempt to upgrade it.

Before running ADADMIN to convert to Multi-Org, make sure you are running the most recent version of ADADMIN by checking Metalink for AD patches. You must also define at least one operating unit and set the site-level profile option, MO: Operating Unit.

A test conversion prior to running this in your production Apps is strongly recommended. You will see potential problems and get a feel for how long the process will take.

The above is not intended as a step-by-step guide. It assumes a working knowledge of Apps 11i administration.

For additional information, see:

Note [202127.1](#): Announcement of conversion requirement

["Release 11i Use of Multiple Organizations in Oracle Applications"](#)

["The Advantages of Moving to Multi-Org"](#)

["Multiple Organization Conversion White Paper"](#)

["Problems Running R11i in Multiple Sets of Books Architecture"](#)

["FAQ: Migrating from Multiple Sets of Books Architecture \(MSOBA\) to Multi-Org"](#)

["Supported Approaches for Migrating an Oracle Applications Multiple Install Architecture \(MSOBA\) to Multi-Org and 11i"](#)

["AD Utilities Reference Guide 11i \(11.5.7\)"](#)

["Maintaining Oracle Applications 11i \(11.5.5\)"](#)

["Maintaining Oracle Applications 11i \(11.5.4\)"](#)

["Maintaining Oracle Applications 11i \(11.5.3\)"](#)

["Maintaining Oracle Applications 11i \(11.5.2\)"](#)

**[Editor's comment:** You need to make the following adjustments in the 'init.ora' file for database configuration before you run 'Convert to Multi-Org' through ADADMIN

```
Shared_pool_size > 300M
Push_join_predicate = TRUE
```

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*-Erik Shin]*

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## Tips

### Resetting APPS Password

*[Thanks to Todd Simonsen who posted the following on OAUGnet and Dan Updike who brought this to my notice -Editor.]*

In 11i there's a password reset feature delivered in patch 2516961 that allows a user to reset his password via the Self-Service login screen. We implemented it here last month. Here's how it works.

- ❑ User attempts to log in and fails due to invalid password.
- ❑ User is prompted to login again. Patch provides a link under the login userid/password block that says "I forgot my Password?". User clicks on this link.
- ❑ User is displayed a message to check their email for confirmation. Oracle generates an email to the user (based on userid and oracle datafill), which asks user to confirm that they want to reset their password. It is controlled by workflow. This confirmation prevents others from resetting your password.
- ❑ User replies to the email with a yes.
- ❑ Oracle resets password and sends user

another email with the temporary password.

- ❑ Oracle sends SYSADMIN an email that user reset their password.

It seems to work ok, but the temporary password does not appear to be random. Not a big issue in our small shop, but it has saved myself and the designated IT folks about 10 requests for password reset so far.

### Changing SQL Prompt

*[Thanks to Chuck Jolley who posted the following on OAUGnet-DBA List and Bill Dunham who brought this to my notice -Editor.]*

I created a script called CONNECT.SQL (given below). Use @CONNECT instead of just CONNECT.

**[Editor's comment:** This script can be copied into your LOGIN.sql file in SQLPATH folder. This is executed every time you start your SQL\*Plus session. You can easily find the SQLPATH environmental variable in UNIX. In Windows, you can find the name of this folder by examining the registry Key "HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE/SOFTWARE/ORACLE/HOME" in Windows.

*-Satyakanth Abbaraju]*

```
connect &1
set termout off
col prom new_value prom
select lower(sys_context('USERENV','SESSION_USER'))||
        '@'||
        lower(sys_context('USERENV','DB_NAME'))||
        '.'||
        lower(machine) prom
from SYS.V_$SESSION where sid = 1;
set sqlprompt "&prom> "
set termout on
```

## OAUG Business

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### 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 Editors	Satyakanth Abbaraju, BOSS Corp Erik Shin, SageWise Group	satyakanth@bosscorporation.com eshin@sagewise.com
Technical Session Coordinator	Erik Shin, SageWise Group, Inc	eshin@sagewise.com
Oracle Sales Consultant Support	Craig Mikus, Oracle	craig.mikus@oracle.com
Liaison Members - Every Company	Volunteers to Email Agendas	How about <u>You</u> ???
Hosts/Speakers/Facilitators	Volunteers	How about <u>You</u> ???

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### Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> 2003 Agenda

8:30 – 12:00

Member Spotlight:	Need Volunteer
Presentation	Discrete, OPM or Mixed? -Art Karalexis, SBI and Company.
<b>BREAKOUT SESSIONS</b>	
➤ John Vaughan, DataRoad	High Availability for Oracle e-Business Suite
➤ Volunteer Needed	
➤ Volunteer Needed	
➤ Volunteer Needed	

**Host:** BMC Software

**Location:** 5909 Peachtree Dunwoody Road, NE, Suite 100, Atlanta, GA 30328

**Reservations:** Rita\_Urquhart@bmc.com, 800-841-2031

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## **Vendor Awareness Tele/Web Conferences**

OAUG has developed an additional channel, Vendor Awareness Tele/Web Conferences, for vendors to showcase their products and services to Oracle Application users.

OAUG associate members now have the opportunity to conduct a 60-120 minute interactive teleconference session or web based program to educate and inform OAUG members on their complementary products and/or services to Oracle Applications.

You now have the opportunity to market your product or service directly to OAUG members for a fee of \$2,000. Vendors are responsible for all costs associated with the web or teleconference. In return, OAUG will market your web/teleconference to our members. Some restrictions and guidelines do apply. The first sessions are scheduled for the 2nd and 4th Wednesday in October.

*For more information on this program visit [http://www.oaug.com/vendor/vend\\_teleconf.html](http://www.oaug.com/vendor/vend_teleconf.html).*

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## **Update Your Email Address**

If you have changed email addresses since registering as a member of Atl-OAUG, please update your address by sending an email to [webmaster@atloaug.org](mailto:webmaster@atloaug.org).

- ❖ Suggestion: Use a **PERMANENT** email address.
- 

## **Coordinator's Corner**

### **Volunteer Opportunities - 2003**

Three host companies are needed for the 2003 meetings. Check your calendars and pick a meeting to host. Meeting dates are **Jan 17, Apr 18, Jun 20, Aug 15, Oct 17** and **Nov 21**. We need hosts for Aug, Oct & Nov. It goes without saying, I need volunteers to present and lead breakout sessions.

**Deadline for contributions to January 2003 newsletter: Dec 30, 2002.**

Credit is given to all contributors→

**HINT** - Consultants "On the Beach" - Submit an article and include your email address, phone number and web site. Your article will define your area of expertise.

### **Contributions:**

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

I know we have many talented authors 'in hiding'. Show us your stuff!!

*Brenda Carlton,  
Atl-OAUG Coordinator,*

**Notable Volunteer**

Atlanta OAUG would not exist without our dedicated volunteers. One special volunteer comes to mind that always makes me and the other volunteers feel appreciated for their efforts. Nancy Hill works for the US Dept of Energy. She drives two hours (one way) just to be with us. She is always so sweet and a joy to know. She sends a personal email to every speaker/facilitator/host of our meetings to convey a special 'thanks' for their efforts. Last month she asked me for the 2003 meeting schedule so she could get it on her calendar and get approval from her supervisor to attend each meeting. Feeling she does not have the breadth of experience to do a presentation, she contributed by bringing door prizes to our meetings. These were personal donations, not corporate. As an employee of a government agency, corporate donations were not an option. Being the system administrator of a small Oracle user base she depends on many of her contacts in Atl-OAUG for support and uses the knowledge learned from our presentations as her continuing education. Thanks Nancy! We look forward to your smiling face and kind words.

*Brenda Carlton, Atl-OAUG Coordinator, [bcarlton@sprynet.com](mailto:bcarlton@sprynet.com)*