

# tips and techniques

January 2000

## All Apps

Source: Special Edition: Using Oracle Applications – BOSS Corporation

Before you can use a newly defined set of books, your system administrator must associate the set of books with one or more responsibilities. This is done using the profile option GL Set of Books Name. Your responsibility determines which set of books you use.

## Manufacturing

### INV

From: Bob McLean -- Rmclean03@sprynet.com

When you copy an item, Oracle does not copy all of the data associated with the item. Categories, organization assignments, catalog group information, and costs are not copied from one item to another.

✧

Be cautious in reserving inventory for a specific requirement that is far into the future. This could prevent you from issuing the reserved material for a different near in requirement even though in the future there might be a supply of inventory coming in that will meet the inventory needs of your far out requirement.

✧

You should use the transaction purge capability with a great deal of caution because once the information is removed, you can no longer query or report on this information. For example, the Job Lot Composition, or Accrual Reconciliation, or the Transaction Register can no longer retrieve the purged transaction information to report on it.

✧

The present date and time will default onto the screen and would normally be used. However, depending on the setting of the profile option "INV: Transaction Date Validation" you can override this with an earlier date and time

✧

You won't normally need to specify any additional item delete constraints unless you have additional tables or fields in your system that reference items that the Oracle Inventory application is not aware of. If you do have this condition, see the section on creating custom delete constraints in the "Oracle Bills of Materials User's Guide".

## Next Meeting Friday, January 21 at 9 AM

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NSI Center  
1420 Peachtree St. NE  
Atlanta GA 30309

Reservations: Fred Freidel, 770-922-9000 x2388, Ffriedel@Lithonia.com

### Agenda

Member Spotlight Company – Lithonia Lighting  
“Workflow” – Dana Tate, KPMG Consulting  
Breakout Sessions

## Editor's Comments

From: Jim Crum

Jim.Crum@bosscorporation.com

I see from our banner at the top of this page that this is volume 4.1. This means the newsletter is entering its fourth year. Who would have thought that there would still be any tips and techniques left? Time flies when you are having fun.

✧

At our house, Y2K turned out be a non-event, and this may be the last article you will read about the millennium bug. However, we should make a few comments because this whole Y2K exercise is a lesson about how to deal with bugs in the Oracle software. The database has always been rock solid, but the Applications have had bug problems for at least the 7 years that I know about. We don't know why the Applications Development Group can't create code of the same quality as the database and tools groups, but that is another subject. The bottom line is, we have bugs in the Apps, and they must be managed. This is what you can do about it.

- Learn to work with support. This is an acquired skill, but you can do it.
- Keep your patch levels reasonably current.
- But, don't be the first to upgrade unless you are prepared to deal with the issue of bugs.
- Test, test, and test again during your implementation, upgrade project, and patch applications.
- Keep complaining to Oracle.
- Realize that if you have a method to deal with bugs, it's not as bad as they say it is.

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## OE

**From: Jimmy Bunn**

Jimmy.Bunn@bosscorporation.com

If you use an Accounting rule then you must also use and invoicing Rule. Invoicing Rules determine when to book your receivables. Oracle comes seeded with the Advance Invoice and Arrears Invoice rules.



All freight charges should be defined in your functional currency for uniformity. You can modify the currency and amount to match the order at shipping confirmation.

## Financials

### GL

**From: Satyakanth Abbaraju**

Satyakanth@bosscorporation.com

Using a value set in multiple segments will reduce maintenance. Similarly using a value set in multiple KAFF structures will improve the consolidation process. Changes in the value set will affect all the Flexfields it is assigned to. In such case, quickly create a new value set by copying from the existing value set and update its properties as required.



While defining security rules, it is recommended that a rule should start with a general include element for the entire range, then have exclude elements for the ranges that should be restricted.



It is easy to have dynamic insertion enabled initially when keying in or migrating initial data into GL. After a period of time prune the list and determine a policy on usage of account code combinations. It is best to disable dynamic insertion at this stage, unless the business requirement determines otherwise. Any code combination to be used subsequently should first be defined.



When preparing a list of Account Code Combinations for an implementation, it is good to start with a study of existing account codes in the legacy system. Taking that study as a base, modifications can be made to suit the business requirements. This exercise many times leads to a completely different account coding but it is easy to start with, as the users are familiar with the existing account coding.

Specify a category for every transaction instead of leaving it blank. Categories will help in reporting. Categorization also allows you to make good use of additional suspense accounts and additional Inter-Company accounts. Where it is not possible to assign a transaction to a specific category, have several general categories and assign the transaction to one of these.

### AP

**Q.** Does anyone know exactly how to use the 1099 Update Income Tax Details Report? It doesn't appear to distinguish between taxable and non-taxable sites. I am trying to use the update utility to update 1099 federally taxable vendors. I have vendors with two sites, one is for taxable income the other is for expense reimbursement. The supplier is set up to have one taxable site, is federally reportable and all that but when I use the utility to update only those invoices that are linked to the taxable site it updates every invoice linked to the vendor, regardless of site. Has anyone used it to selectively update invoices and how?

**From: Lauren Scott** Lscott@us.oracle.com

**A.** The 1099 tax reporting status of a supplier is set at the header and not the site. So this utility will update by supplier - there is not a way to distinguish by sites.

You may be confused about the site being taxable since you do mark a site as the one for 1099 reporting. The purpose of this is so that Payables knows which site address to use to print on the forms and pass to the IRS. It does not however distinguish one site as taxable and the others as not.



**From: Chuck Steedley**

Csteedley@worldnet.att.net

For payments with no check number, such as electronic payments, matching to the invoice number and supplier bank account number is particularly useful.



The following restrictions apply to voided payments:

1. When you void a payment, you cannot cancel a related invoice if it was partially paid by a second payment. Instead, when you choose Cancel Invoice, the system applies an "Invoice Cancel" hold to the invoice for your reference. You can release the hold manually in the Invoice Holds window.

2. If you attempt to cancel an invoice that has been partially paid by another payment by using the Cancel Invoice Action, instead of canceling the invoice, Payables applies an Invoice Cancel hold to the invoice. This hold is manually releasable.
3. You cannot void a payment that the bank has already cleared.
4. You cannot void payment on a payment document that pays a prepayment that you have applied to an invoice. You must first unapply any prepayments, and then you can void the payment.

### PO

**From: Jimmy Bunn**

Jimmy.Bunn@bosscorporation.com

Item relationships can normally be used only for inquiry and reporting purposes. However, in Oracle Purchasing, once you have defined a substitute item, you can receive the substitute item in place of the originally ordered item. You need to make sure that the ordered item and the substitute item share the same base unit of measure.



Purchasing Options:

1. Accrual Options: When using Cash Basis Accounting, you should set this option to Period End, but you will not normally run the Receipt Accrual - Period End process.
2. You can override purchasing options when you are creating documents.
3. You can change the method of entering document numbers at any time.
4. If you choose Automatic document number entry, you can generate only numeric document numbers.
5. If you import purchasing documents that reference alphanumeric numbers, you must choose Alphanumeric as your number type, regardless of your numbering method.

### AR

**From: Jim Crum**

Jim.Crum@bosscorporation.com

AutoLockbox will not process miscellaneous or non-invoice cash receipts.



Each time the customer interface API runs, it creates the Customer Interface Transfer report to document records processed and show validation errors. The interface will not

Continue from Financials App...

create location combinations for foreign locations (when the country code is not the same as the country code defined in your system options).

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In Release 11, transactions can also be created with a new Application Program Interface (API). This API can create transactions directly without the overhead of AutoInvoice. This API is still in BETA status and you will have significant testing and debugging to make this strategy work.

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The customer definition of AR is shared with OE. When defining customers, consider the effect of each field on the OE application.

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To exempt a customer or item from all taxes, assign the customer or item to a tax code with a zero tax rate.

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The application level profile option OE: Customer Relationships controls if relationships will be enforced when entering sales orders. Set it to YES to make sure only related customer addresses are available in bill-to and ship-to fields.

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## HR/PAY

**From: Bill Stratton, Craig Anglemeier, Chuck Markwardt and Ken Conway**  
Info@bosscorporation.com

The following are advantages of in house payroll processing that must be considered when making a decision to outsource:

1. You maintain control of your operations.
2. Special checks, Quick Pays, etc. can be accommodated quite easily in-house.
3. You have on-line tracking of historical payroll data.
4. It is easier to perform statistical testing and calculation of future benefit changes or salary increases.
5. Interface to Oracle GL - doesn't require a custom interface from a 3rd party payroll provider to Oracle GL.
6. You must maintain on average 5-6 interfaces between Oracle HR to 3rd party provider such as:
  - a. New Hires/Terminations
  - b. Time Cards
  - c. Benefits Enrollment/Changes
  - d. Employee Address changes
  - e. Employee W4 changes
  - f. Employee Assignment Changes (Organization affects Cost Center, Work Location affects taxation, etc.)

Don't let any company tell you there is no maintenance. Several clients have trouble with the "Oracle Views" that support these interfaces. The Oracle Views are a head-start but nothing more than a reasonable head-start. They do not appear to drop in without the consulting cost of a good technical consultant and a good functional consultant to test them thoroughly.

7. Once you outsource, it is difficult to change future providers or move payroll back in-house. The client is often stuck in a difficult situation.
8. It seems like it would be easier to audit your past operations more easily.

You must also contact others who have tried the outsourcing approach. As far as the day to day operations, it seemed to us that the people were doing almost the same amount of work to prepare the interface files, as they would have done if they just ran the payroll themselves.

## System Administration

From: "Kevin Gillins E. Gillins" <Kevin\_Gillins@compuserve.com>

Spool can be used, but in a specific manner. The concurrent managers issue a spool first in your code for you. If you want to override or change the concurrent request output then you must first issue spool off then you can turn on spool to your location. Also the file that Oracle is spooling to is considered the concurrent request out file. If you spool to a different name than the concurrent request, users will not be able to view the output via the concurrent requests screen. Another note: If you define 3 parameters to your SQL script then concurrent manager will add #4 automatically. This new parameter is the full path of the spool file. There is nothing special about #4 it is only an example. The same would be true if you had 6 parameters, the 7th will be the spool file. I use this information for performing data dumps destined for interfaces and then reports for tie out. By using this technique, you can have multiple outputs from one SQL script. Just in case you are not aware, if you issue spool for the same file name then the previous spool files with that name will be over written.

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**Q.** I create a custom responsibility and I assigned a menu to a responsibility. Once the responsibility is created I assigned it to a user. I login to that user and chose the custom responsibility, and I tried to submit a report. I wasn't able to retrieve any report from the list of values. Can you help?

**A.** You need to specify the SRS group (request group) during responsibility definition. Take a look at the standard responsibility of Sys Administration and see what request group is specified for it. Use the same group, or if you have a custom report group, you can call that one too. Make sure though, that the reports you want to see are part of that custom report group.

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**From: Jim Wright**

We are running 11.0.3 on HP UNIX 11.0 and had problems at first when we had the database server and the forms server on the same box. If you are running both the forms/web server and database server on the same NT box, you will definitely want to split these.

The time it takes for the applet to load is generally an indication of an undersized client machine. Another factor is the bandwidth on your network. 100 MB is a must at the server and client.

## System Administration

From Steve Harper:

In our experience, poor performance on the client has been primarily due to:

1. Too many applications being open simultaneously (Word, Excel, Oracle, etc.).
2. Limited memory (<32MB minimum) on the client machines.
3. Limited processor speed (<200MHz) on the client machines.
4. Limited disk space on the client machines (so the swap space and working temp space becomes constrained)

Of course, the network and/or a poorly tuned database are also potential sources of such problems.

From: Nathan Shofner

We have put 64M of ram in most of the desktop machines that access Oracle apps here. We also make sure there is plenty of free disk for swap space. That seems to help. We also have found on the network side of things that any pipe less than 100 megabit is a bottleneck. We started out on a small UNIX box on a 10-megabit pipe and performance was horrible. Changing to the 100-megabit pipe helped matters a lot. Also, watch your PC resource usage. We see that some applications (like Outlook) running while there is a financials window open, causes a large amount of traffic to be generated that does not appear when the financials are running by themselves.

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**Q.** I find that the set up and use of folders can be confusing, especially when you are in a subquery and are setting the autoquery rule. Does anyone know of some good documentation?

From Mohan Iyer

**A.** I have used Folders quite a bit and these are the rules of thumb that I go by.

1. Never have data in the form when you are creating your folder - as opposed to the default folder.
2. Never set the folder to AutoQuery when you choose it. Always let it ask you!
3. Never set it as the default - it is a better idea to assign it to a specific User/Responsibility rather than to set it as default.
4. Always make it a Public Folder unless you have a good reason not to make it public.

## Upgrades

**Q.** Does anyone know of a good document detailing the functional enhancements in R11 vs. R10.7 NCA (HP/UX & NT)?

From Jim Crum

**A.** Oracle has a book entitled Oracle Applications Product Update Notes - Release 11. I believe it is part number A57984-01. You can also find it in Adobe Acrobat format on the R11 Documentation Library CD. The file is in a directory called PDF and the file name is R11PUN.PDF. Each application has a chapter in this book, and one of the major section headings of each chapter is entitled Release 11 Features and Changes.

### Meeting Minutes

Friday, November 19, 1999  
JW Marriott - Hosted by OptioSoftware

### Presentation

"Member Spotlight - Flexible Products" Bruce Duttonhofer and Dan Crowley

"Release 11" Chris Thornhill, Oracle Corp

### Breakout Sessions

The following sessions were held on November 19.

<b>Release 111</b>	<b>Chris Thornhill</b> Oracle
<b>Technical</b>	<b>Lance Walton</b> Home Wireless
<b>Balanced Scorecard</b>	<b>Craig Mikus</b> Oracle
<b>E-Business Enablement</b>	<b>Optio Software</b>

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

### New List Server - OAUGNET

The Oracle Applications Users Group (OAUG) announces a new Oracle Applications 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

### ECO/SEOUC Conference

Atlanta - March 19-22, 2000  
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. Conference highlights include more than 80 technical and functional presentations, panel discussions, half-day workshops, Oracle education mini-lessons and vendor booths. Attendance is expected to be ~800. See www.seouc.org and www.oracle-users.com.

### 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@kpmg.com

### Golf Outing

Thanks to Eric Shin for organizing the first Atlanta-OAUG golf outing after the November meeting. Ten golfers enjoyed an afternoon at North Fulton golf course with prizes contributed by InfoShark and KPMG. Thanks to Eric, this will be a regularly scheduled event after Atl-OAUG meetings.

### Thanks!

Thanks to Optio Software for providing us with the conference space, refreshments, audiovisual equipment and door prizes. OptioSoftware was very generous in providing gifts to each attendee and a \$200 grand prize gift certificate. Thanks also go to InfoShark, KPMG and Noblestar for providing door prizes. 70 attendees were present.

### Administration

You are welcome to correspond by email

Coordinator:  
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Tech Session Coordinator/Golf Outings  
Eric Shin, Sage Group  
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Liaison Member:  
Volunteers are needed from each company to spread meeting information

Host Companies/Speakers:  
Volunteers (How about You?)