

# tips and techniques

September 1999

## Best of the Net

**From: Susan Steele**  
Susan.Steele@lgeenergy.com

If you know the name of the form you are trying to find but cannot remember the menu path you can bring up a list of all the forms available to you. Select the keyboard key F9 (list of values) while at the Navigator window, this will bring up a list of all the forms available for the responsibility you have signed in under. Select the form you are looking for, in your case "User". After you have highlighted the form, you can enter the form by hitting the ok button or double clicking the selection.

## System Administration

**Q.** I would like to know is there any way that I can print to more than one printer from a concurrent program. I am using 10.7 GUI mode applications.

**From: CJ Messick**  
siege@world-net.net

**A.** There are lots of ways to print to another printer. Take a look at the stored procedure called FND\_REPRINT. As far as I know it's undocumented but all you really need to do is pass it the concurrent request to reprint and the printer name. Since the concurrent program id is known by the report via P\_CONC\_REQUEST\_ID you can have the report run and print normally to one printer and then submit FND\_REPRINT via FND\_REQUEST.SUBMIT\_REQUEST from the after\_report trigger. Should work like a charm.

**From: Franklin Kulandaisamy**  
FKULANDA@us.oracle.com

**A.** One more way to solve this problem. Please try the following steps.

1. Create a driver (CUSTDRV) Driver method: Program; Driver name: UNIX shell script name Arguments: \$PROFILE\$.FILENAME
2. Keep UNIX shell script,priter name files in \$FND\_TOP/\$APPLBIN directory
3. Sample Printer shell script file: For l in `cat \$FND\_TOP/\$APPLBIN/printers do lp -d \$i \$1 done
4. Sample Printer names file(printers): printer1 printer2
5. Create a style : STYLE1 SRW Driver: CUSTDRV
6. Attach this style while submitting a request. Note: Irrespective of the printer name specified at request submission, the report will be printed on 'printer1 and printer2'

## Next Meeting Friday, October 15 at 9AM

@

BellSouth

Campanile Building, 1155 Peachtree St.,  
corner of Peachtree and 14<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Reservations: Kriss Poll, 404-249-3475, poll.kriss@bsc.bellsouth.net

## Agenda

"E Commerce Implementation Process" Chiranjib Chatterje, KPMG Consulting  
"Technical Foundation – Accounts Payable" Steve Bradley, Oasis Consulting  
Breakout Sessions

## Editor's Comments

**From: Jim Crum**  
Jim.Crum@bosscorporation.com

The OAUG fall conference is in Orlando Sept 26-30. See [www.oaug.org](http://www.oaug.org) for details.

Rumor has it that hotel rooms in Orlando are in short supply, but come on down and keep your experience level with the Oracle Apps at a high level. Or, start your planning for the proper approach to your systems in year 2000.

If you are able to make the national OAUG conference, please plan to attend the Atlanta regional meeting. We look forward to seeing you in Orlando.

Regards,  
Jim

\*\*\*\*\*

## Call for Contributions

We need your contributions to keep the content of this newsletter fresh and topical.

If you run across something in your daily interaction with the Oracle Applications that makes you think "isn't that clever, strange, well done, impressive, difficult, etc." drop me a note and we will share it with our readers. We especially appreciate contributions for manufacturing and project accounting applications.

Please, send me an e-mail to [jim.crum@bosscorporation.com](mailto:jim.crum@bosscorporation.com) or FAX to BOSS Corporation at 770-622-5400. Thanks!

\*\*\*\*\*

## Masters = Certified Professionals???

Oracle Education has a relatively new program to certify Oracle Professionals through testing. If you are an Oracle Master, you should know the Masters program is still active, and you might be able to extend your credentials. At BOSS Corporation, one of our consultants with four different Masters Certificates was able to add the Certified Professional credentials without testing. Consider inquiring by email at [masters@us.oracle.com](mailto:masters@us.oracle.com), before you pay for a group of tests to become OCP.

**Q.** Our Concurrent Manager request numbers recently have increased from 6 to 7 digits. This is inconvenient for our character users, since the form displays the first six digits of the number. Oracle Support has said that we can drop and recreate the FND\_CONCURRENT\_REQUESTS\_S sequence to reset the request number. My concern is that doing this may have unintended/unknown consequences somewhere else. Is there anyone out there who has done this and can suggest the proper course of action (if there is one)?

**From: Bevin Watson**  
bevin.watson@abs.gov.au

**A.** We've done this quite a few times without difficulty. A couple of things to note:

1. Check your grants and synonyms. For instance, you may need to drop and create FND\_CONCURRENT\_REQUESTS\_S as applsys (or fnd, depending on your installation), and then grant all on fnd\_concurrent\_requests\_s to apps. Then log into apps and make sure the synonym is still there by select fnd\_concurrent\_requests\_s.nextval from dual; Otherwise you will get "Cannot submit concurrent request" errors.

2. Obviously, make sure the CM is down and nobody is logged in.
3. Make sure your interface tables are clear. Some processes like AutoInvoice use the request\_id to link the master and the slave(s). I don't really think this should cause a problem, but better to be safe than sacked.
4. Make sure your outputs (\$APPLCSF/log and /out) have been purged before the numbers cycle back again.
5. Tell your users: until all the old jobs are purged they will have to scroll down the screen to see their jobs due to the sort order.

✧

**Q.** I have set up a report set that consists of two reports: An oracle report and a custom report. When the customer area requests this report set, I want each request to complete before the next one starts. How can I enforce this?

**From: Farber, Andy**  
farban@consumer.org

**A.** Can you make the two programs in the report set incompatible with themselves and each other? That way, once the first report

set has started, the programs in the second can't start until the programs in the first are completed.

✧

**Q.** I have created my first OA Alert (yeah!). It is a periodic alert and it is enabled. But it isn't running. I mean, it isn't out there checking every 5 minutes as I think it should be. What do I have to do to make it go? Does it have to be registered? Do I have to start it as a concurrent process?

**From: Hollowell, Brian E**  
brian.hollowell@eds.com

**A.** Go to Request: Schedule, under Alert Mgr. and activate the periodic alert scheduler. That is what schedules alerts each day and you should only have to activate it once, unless the system goes down.

✧

**From: Palad, Ed**  
EdPalad@firstusa.com

In a CONCSUB a NULL parameter is "" (single quote, doublequote, doublequote, single quote)

## HR/PAY

**Q.** I would like to know were to find all documentation on API's and Extensions.

**From: Scott Wright**  
swright@scott.skidmore.edu

**A.** Look for files with API or bpi in the name and extensions of .pkh (header) and .pkb (body) under the subdirectories of the product top (e.g. PER\_TOP). Read the files. It's not great documentation but it might help you.

## Multi-Org

Release 11i will support reports across multiple organizations in AP and AR. The AP reports that may be run for several organizations at once include AP Trial Balance, Posted Invoice Register, Posted Payment Register, and the audit reports for the Transfer to GL. The AR reports that may be run for several organizations at once include: 4 and 7 Bucket Aging by account, collector, or sales representative, the 7 Bucket Aging by Amount, the Credit Hold report, and the Customer Credit Snapshot report.

## MFG Apps

### INV

**Q.** Anyone have performance tips for item import? We have the latest patches and 1000 items takes about 50 minutes to load.

**From: Shockey, David**  
DShockey@jwrinc.com

**A.** The best thing that you can do is make sure that your records have no errors. You should split the import into groups using set\_process\_id. That way you can have several (limited by the number of standard concurrent managers) import processes running concurrently. We made our set\_process\_id groups 5000 rows and it seems to have worked fine. I recall that 45,000 records went through in about five hours. That was on a Sun Enterprise 450 with 2GB RAM, 2X250MHz processors, and non-mirrored drives.

You can run the verification step before the actual import. This may not make the process as a whole any faster. But the final import step will run faster if the records have already been verified and you skip the verification step in the final import.

The manual on open interfaces can be a big help in this process. Be sure to pay attention to their suggestions on creating indexes for the interface table.

At the database level you can turn off archiving.

**From: Eric Lucas**  
elucas@constellar.com

**A.** The speed ratio I am familiar with is about 10:1 bad records to good records. Do everything you can to weed out bad records BEFORE loading them into the Interface.

**From: Jay Patel**  
jpmrp@yahoo.com

**A.** When you upgrade Oracle versions, the seeded items are copied again and override any that you may create with the same name. That is also another reason to name your templates with a prefix or suffix on not the same name as an Oracle seeded template.

\*\*\*\*\*

### WIP/Cost

**Q.** When are the variance accounts posted in a WIP Discreet Job? Material and resource variances are not posted when a WIP job is completed? Do I need to 'Close' all 'Complete' jobs to realize the variances?

**From: Bryan Hart**  
BryanH@langeberg.co.za

**A.** In short Yes.

◇

**Q.** How do I get the WIP 'discrete job name' to number sequentially?

**From: Srirangan Ganesan**  
srirangan\_ganesan@stcl.scitex.com

**A.** Check the sequence definition of WIP\_JOB\_NAME\_S. As far as I know, if you are not entering any job name (alphanumeric) while creating a WIP discrete job, it gets the next value from the above sequence. And then it checks in WIP\_ENTITIES table, whether the same job name exists already or not. If that sequence number is already in use for some other existing job (Manually entered), then only it picks the next value again. Otherwise, it generates the number sequentially. May be, if you can disable the manual entry option for job name, it will always use the sequence number.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Planning

**Q.** What is the purpose of the "Net Change Replan" in the planner workbench?

**From: Anthony Gutierrez**  
gutierrez@concentric.net

**A.** The 'Net Change Replan' - in on-line mode - is used to evaluate requirements and replenishments for all items whose supply and demand information you have changed. You can use the 'Net Change Replan Simulation' - in batch mode - to review the affects of added demand before processing in on-line mode.

**From: Trevor Kinnear**  
TrevorK@langeberg.co.za

**A.** The Net Change RePlan allows you to replan based on Quantity and Date changes made within the Workbench Only!, Any changes made outside the workbench are ignored, including changes to MDS etc and any item attribute changes like safety stock levels etc.

\*\*\*\*\*

### OE

**From: Gregg Ney (s)**  
gney@cap.org

We found that if you turn sales tax calculation off at order entry time, the credit check at booking time is an order of magnitude faster.

◇

**Q.** How to change the Pickslip Numbering sequence from say 1000 to 100000?

**From: Jain Dhiraj**

**A.** You'll have to drop that sequence and recreate it again with start with value set to 10000. The sequence name is SO\_PICKING\_HEADERS\_S.

## Financial Apps

### GL

**Q.** Our calendar is setup for 13 periods - 12 months followed by an adjustment period. The problem I am having is producing FSG's that show comparative income results. For example, if I run a report in month 2 of our fiscal year that shows the last 3 periods of income, I would get "February", "January" and the "Adjustment" period (instead of December). In this example, the only income that would appear in the "Adjustment" period would be year-end adjustments and my comparability to January and February is lost. What I would really like to show is combined income for December and the Adjustment periods. In other words, I would like December and the Adjustment period to be combined for FSG display purposes. (I have a similar requirement for the Balance Sheet, except this would only use the Adjustment period and not the December balances.) Has anyone ever accomplished something like this? I know I could use ADI to export and manipulate the data in Excel, but I am looking for a straight FSG answer, if one exists.

**From: Steve Bradley**  
sbradley@sprynet.com

**A.** This is usually my main argument for not using Adjusting periods. It really creates a problem in FSG's. I had a client

who insisted on 2 Adjusting periods. I was not successful in getting either period eliminated. Because of this our number of FSG's increased about 5 fold. Many of their reports included rolling periods such as yours. Any of these FSG's that crossed over the adjusting periods had to be a custom FSG.

◇

**Q.** Many of our standard corporate reports display the line or account description in the middle of the page, with Current Month data on the left of that, and YTD data to the right of that. Has anyone been able to do this? If so, how?

**A.** You cannot do this with an FSG in GL but you can do this with version 5.0 of ADI.

◇

**From: Andy Schindler**  
aschindl@yahoo.com

AP (10.7) does utilize the group id functionality when posting to GL. Usually it is invisible because the import is submitted for you. AP, AR and PA post automatically via the GL Interface. FA creates JE's directly. PO, INV, and WIP populate the GL Interface and must be imported manually.

In fairness to Oracle, it makes sense that the MFG modules do not import automatically. The background costing processes are constantly placing entries in the interface table and it is up to the individual business to determine when to pull them into GL.

\*\*\*\*\*

### FA

**Q.** Is there any way to transfer an asset from one cost account to another? Right now, what I do is to retire that particular asset and create it manually with the new one. Since there are too many assets that need this treatment, I want to know an easy alternative, like the mass transfer of expense account.

**From: Dave Barker**  
DAB@mapcoinc.com

**A.** All you need to do is change the category of the asset. Entries will be generated to move cost and reserve based on the accounts set up for the to and from category.

\*\*\*\*\*

### AP

**Q.** I am at a client who is upgrading from 10.4.2 to 10.7 (both CHARACTER) mid-year. We are trying to determine the best way to handle the clearing of checks. We are not bringing uncleared checks to 10.7.

Has anyone had experience with this? Should we run the bank tape against both instances for ??? months and do the reconciliation in a bit of a consolidated, manual way?

**From: Steve Bradley**  
sbradley@sprynet.com

**A.** The easiest thing to do is to create a new disbursement account at the bank. They will then send you 2 tapes: one is used against 10.4 and the other against 10.7. You eventually close out the old bank account.

If they use the excuse that they have 5 years worth of checks for the old account, do a cost comparison. The extra effort required to show "reconciling items" in both systems for the next 6 months will probably pay for the new checks.

If you use the same account in both versions you could split the file from the bank at the last check number used and create a 10.4 and 10.7 file.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### PO

**Q.** Request for printing a purchase order in Portrait format completes with a warning. The report shows blank file and Request Log file shows error.

**From: Farber, Andy**  
farban@consumer.org

**A.** This happens to us when we try to print a PO that has not been approved - it can't be printed, so no output appears in the temp file to be printed. Make sure the PO in question is approved, and not INCOMPLETE or needing RE\_APPROVAL.

#### AR

#### From Cathy Cakebread

Don't underestimate the amount of time it takes to convert data from your legacy system into Oracle Receivables. The length of the conversion will depend on the ease with which you can select the data from your existing system, the number of legacy systems from which you will be extracting data, and the differences in the data structures between the legacy data and the Oracle data. I have seen it take two to four months. At a minimum, you probably will be converting customers, including addresses and contacts; invoices; credit memos; payments; and adjustments.

Oracle Receivables provides three interface programs—Customer Interface, AutoInvoice, and Automatic Lockbox—that simplify data conversion. Customer Interface helps you load and update

customers, addresses, contacts, telephone numbers, and credit rules (profiles). Use AutoInvoice for invoices, credit memos, on-account credits, and debit memos. You can also use AutoInvoice to import adjustments or write-offs as debit and/or credit memos. Oracle's Automatic Lockbox feature can be used to import payment history even if you won't be using Automatic Lockbox for your daily processing. These three programs are very complex and do hundreds of edits and cross-validations of your data to ensure that what you import will work.

✧

#### From Cathy Cakebread

Only the first four digits of the transaction type are visible on various reports and in most of the inquiry screens, so I suggest coding those digits to make them more meaningful.

## Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 20, 1999

### Presentations

"Project Related Procurement Using Project Manufacturing" Sachin Joshi, KPMG Consulting

"Technical Foundation - General Ledger" Brad Eldredge, AnswerThink Consulting

### Breakout Sessions

The breakout sessions are a wonderful success. Breakout sessions will be offered at future meetings with a variety of rotating topics. The technical breakout session will be held every meeting.

Volunteers are needed to facilitate the breakout sessions. Please send an email to bcarlton@kpmg.com and volunteer in your area of expertise.

The following sessions were held on August 20.

<b>GL Tables</b>	<b>Brad Eldredge</b> AnswerThink
<b>PO/Project Mfg.</b>	<b>Sachin Joshi</b> KPMG
<b>Discoverer</b>	<b>Jeff Robinson</b> W.C. Bradley
<b>ADI (with FADI) demo</b>	<b>Lisa Maxwell</b> Oracle
<b>Performance Tuning</b>	<b>Randy Arseneau</b> Precise Software

## ECO/SEOUC Conference

For the first time ever, the East Coast's "oldest, newest and best" Oracle developers' conference (ECO) is joining forces with their southern (SEOUC) counterpart. Join us in Atlanta March 19-22, 2000 at the Atlanta Hilton and Towers. Ten tracks per day, 100 sessions (35+ for apps) are scheduled. Attendance is expected to be ~800. The call for papers will be in Sept.

## Upgrades

Release 11i will use Oracle8i, Forms 6 and Reports 6.

## Consulting

### From Cathy Cakebread

Software can do only so much. To make your implementation successful, you also need to make policy and procedure changes an integral part of your implementation process. This is an excellent time to review the way you work. You can often use the new software and its capabilities as an incentive to improve existing methods.

## Volunteers Needed

Volunteers 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@kpmg.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 CSA Consulting for providing us with the conference space, refreshments, audiovisual equipment and door prizes. 50 attendees were present

## Administration

Coordinator:  
Brenda Carlton, KPMG Consulting  
[bcarlton@sprynet.com](mailto:bcarlton@sprynet.com)

Web and List Administrator:  
Mary Lou Weiss, CSA  
[mweiss@csac.com](mailto:mweiss@csac.com)

Newsletter editor:  
Jim Crum, BOSS Corporation  
[Jim.Crum@bosscorporation.com](mailto:Jim.Crum@bosscorporation.com)

Audiovisual Equipment  
Toni Cobb, Caribiner International