

# tips and techniques

July 1999

## Distribution Apps

### PO

Q. If I have a few types of vendors (Manufacturing, Government, Employee, Freight) in my vendor setup, can I prohibit users to create Purchase Orders for, say vendor types for 'Government' and 'Employee' in my create PO screen. Which means at the create PO screen, users are not able to select any vendor with type of 'Government' and 'Employee'.

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

A. You can make sure that PURCHASING SITE=NO for all vendor sites for your Government and Employee vendor types. This would not keep the user from selecting the vendor, but would keep the user from selecting a valid site. Therefore, the PO would not be able to be completed.



## Re: HR issues in Purchasing

From: **Ken Conway**  
Ken.Conway@bosscorporation.com

I'm approaching this subject from an Oracle HR/Payroll perspective. If you are considering a large number of different Business Groups, please let me suggest otherwise. Each company or legal entity can be set up in Oracle HR/Payroll as a GRE (Government Reporting Entity). There is no limit to the number of GREs within a Business Group.

Should you ever decide to bring Oracle Payroll into the mix, then you could conceivably define different payrolls within this business group. Then on the GL Flexfield Map window, you map the Cost Allocation Key Flexfield segments to your GL Accounting Key Flexfield separately for each payroll. Each payroll can be mapped to a different Set of Books. The only catch is that only one Cost Allocation Key Flexfield exists within a Business Group. You can map different segments of the Cost Allocation Key Flexfield based on different payrolls, but you cannot map different Cost Allocation Key Flexfield structures.

From a HR perspective, your HR department will not be happy with employees spread across multiple Business Groups. This will prevent anyone within the company from having an online view of the entire organization (all 18 companies). Sure, reports could be customized but the ability to view employees online without constantly changing responsibilities is the big issue.

One more note... the Business Group establishes the legislation with Oracle HR/Payroll. If your employees are in multiple countries, then we have a different issue and should discuss this further.

## Next Meeting Friday, August 20 at 9 AM

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CSA Consulting  
400 Northpark Towncenter, 1000 Abernathy Road, Level 3, Suite C-335  
RSVP Alicia Hoekstra 1-800-225-6205 x228, ahoekstr@csac.com

### Agenda

"Project Related Procurement Using Project Manufacturing" - Sachin Joshi,

KPMG Consulting

"Technical Foundations - General Ledger" - Brad Eldredge, AnswerThink

Consulting

Breakout Sessions

## Editor's Comments

You may notice a new look and feel for the newsletter this month. Special thanks to Miss Jyh Yi (GE) Wang of the BOSS Corporation marketing department for the new layout.



### Beyond Y2K

Are you just about sick of all the press on Y2K? Me to, but I want to share a tip that might be useful to you. First, here is a trivia question:

What is the largest date the Oracle Applications can handle? The answer is December 31, 4712.

You ask why a date more than 27 centuries in the future would be important to your Oracle Applications in late 1999? Well, I was tuning a client database a few weeks ago and actually ran into this date, and it was valid data!

Occasionally, Oracle Corporation will declare a date column to be NOT NULL in the database table definition. This forces the Applications to fill in the date with something, and if the real date is not known, a programmer may use 31-DEC-4712. This situation makes sense when you want the date to be part of the primary key (common in HR/PAY tables) or when you need an index on the date to improve performance (Receivables aging is a good example).

All of Oracle's indexes and SQL commands will understand that this is a valid date that is far into the future. But, SQL\*Plus still shows DD-MON-YY as its default format. This quirk in the display caused some confusion in our tuning work because when we "SELECTED date FROM table", SQL\*Plus reported 31-DEC-12. We were looking at a payroll table and immediately concluded the date was probably either 1912 or 2012. But, neither of those dates made any sense. We didn't understand what SQL was showing us until we forced the full YYYY display format of the date.

**Jim Crum**

Jim.Crum@bosscorporation.com



www.esoaug.org is the web site for the newly formed Eastern States regional O AUG and you can sign up for membership there.

## Financial Apps

### GL

**From: FieldenR**  
FieldenR@Rogerson.com

Here are some tips to increase the speed of Journal Import:

1. Call Oracle Support and verify you have the latest version of the Journal Import executable.

2. Use parallel processing for Journal Import. This requires loading the Group-ID field in the GL\_INTERFACE table. Instead of loading one year's data in a single journal import run; split the data-file into twelve files with one month's data each. Sequentially assign Group-IDs 1 to 12 to each month's data, and run three months of Journal Import in parallel. The total time required to run twelve such journal import runs, month by month, will be much less than the time required to run Journal Import for the whole year in one run.

3. Identify the concurrent managers you don't need. For example, if you aren't using Oracle Purchasing, the Receiving Transaction manager is not needed. Set the number of concurrent processes to zero for these concurrent managers. Then increase the number of concurrent processes for the standard concurrent manager. If the number of concurrent processes is four, then run four Journal Imports in parallel.

4. If possible, do not load descriptive flexfields in your Journal Import. If you must, validate the descriptive Flexfield data before the import (using a custom PL\*SQL script) and use the "Without Validation" option in the Journal Import screen.

5. Run as few batches as possible per import run. Fields in the GL\_INTERFACE table like set\_of\_books\_id, je\_source\_name, je\_batch\_name, and period\_name determine how the data are organized into batches. Import time decreases when the number of batches is reduced for one Journal Import run.

6. Close as many periods as possible before running Journal Import. This includes both Open and Future-Enterable periods in all sets of books (periods for which you are importing journal data must be open, of course). After the Journal Import, reopen the periods desired.

7. Run the optimizer before each Journal Import, with "Maintain Indexes = Yes."

8. Add a non-unique selective concatenated index on the active segments only. To

determine the order of the segments in the index, perform a count on the distinct segment values in the GL\_CODE\_COMBINATIONS table. Then order the segments in the index so the segment with highest count comes first. If you're creating code combinations through dynamic insertion, drop and recreate this index after three or four Journal Import runs.

9. Keep cross validation rules disabled, if possible, during Journal Import. A custom PL\*SQL script can validate the code combinations in the Journal Import data for rule violations and correct them before the Journal Import run.

10. Keep dynamic insertion disabled, if possible. Create a file containing one journal entry with all unique code combinations with amounts of zero. Load the GL\_INTERFACE and run Journal Import with dynamic insertion enabled. Delete the unposted batch, then run the actual Journal Import file with dynamic insertion disabled.

11. Increase "number of flexfields in memory" and "number of journal entry lines to process" in the concurrent program controls. The value depends on your system configuration and available memory. Use "trace" to optimize by trial and error.

12. Keep the number of journal entry lines manageable in one Journal Import run. In one case, when I ran one Journal Import to load a year's data (about one million journal entry lines), the process took more than twenty-four hours. For the next year's data, I followed the procedure in step two. This took only forty-five minutes for each Journal Import.



**Q.** We have a 6-segment accounting Flexfield structure of which only 5 segments are in use. The sixth segment was created with size 4 but was never used (future use only). We would like to use a size 6 segment instead of size 4. Is there any problem in activating the sixth segment, by increasing its size from 4 to 6?

**From: Walter Svirsky**  
wsvirsky@shl.com

**A.** You would be better off to disable the current future segment and initiate a new segment to add on to the existing Flexfield. There are no significant barriers to this and it is fully supported by Oracle.



**Q.** Is there a way to generate a standard report or something to look at all your valid/invalid code combinations in GL?

**From: Joe Maliszewski**  
jmaliszewski@csi.com

There is a report in 11 maybe 10.7 that can provide invalid Code Combinations (at least ones that break your rules). The report can also disable the Code Combinations if so desired.



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

You can't setup GL Import in a request set. The troublesome aspect of GL Import is the need for a control record in GL\_INTERFACE\_CONTROL.

You could write a PL/SQL program to scan the GL\_INTERFACE table with a cursor, create a control record for each group\_id and source, and then launch the GL Import using the fnd\_request.submit\_request procedure. This custom process could then be run from a report set.

For examples, search the archives for GL\_INTERFACE\_CONTROL. There have been example SQL scripts posted. "<http://www.cpa.qc.ca/Lists/OraApps-L/Search>"

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### AP

**From: Mohan Iyer**  
iyer\_m@pacbell.net

I had the problem where the cash management purge did not do anything. Did a little bit of research and found out that the \_ARCH\_ tables have to be "empty" when you run this report.

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### AR

**From: Susan Sandler**

You cannot run the AutoInvoice program without least setting up the Line Transaction Flexfield. You need also to set up the Invoice Transaction Flexfield to contain only the header level segments you define for your line transaction Flexfield. If you have Oracle's sample database up and running look at how the Flexfields are set up in there. The on-line documentation and the AR user's guide have whole chapters on setting up for AutoInvoice.

The FF's are populated automatically by the AutoInvoice process. If you try to set up the transaction descriptive flexfields in AR you will notice that you have a limited list of values to

Choose from as the source of each segment. These values are fields from the AR\_INTERFACE\_LINES table which is the table populated by AutoInvoice. Choose from INTERFACE\_LINE\_ATTRIBUTE1-15.

AutoInvoice only currently populates the first 7 segments that contain the following data: [R10.7 – Ed.]

- INTERFACE\_LINE\_ATTRIBUTE1 = Order Number
- INTERFACE\_LINE\_ATTRIBUTE2 = Order Type
- INTERFACE\_LINE\_ATTRIBUTE3 = Pick Slip
- INTERFACE\_LINE\_ATTRIBUTE4 = Waybill
- INTERFACE\_LINE\_ATTRIBUTE5 = Count
- INTERFACE\_LINE\_ATTRIBUTE6 = Line ID
- INTERFACE\_LINE\_ATTRIBUTE7 = Picking Line ID

So those are your choices for your segments in you Line Transaction Flexfield.



**From: Tayi Sanjit**  
sandytayi@hotmail.com

The Daily Sales Outstanding is a part of the Collections Effectiveness Indicator Report which tells you what amount of your receivables are outstanding as a percentage of total sales for DSO days i.e. if you select DSO DAYS as 30.

The formula for DSO is:

Total outstanding receivables / Total sales for DSO days X DSO Days

The Report will tell you how much of your Sales for the last 30 days are outstanding.



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

If you need to customize the invoice format, Oracle has developed a set of views to make this task easy. The complexity of the invoice is hidden behind the views and more data columns are available than on the standard Oracle Invoice. These views are designed to be version independent and were in development when R11 was released. Although they will be documented in the R11.i release, they have been backported to R11.03 and you could probably get them to work with earlier versions. Search MetaLink for the keywords "flexible print views" if you need documentation or these modules right away.

## GEMMS/OPM

**From: Jeff McDuffie**  
Tensor Corp

We were having many problems with credit checking in GEMMS. Nearly all of our sales orders were going on hold even though we had set the customer limits and order limits and the orders were beneath those limits. After contacting some other Users, we discovered that GEMMS does not differentiate between currencies in credit checking. GEMMS will only recognize the first currency alphabetically.

We have Canadian and US currencies set up and there are credit limits set for each currency. Most customers are USD only and I had ignored the CDN limits for many of those customers. Because the CDN limits precede the USD limits alphabetically, GEMMS was ignoring our US limits and putting all those orders on hold.

**From: Doug Souza**  
Oracle VP Process Mfg. Development

**A.** Credit checking in multiple currencies is not supported.

Suppose you choose to define credit limits in FRF and DEM currencies for MYCO customers PARIS site. OPM GEMMS Since there is no way of knowing which credit limit should be picked up, credit checking routine will pick the first one it finds and it can be anything. So at any level credit limit should be defined in only one currency.

You can define two different sites for the customer and then define their site level credit limits in different currencies.

## System Administration

**Q.** We are live with 10.7 NCA. We are only now starting to look at the administrative jobs associated with running Financials. We know that we need to purge old data from the concurrent manager tables and also from the fnd\_logins table. Are there any other tables that contain information of this type that needs to be cleaned up on a regular basis?

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

**R.** There are standard (free) Oracle Alert jobs that will purge from the concurrent manager tables. There is a program FNDSCPRG to purge signon audit data (i.e. FND\_Logins) FNDSCETS also forces the end\_time for logins that crashed out.

One good little one is Program - Delete Ad Hoc Requests under Application Report Generator that gets rid of old ad hoc FSG requests.

It is well worth a little look around \$AD\_TOP/sql and \$FND\_TOP/sql, just to get some ideas.



**Q.** How do I copy a production database to make a test or training instance?

**From: John Bagley**  
johnb@iris.nyit.edu

1. Shutdown original database.
2. Copy all database and log files ONLY, not the control file.
3. (Optional) Copy applications directory tree (\$APPL\_TOP) and edit APPLSYS.env file
4. Copy init<ORIGDB>.ora to init<NEWDB>.ora (and config.ora if present)
5. Edit new init.ora file:
  - change db\_name
  - change to have only 1 control file for 'create control file' script
  - change control file location.
  - change file locations (log\_archive\_dest, user, background and core\_dump\_dest, etc).
 Also create these directories if necessary
- comment out 'remote\_login\_passwordfile=exclusive' if it exists
6. Start original database.
7. Create trace file from original database using 'alter database backup control file to trace'. Then rename the trace file to controlfile<NEWDB>.sql.

8. Edit trace file:
  - take out startup mount (or you can add pfile statement).
  - take out the recover database and alter database open.
  - take out REUSE and changed to 'set database <NEWNAME>'.
  - change NORESETLOGS to RESETLOGS
  - change location of all the datafiles and logfiles.
9. Change ORACLE\_SID to the new sid.
10. Run svrmgrl and connect internal.
11. Startup nomount w/pfile init<NEWDB>.ora
12. Execute control file<NEWDB>.sql file from step 6
13. Issue 'recover database using backup control file until cancel;'
14. Entered 'cancel'
15. Issue 'alter database open resetlogs;'
16. (Optional) Shutdown new database and copy control file to other file systems
17. (Optional) Edit init<NEWDB>.ora to include new control files

## Support

MetaLink 2.0 should be widely available about now. Many registered users of MetaLink 1.7 received email invitations to register early. This upgrade will add major capabilities to MetaLink and you may want to stop by the site 2 or 3 times per week if you are heavily involved with the Oracle Applications. The site is at <http://metalink.oracle.com>.

This web access to support includes the following:

- A personalized home page to receive headlines and notices on topics of interest to you.
- Access to TARs. You can query on TARs and the system provides almost all the same search capability as the analyst. Returned items are graded and ranked by how many key words are matched.
- You may initiate TARs via the web. You get to avoid all of the questions necessary to orient the analyst in a voice-TAR, and you can control the content of the text that is entered in the body of the TAR.
- You may run TAR reports for your site. You may view these reports on line or save them as a file on your local machine.
- You may establish and maintain a user profile with contact information.

## Consulting

Oracle estimates about 20% of all permanent positions in Information Technology are not filled.

## 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 e-mail to [Jim.Crum@bosscorporation.com](mailto:Jim.Crum@bosscorporation.com) or FAX to **BOSS Corporation** at 770-622-5400. Thanks!

## Minutes of Last Meeting

Date: Friday, June 18, 1999

Hosted by AnswerThink Consulting

## We set a new record with 86 Attendees!

### I. Presentation

The Member Spotlight was: The Southern Company by Eric Stouffer - Manager of Oracle Financial Solutions and Dan Stephens - Business Analyst / Project Director-Oracle Financial Solutions

### II. Presentation

"SQL for the Non-Technician" by Jeff Walsh, AnswerThink Consulting

See both presentations at <http://www.atloaug.org/presentations/index.html#jun99>

### III. Breakout Sessions

The breakout sessions are a huge success. Breakout sessions will be offered at future meetings with a variety of rotating topics.

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

The following sessions were held on June 18:

- R11 Financials Jim Crum, BOSS Corp
- Multi-Org Steve Bradley, Oasis Consulting
- Technical-DBA/Developers Erik Shin, Sage Group
- CRM (Customer Relationship Mgt)

Mark Kilburn, Deloitte-Touche Consulting

- Basic SQL Jeff Walsch, AnswerThink Consulting

The attendees at the technical breakout session organized and plan to meet at all Atl-OAUG meetings. They have selected topics for the remainder of the year. The topic for the August meeting will be "Performance Tuning".

## Administration

You are welcome to correspond by email

Coordinator:

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Audiovisual Equipment:

Toni Cobb, Caribiner International

Liaison Member:

Volunteer needed from each company to spread meeting info

Host Companies/Speakers:

Volunteers (How about You?)