

Tips and Techniques

Volume 8 -6, January-2006

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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.

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Coordinator's Corner

2006 Meeting Dates

Jan 20, 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,
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General

OAUG Updates

OAUG Apps Forum 2006 — Brussels: Call for Presentations

16 February 2006
Sheraton Brussels Hotel
Brussels, Belgium

The Oracle Applications Users Group (OAUG) invites all Oracle Applications users to participate in its upcoming event, [OAUG Apps Forum 2006 — Brussels](#), held in Brussels, Belgium, 16 February 2006, at the [Sheraton Brussels Hotel](#).

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 — Los Angeles](#)

January 19, 2006

Location TBD

Los Angeles, California

Hosted by OAUG and Solution Beacon, LLC

- **[The Road to Nashville — San Ramon](#)**
February 9, 2006
Location TBD
San Ramon, California
Hosted by OAUG and Solution Beacon, LLC

- **[The Road to Nashville — Boston](#)**
March 3, 2006
Location TBD
Boston, Massachusetts
Hosted by OAUG and Solution Beacon, LLC

[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
20th January 2006

Functional Articles

Work around for AP Accrual Write Off within Oracle Applications

The accrual write off standard functionality is very primitive and does not entirely happen systemically. It is more from a reporting control than from an accounting control. The way it operates is by using the following in conjunction:

- The accrual (rebuild) reconciliation Report
- The Goods Received UnInvoiced Report
- The Accrual Write off form
- Manual Journal Entry Process

The process is extremely cumbersome and controls are inappropriate. Let me quickly list down the demerits of each of these:

- The accrual Rebuild reconciliation report takes an extremely long time to run. It becomes also difficult to browse through the item, which needs a correction. The only useful portion is the summary but the summary is good only from a reporting perspective than its user friendliness for actions.
- The goods received uninvoiced report though simple lacks some simple features like grand totals and many times is known to carry figures despite corrections.
- The Accrual write off form is the most ridiculous one, which does not give any controls except that it gives a report to support journal entry, which has been ticked as written off. However anyone can go and set it back by ticking it off. In effect though it needs to be at tandem with the Accrual Rebuild Reconciliation Report, it seldom serves the purpose nor is useful from a control perspective.
- The Manual Journal entry process by the very name is manual and is not of any use if the write off transactions are finally to be journalized manually.

Keeping this in mind a simple yet effective solution is devised to carry out the AP Accrual Write Off transactions. Let us make the steps simple so that it ambles in easily in terms of the logic.

Invoices write off

When an AP Invoice is not received or supposed to be received for some business reasons for either part or full Goods Receipt after a sufficient amount of time has surpassed and the business makes a call that it has to be written off.

Goods Receipts write off

The uninvoiced goods received report will be fired and the PO numbers reported in those will be marked for write off.

Set ups required

- Set up a Bank called Accrual Write off bank and configure the minimum details
- Set up a Bank account under this called Accrual Write off bank account
- Set this up as an Internal Bank
- Set up the GL account to a write off account (Income a/c)
- Configure this bank as a Multi currency Receipts and payments bank if you deal with Multi currency AP Invoices

- Configure the Payables documents with payment method as clearing so that it does not need any format to support
- Enter the document series by leaving sufficient gap in the numbering.

Planning write off

- Make a list of all write offs for the month or a fortnight
- Have the Invoice batch named in such a way that all write off batches follow a particular sequence
- Configure the invoice batch with payment terms as immediate and payment method as clearing

Executing the write off

- Create a dummy Invoice like a regular Invoice for the write off Amount
- Match it to the Purchase Order for the part or full Qty for which it needs to be taken off from the Uninvoiced Goods Receipts report
- Carry out the distributions
- Validate and account the batch
- Create a payment batch for this Invoice batch only
- Use the Accrual Write off bank account created for this purpose
- Complete the payment batch- until confirmation

Consequences

- The dummy Invoice and corresponding matching takes the item off the goods received uninvoiced report
- The Invoice accounting actually squares the AP accrual account
- The dummy payment batch squares the AP liability account since we are processing the payment batch immediately.
- The payment accounting puts it actually to an Income account for the write off instead of a bank account since it is configured that way.
- The entire transaction takes systemically without manual control.

Cash Management Option

If Cash Management option is used there is an additional step of reconciliation which can be done by manually clearing all transactions pending for the dummy AP accrual bank account in one go by using the option “Find and Mark”. This will clear all in one go. The reconciliation accounting does not cause any harm since there is no clearing account, which is involved, and it debits and credits the same income account again.

Summary of Benefits:

No Manual Entry, completely handled through system
Payment Method Clearing does not require any Payment Format
Reconciliation is purely a dummy accounting
Most of Setups are one time (Bank, Bank account, Payables documents etc)
The process is quite systematic.
It caters to the reporting and accounting needs

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Shortcomings of Oracle Sourcing

Oracle Sourcing Overview:

The heart and soul of supply chain management is cycle time and the ways to manage it. Oracle Sourcing, a key component of Oracle Advanced Procurement, drastically reduces the cycle time with online collaboration and negotiation features.

Latest functionalities available in Oracle Sourcing:

- Award Optimization
- Demand Workbench and
- Live Console.

With Award Optimization Engine, business can eliminate time consuming manual analysis shortening the award time of complex negotiations from weeks to hours, perform what if analysis with multiple award scenarios and can also adhere to regulations, policies and sourcing goals.

The Demand Workbench offers a streamlined, HTML user interface to create RFQ s and Auctions from requisitions. The Buyer can aggregate demand from different organizations / sources and can consolidate it in a single sourcing document.

The Live Console provides a graphical display especially suited to monitor the progress of a fast-paced auction. From a single page, buyers can view graphs and charts of bidding activity. Buyers may view bidder status and participation, and monitor ongoing bid activity. Bid totals and projected savings are immediately calculated and graphed. Negotiation Pause, Supplier Activity Monitor, Supplier Lockout and Message Alerts are the new tools that expand buyer control of the negotiation.

Shortcomings of Oracle Sourcing:

Oracle Sourcing supports registration of only one generic sourcing supplier user contact for all supplier sites of one supplier group. When the supplier business groups have multiple sites in different geographical locations of the world with diverse business activities, the concept of only one generic user to work for all the supplier sites of the supplier group is practically not feasible. This functionality of Oracle Sourcing is also in direct conflict with I-Supplier Portal standard functionality. In I-Supplier Portal, we can register multiple users or contact points of one supplier group and restrict them to one or more sites. This means business has the flexibility to have one supplier user contact for one supplier site, or the same contact can have access to more than one supplier site as per requirement. These two conflicting functionalities makes it difficult to implement both I-supplier portal and Oracle Sourcing together. Also there is one same form available for registering supplier users for Oracle Sourcing and I-supplier portal. Two 'User Access Restrictions (Site and Contact) available in this form only work for I-supplier portal but not for Oracle Sourcing.

If a business decides to register different supplier contacts of one supplier group to work on the behalf of different sites, the first issue arises at step of 'Inviting Suppliers' while creating the RFQ-All the registered supplier contacts will be available in the contact field and all the supplier sites will be available in the site field. Since Sourcing supports only one contact for all the sites, there is no relationship maintained between contact and supplier sites. This makes it difficult for buyer to select the right combination of supplier contact and site. Also the published RFQ will be available to all the registered supplier contacts of the supplier group causing confusion between the supplier contacts.

Resolutions to overcome the above shortcomings:

To resolve this issue, the following customizations can be done at various stages of the sourcing process:

- First we need to limit the list of supplier sites based on the selected contact as per access restrictions defined during supplier contact registration. This will allow the Buyer to choose the right combination of contact and site field
- Customize the Supplier Home page to only display those invitations that are for the logged in contact user based on supplier sites access restrictions defined during supplier user registration. These access restrictions are presently honored only by ISP and not by Oracle Sourcing.

Oracle Sourcing functionality which is different from other Oracle modules is that Oracle Sourcing responsibilities (seeded or custom) cannot be restricted to one operating unit based on MO: Operating Unit Profile option value. Based on this MO profile option value, operating unit is only defaulted in the operating unit LOV. Oracle Sourcing allows to restrict responsibilities to one or more operating units based on HR: Security Profile value. The value for this profile option (Supplier Management Group) can be defined in global security profile form which is only available if HR is fully installed and not if HR is shared.

When HR is installed shared, the solution to this issue is to gray out the defaulted operating unit in the RFQ based on MO: Operating Unit profile option value. By this there will be no LOV available to the Buyer to choose the other operating units for which he does not have access.

To conclude, Oracle is also coming out with above-mentioned functionalities as standard features in future releases.

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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 Transportation Execution and new features in 11.5.10

Oracle Transportation Execution 11i10

Overview

Oracle Transportation Execution enables transactions to flow seamlessly between Oracle's Transportation Planning, Order Management and Warehouse Management applications. Shippers have the ability to manage their fulfillment needs with complete visibility to carrier rates, schedules, in-transit events and delivery information.

Oracle 11i10 has the following new features

Freight Payment and Audit

This enables shippers to perform detailed audits on carrier freight invoices, validate carrier freight invoices and reduce costs by identifying billing discrepancies. Shippers can realize significant cost savings by implementing procedures to automate these processes.

Least Cost Carrier Selection

This enables shipper's ability to automatically assign a carrier to a delivery based on the lowest cost. The rate is also automatically assigned to the delivery.

Automated Rating and Routing

Oracle Transportation Execution users can configure their system to automatically rate and route their deliveries with no manual user intervention. Automated rating and routing can be enabled at multiple points in the existing delivery process- including ship confirm, delivery creation and delivery consolidation.

Proof of Delivery

This gives users the ability to view delivery status details on-line and provides the information to audit carrier service performance. Oracle Transportation Execution can capture proof of delivery from their carriers and associate that information with their deliveries.

Truckload Freight Rating

Oracle Transportation Execution provides users with the flexibility to establish truckload freight rates based on geographical information, carrier service levels, and vehicle type.

Inbound Logistics

Inbound logistics enables the effective management of inbound deliveries, control of the freight spend and provides visibility to inbound shipments. With seamless integration to Oracle Procurement, an Oracle Transportation Execution user can select routing guide rules, calculate freight estimates and have visibility to carrier tracking information. Routing guide rules provide users with the ability to control inbound freight costs by ensuring the appropriate carrier is assigned to the delivery.

Carrier Enhancements

The Carrier definition form provides an enhanced user interface enabling shippers to set up parameters to facilitate Freight Payment and Audit, Truckload Rating, Vehicle Types, Mode Limits, and Service Times.

Display of Freight Choices in Order Management

Oracle Order Management users can streamline the order entry process and improve customer service by communicating available freight options to customers. Order entry users will be able to see all eligible freight options including freight estimates, carrier, mode of transport, service level and transit time.

Carrier Portal Enhancements

The Carrier Portal has been enhanced to allow carriers the ability to enter their freight bills directly into the portal. The carrier can also check the statuses of their freight bills through the carrier portal.

Constraints enhancements

Constraints have been enhanced to include two new constraints

- Vehicle - item and
- Vehicle - facility constraints.

Facilities Enhancements

Facilities have been enhanced to support mileage calculation for distance-based rating and to capture charges for facility services such as loading and unloading. Additional attributes pertaining to consolidation, deconsolidation, cross docking, handling capacities, processing rates, allowable vehicle dimensions and drop trailer arrangements can also be captured.

Transportation Workbench Enhancements

The Delivery and Trip Workbenches have been enhanced to simplify, streamline and centralize the processing of deliveries and trips. The workbenches provide the user with seeded views of delivery and trip attributes grouped by functionality.

Load Tender Workflow Enhancements

Oracle Transportation Execution enables notification recipients to respond directly to a Load Tender request via email- without using the Carrier Portal. The user simply clicks on Accept or Reject from within the body of the email.

Integration with Oracle Transportation Planning

Oracle Transportation Execution provides seamless integration with Oracle Transportation Planning to obtain plan input data and to facilitate plan output execution. Oracle Transportation Execution receives optimized transportation plans from Oracle 11i10 Release Content Document, Rev. 00 Purpose of Document 7 Transportation Planning and then performs further downstream execution operations such as load tendering, tracking and freight payment and audit.

Third Party Integration Points

To support distance calculations, Oracle Transportation Execution provides interfaces to third party software (such as PC Miler) to get the distances and in transit times between different origin-destination pairs.

OAUG Business

Atl-OAUG Structure

Position	Person	Email address
Coordinator	Brenda Carlton, Consultant	bcarlton@sprynet.com
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Technical Session Coordinator	Erik Shin, SageWise Group, Inc	eshin@sagewise.com

Highlights: January 20th Agenda: 8:30 – 12:00

- Vendor Spotlight: Bottomline Technologies
- CRM/ Customer Data Hub
- iExpenses - Key to Speedy Processing
- Advanced Pricing - Using Pricing Attributes and Product Attributes
- Extreme Project Management for the Next Generation of IT Projects
- RFID Middleware-Integration to the Entire Supply Chain

Host: Bottomline Technologies

Location: Sheraton Buckhead

Reservations: http://www.bottomline.com/forms/atlanta_oaug.aspx

Directions: www.atloaug.org

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