

tips and techniques

September 2001

Application Desktop Integrator (ADI)

From Brett Green, BOSS Corporation

When you use ADI to create a report, it is looking at the database to determine column set id and name, row set id and name, etc. The information is all stored in hidden worksheets. The best way to move reports from database to database is by creating a database link (your DBA can do this) and using FSG Transfer. I had a client that refused to create the link. It is possible to use ADI to move reports, but it is very cumbersome. I wouldn't recommend it under normal circumstances.

Question: We have Journal Approval Workflow running but have a question as to how this would work in the ADI environment. Would we upload the Journal Spreadsheet and then follow the usual Approve Batch process to invoke Workflow or can we do this directly from ADI.

Answer from: Don Driggs, BOSS Corporation

ADI will upload an unposted journal with a journal source of your choosing (the default is Spreadsheet). If you have marked 'Spreadsheet' journal sources as requiring journal approval, then they must be approved before they can be posted. In such cases, the workflow kicks in after the journal is imported. ADI itself doesn't know anything about journal approval so the answer to your question is yes you will follow the usual Approve Batch processes and no, you can't do it directly from ADI. One assumption that some people in an environment where those who approve journals are the only ones that can upload ADI spreadsheets is the upload by its nature is a journal approval.

What you see is the way it works. I don't mean to mislead you with the phrase, "in such cases, the workflow kicks in after the journal is imported". By it I mean it won't start until you tell it to start. Now, I imagine you could find a way to automatically launch the approval process, but it isn't standard functionality.

Next Meeting Friday, October 19th at 8:30 AM

Hosted by BellSouth
BellSouth Campanile Building
1155 Peachtree Street, Atlanta Midtown
Reservations: Deborah McFarlin, 404-586-1302, Deborah.mcfarlin@bellsouth.com

Agenda (check www.atloaug.org for final agenda)

Vendor Spotlight Company: MetricStream, Steve Goldthwaite, www.metricstream.com
Presentation #1 - Volunteer Needed
Presentation #2 - Volunteer Needed - How about YOU?
Networking - Chris Sajda, Protege

Breakout Sessions:
Optimizing Applications Performance with Oracle 8i - Randy Arseneau, Precise Software
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed - How about YOU?

Editor's Comments

From: Jim Crum
Jim.Crum@bosscorporation.com

A True Story

Twenty three months ago at a national OAUG conference (in Honolulu) I had a super interesting conversation with a DBA on the floor of the exhibit hall. I had taken Richard to dinner the previous evening, and he was visiting my booth the next day to thank me and further our discussion. Richard was exited and enthusiastic because he had just had a stimulating conversation about a new technique enabled by Oracle 8i to use materialized views to improve performance.

Richard's employer operates one of the most complex Oracle HRMS installations. They produce over 100,000 W-2 statements at year end and process over 350 weekly payrolls for 30,000 employees. Richard told me that he had done a lot of performance tuning on the HRMS programs so that he could accommodate that large number of payrolls each week. In particular he told me about a check register report that ran for hours when shipped from Oracle, but he had gotten it to run in minutes. He was also afraid that the upgrade to 11i would mess up his fine work by switching to the cost based optimizer.

Richard's mind was on two things:

- Performance tuning, and
- Pumping me for information about upgrading the applications

Of course, I was interested in Richard's upgrade plans, and I was hoping to pick up some technical tips that might be useful to my clients. We exchanged business cards and I later entered Richard into my address book with the notation that he was an HRMS tuning expert.

Almost two years later, I came across a client with an unusual business problem. This client had 11 payrolls, about 1500 employees, and a customized check register report because they didn't like the cumbersome one that Oracle created.

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The unusual business problem required that they run the Oracle version of the check register because their stripped down version, didn't have all the balances required to meet their new business need. When we ran the Oracle report, it didn't finish after 24 hours, and we killed the job.

Since this client's set of payrolls was quite a bit less demanding than Richard's workload, I immediately thought to contact him. Although I had forgotten his name, I remembered the conversation clearly, and I remembered his company name. My address book revealed the rest, and within an hour, Richard and I were discussing the problem.

Richard was fuzzy on the details of the tuning to his report since it had been running smoothly and quickly so long. However, he sent me a copy of an email that he had posted on an HRMS list server describing his techniques. The techniques involved modifying the Oracle report by placing optimizer hints and reworking the query execution plans for better sorting.

I didn't really want to modify a big and complex Oracle report while under a lot of time pressure at a client site. This Oracle report is a real dog and Oracle Support had told us that development had tried to tune the thing for the past year with little success. In a fit of boldness, I asked Richard if he could possibly send me a copy of his report that ran in just a few minutes.

To make a long story short, Richard wanted to help another suffering user of the Oracle software, and he got permission from his management to send the report. Richard is a hero in my eyes.

This story has another interesting twist in that it illustrates some of the best attributes of what the OAUG is all about and the value of the national OAUG conferences. The OAUG is a very valuable education and networking tool for users of some very complex technology. Resolving business issues and technology problems is a major benefit of participation in OAUG events.

Also please note, that the more we participate, the more we get back. The value of OAUG is greatly enhanced when we all participate. Oracle Corporation, for whatever reason, seems to be doing less and less to help users with these business issues and technology problems, and that makes the role of OAUG much more important.

Each of us has an opportunity to give and take from the OAUG just as Richard and I traded information two years ago and solved problems this month. You can bet if Richard ever needs some of my help, he will be at the top of my priority list.

Continued next column

The national OAUG needs our help to grow and prosper. OAUG provides all of us with the forums, conferences, list servers, and publications to help solve our business and technology problems. As users, it's in our best interests to have a strong, active, and independent User Group. If the four day spring conference becomes two days tacked on to an Oracle marketing event, we will all be diminished. **All you have to do is participate!** Please try to find a way. If your management doesn't see the value, tell them Richard's story so they will understand that the benefits are much more than the costs. – Ed.

Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 17, 2001

Presentation

Presentation:
Financial Tips and Techniques – Steve Bradley,
Oasis Consulting

Presentation:
CRM Modules: Network Logistics and Capital
Resource for Effectively Managing Assets –
Ernesto Solera, KPMG

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

Breakout Sessions

Technical – Installing Application Desktop
Integrator on a Citrix Server – Kumar Ganesan,
Mirant

CRM - NL and Cap Resource – Ernesto Solera,
KPMG

Functionality – GL, AP, PO – Steve Bradley,
Oasis Consulting

Implementing iProcurement, Workflow and 9iAS
Portal: An Architectural Overview – Bryan
Snyder, Answerthink

Other

Networking Game – Nancy Hill, Dept of Energy
Vendor Spotlight – Noetix: Enterprise
Technology Suite, www.noetix.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-ouagnet@lists.ksinet.com
If you have questions about this new service, please visit OAUG's Web site for full details: www.oaug.org/public/ouagnet/ouagnet.html

To SUBSCRIBE to the Atlanta OAUG List Server Please go to our web site and follow the instructions at ATLOAUG.org. Tell your friends and co-workers too

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@spyrnet.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 Answerthink for providing us with the conference space, refreshments and audiovisual equipment. Thanks also go to Answerthink and Nancy Hill (Dept of Energy) for providing Door prizes.

Attendance

93 attendees from 43 companies were present

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Volunteers (How about You?)