

tips and techniques

May 2000

All Apps

Source: **Special Edition: Using Oracle Applications – BOSS Corporation**

Many of the enhancements developed for new releases are made available to users of earlier releases. These are called backports and are made available to licensed users by the application of patches. Check Oracle's MetaLink web site.

Financials

GL

From: **Satyakanth Abbaraju** <Satyakanth@bosscorporation.com>

In FSG reports, you can designate a different Set of Books to different rows. However, these different Sets of Books must share the same chart of accounts and calendar periods (currency may differ). If no Set of Books is designated, the row set can be used by any Set of Books.

#

In FSG reports, row numbers and column numbers (sequence) can be used in calculations. You can also name the rows and columns, then use the names in calculation formulas.

#

The amounts displayed in the column default to the functional currency from Set of Books. To display the entered currency in foreign currency transactions, enter column a control value. Then, you can override the currency when defining or requesting the report.

AP

From: **Chuck Steedley** <Cstedley@worldnett.att.net>

You cannot adjust the payment amount or the discount amount on invoices that include withholding tax.

#

If you want to use a payment batch as a template for future payment batches, check Template. For example, if you regularly create payment batches with the same criteria, you can save the payment batch as a template then later copy it, change the batch name and use it with minor changes, such as a new Payment Date and Pay Through Date.

#

If you are importing invoices from an external system, note that beginning with Payables Release 12 you will be able to import external invoices only through the Payables Open Interface Import process. In Release 11 you should plan to move existing processes from the Payables Invoice Import Interface Tables to the Payables Open Interface Tables. If you are implementing any new Payables Invoice Import processes, we recommend that that you use only the Open Interface Import process.

Editor's Comments

From: **Jim Crum**

<Jim.Crum@bosscorporation.com>

The national OAUG conference in Philadelphia has come and gone. The attendance figure that I heard at the conference was about 7300 and that surprises me on the low side. Since Oracle sales volumes are still good and a lot of companies won't go to the next conference in Hawaii, I was expecting more users to attend the Philadelphia conference (although the ratio of real users to vendors seemed to be higher at this conference).

The conference format was great (as usual). The food was not great, but we didn't go there to eat did we? The vendor hall was very busy with about 280 vendors.

The conference was filled with a lot of excitement about the new release of software that will soon become available and some users are almost in a frenzy trying to get their hands on the next release. By the next conference, we should start seeing papers on R11i. This new stuff looks like a major change for Oracle and my experience tells me to test, test again, and then test some more. Enjoy the technology, but stay in control of your businesses.

#

Oracle has done a very good thing with the R11i documentation. A three-disk set is available from the Oracle store web site for under \$50, and the third disk in this set has almost all of the documentation manuals available in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format. User guides, reference manuals, architecture manuals, and even the technical reference manuals are on this disk. Also, included are new topics such as OPM, CRM, Supply Chain, Flow Manufacturing, Order Management and so forth.

The URL for Oracle store is <http://oraclestore.oracle.com>. Search for part number A84104. It is the deal of the year! Tell your boss to take the money saved on TRM's and use it to send you to the next OAUG conference.

#

I apologize to the all of our subscribers that I was unable to produce a March newsletter for the Atlanta OAUG. We were involved with final editing of our book on Oracle Applications and preparation of a paper for the Philadelphia OAUG conference. This edition is volume 4.3 (fourth year and third newsletter). Please don't look for volume 4.2 dated March 2000. You won't find it.

Also, Atlanta will be the host city for the OAUG conference in the Spring 2001.

Next Meeting Friday, May 19th at 9 AM

@

Mind Share Systems, Inc.
Georgian Terrace (across from the Fox Theater)
659 Peachtree St, Atlanta, GA

Agenda

Member Spotlight – Char-Broil, Jim Poole
Customer Support Utilizing Oracle's e-business Suite, Bruce Acheson, Oracle Corporation
Breakout Sessions

RSVP to Sue Kenney, sue.kenney@mindsharesystems.com, 770-993-4430

Continue from Financials...

PO

From: Jimmy Bunn
<Jimmy.Bunn@bosscorporation.com>

Job / Position Hierarchy:

- In order to use Position Hierarchies, the Use Approval Hierarchies Profile Option should be set to Yes.
- You can not change the organization or job once you have saved the definition.
- You can set up several positions that have the same job in the same organization.
- Each position name must be unique.
- The definition of jobs must be coordinated with Human Resources.
- Proceed carefully while defining the Job Flexfield or Position Flexfield, and coordinate with Human Resources if Human Resources is to be installed.

#

Locations and Associations: Define your Ship-to locations before defining other locations. Define your vendors before doing any location associations.

AR

From: Jim Crum
<Jim.Crum@bosscorporation.com>

The revenue account distribution is determined by the AutoAccounting function in AR. However, when OE interfaces shipped transactions to INV, the account generator (or Flexbuilder in Release 10) determines the cost of goods sold account distribution. You will want to insure distributions for revenues and costs of goods sold are matched.

#

Defining a suspense account is sufficient to enable Cross Currency Receipts. You do not have to enable suspense accounting in GL. The entries to the suspense clearing account will always net to zero when translated to the functional currency of the set of books.

#

If your sales history reporting needs are significant, consider reviewing the separate Sales Analyzer application. This application is like a data warehouse product and runs in a separate database from the AR application.

#

AR is a collection system and any invoice not yet due must be shown in the current column so the collector and dunning system will not erroneously ask the customer for payment.

#

If you are setting up Release 10.x of AR and must use Flexbuilder, copy the example in the Oracle Flexfields Manual.

#

You can copy the default AR workflow process to a different name and then make modifications to the copy. If you develop an alternate process, make sure to test it in a development database by running the GL Interface Program.

Manufacturing

INV

From: Bob McLean <Rmclean03@sprynet.com>

Item catalog information is created and maintained at the master level and not at the organization level. This is to prevent conflicting values from one organization with another.

#

It is recommended that you pick a value for the default category of a category set that allows you to determine that an item has not had a category assigned to it. For example if you chose a default value of Unassigned or Unknown and the user forgets to override the default category with a valid item category, it is very easy to identify those items that have not had a valid category assigned to them.

#

There are advantages and disadvantages in using locators in Oracle Inventory. Some of the positive advantages are:

- You can restrict an item to a specific locator if required
- You can locate items by locator within a subinventory, which should make it easier to locate the item in a large subinventory.

The disadvantages are:

- Every transaction into a locator controlled subinventory requires not only the keying of the subinventory but also the keying of the locator as well
- If an item is restricted to a prespecified list of locators, this requires setup and maintenance of the list of locators for each item and the item can't be stored anywhere in the system until this maintenance has been performed. In addition, if you want to store this item in another locator, you must add the locator to the prespecified list before you can store it there.

#

The accounts for Material cost, Outside processing cost, Material overhead, Overhead, Resource, Expense and Encumbrance for each of the Subinventories will default from the organization definition and only need to be overridden if they are different from the organization accounts.

#

After the subinventory has been defined, you can specify the stock locators for this subinventory (choose the Locators button). You can also assign items to this subinventory (choose the Item/Subinventory button).

#

Units of Measure in Oracle are global, which means they are used by all organizations and they only need to be defined once. There are no seeded values supplied by Oracle for units of measure. This means that you have to define at least one unit of measure class and it's base unit of measure. This also means that you will need to define all the rest of the unit of measure classes and units of measure that you think that you will require.

OE

From: Jimmy Bunn <Jimmy.Bunn@bosscorporation.com>

You are required to enter a salesperson for each order and return. Order Entry/Shipping provides a predefined value of No Sales Credit for orders and returns for which there is no salesperson.

#

To determine whether customer relationships are honored, you must set the pricing profile option, OE: Customer Relationships.

#

Standard value rule sets are used to improve efficiency and accuracy when entering orders. A standard value rule set must be entered for order types that you assign to regular orders. The standard value rule set is the only way that an accounting rule can be designated for an order. Returns do not use standard value rules sets; instead they use the RMA Default Sources.

#

To indicate whether users are allowed to manually enter prices on orders the OE: Discounting Privilege must be set. If you allow manually entered prices then you must also be able to override discounts and they must be appropriate for the order and order line. To determine how GSA discounts should be handled the OE: GSA Discount Violation Action and OE: Verify GSA Violations profile options should be set.

Manufacturing

INV

From: Bob McLean <Rmclean03@aol.com>

It is highly recommended that you use either the predefined templates supplied by Oracle and/or those that you define yourself to assist in the process of item creation. When creating items, the use of templates can reduce keystroke entries as well as reduce the chance of entering incorrect data.

#

The item type field is not used by the Oracle applications to group items for reports. The item category field is used for this purpose. If you require reports grouped by Item Type, you will need to create your own custom reports in addition to those already provided by Oracle.

#

You can specify the item type with an item template. A number of customers use the item type to indicate which template has been used to define an item. This is the convention that Oracle also uses in the creation of its sample items.

OE

From: Jimmy Bunn <Jimmy.Bunn@bosscorporation.com>

You can determine when changes to cycle actions in an order cycle take effect through the setting of the profile option – OE: Cycle Action Changes Affect Existing Orders

#

To control the date and time Order Entry/Shipping uses to determine the included items for a configuration's Bill of Material the profile option OE: Included Item Freeze Method should be defined.

Financials

GL

From: Satyakanth Abbaraju
<Satyakanth@bosscorporation.com>

It may be sufficient to use pre-defined categories for most purposes and avoid managing a mass of categories. But, if your specific purpose requires a new name for better categorization, don't hesitate to define a new category, just keep the list easy to handle.

#

For strict budgetary control, always first include a general combination of "Other" JE sources and "Other" JE category to be absolute with no tolerance. This implies that for all the JE source / category combinations which are not specifically allowed, transactions will not pass if they exceed the budget, with 0% tolerance.

#

When working with encumbrance balances, always use full balance since GL always keeps track of budgeting in functional currency and all encumbrance entries should be in functional currency.

#

Consolidation may be used to consolidate Sets of Books with different charts of accounts, currencies, and calendars. When consolidating from subsidiary sets of books with a currency different from parent set of books, simply revalue and translate balances as needed before transferring the consolidation data.

AP

From: Chuck Steedley
<Cstedley@worldnet.att.net>

The following restrictions apply to Stop Payments:

- You cannot initiate a stop 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 stop payment.
- You cannot initiate a stop payment on a Quick Payment that has been formatted.

#

The following restrictions apply to Quick Payments:

- You can only pay as many invoices as you defined for the remittance advice of the payment document.
- You can only select invoices that have the same supplier site as the payment supplier site you enter. You can, however, change the payment mailing address if the Allow Payment Address Change Payables option is enabled.
- If you want to pay multiple invoices, none can be a "Pay Alone" invoice.
- You must pay in the same currency as the invoice. You can enter and pay a foreign currency invoice only if your Allow Multiple Currencies Payables option is enabled, and you have defined multi-currency or foreign currency denominated bank account.
- You cannot stop a Quick Payment after it has been formatted.

PO

From: Jimmy Bunn
<Jimmy.Bunn@bosscorporation.com>

When the outside processing line type is selected on a document line, you can only enter outside processing items and the destination type can only be the Shop Floor.

#

You can assign a hazard class to multiple UN numbers to identify hazardous items. You can also assign an identification number and a hazard class to each item you define.

#

QuickCodes: You cannot change or delete codes once you have added and saved them, but you can change the code descriptions.

AR

From: Jim Crum
<Jim.Crum@bosscorporation.com>

If you use Oracle Order Entry and AutoAccounting uses salesreps, note there are two levels of salesrep credit on the sales order. The order header salesrep is used to determine the receivables account distribution. The order line sales credits distribution is used to determine revenue account distribution.

#

If you are using rules and importing transactions from OE and you use a different accounting period type than Month, update the period field for the IMMEDIATE accounting rule to match your accounting period type.

#

There is a new profile option in Release 11 called Account Generator: Purge Runtime Data. It should be set to YES unless you are debugging an Account Process.

#

The Workflow Account Generator Generator in Release 11 replaces Flexbuilder. Determining the balancing segment in finance charge and currency gain / loss transactions is the only place in AR where the Account Generator or Flexbuilder is used. All other account distributions use the AutoAccounting set up.

#

SETUP TASKS: Some tasks are not required for proper system operation in manual mode. However, if you want to use some of the automated functions, such as AutoLockbox, you may be required to perform additional set up tasks. Also, if you are implementing many applications, some tasks are best set up in other applications. For example, defining the sets of books is commonly the responsibility of the GL implementation team.

All Apps

Source: Special Edition: Using Oracle Applications – BOSS Corporation

Do not skip a profile option simply because it is optional. Some of the profile options can improve your corporate controls and enhance user productivity.

Administration

From Steve Harper
Steve.Harper@pragmatek.com

In our experience, poor performance [for R11.03] 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 always potential sources of such problems.

#

From Jim Crum

Do you ever wonder what your database administrator does? We have a client with all financial, distribution, manufacturing and HRMS applications. We ran a query on one of their instances to count the objects in the database (R10.7SC). This is what the data dictionary indicated.

COUNT	OBJECT_TYPE
8	CLUSTER
2	DATABASE LINK
6	FUNCTION
5234	INDEX
2641	PACKAGE
2619	PACKAGE BODY
61	PROCEDURE
1141	SEQUENCE
20240	SYNONYM
2657	TABLE
456	TRIGGER
4886	VIEW
39951	TOTAL

That's a lot to administrate!

From Deb Burgess < dburgess@burcon-group.com>

If you want to restrict access to certain reports, you should create a custom request group and specify it on the Responsibility form. If you want to allow access to all reports normally available, copy the request group name from a seeded responsibility to your custom responsibility. Then you should have access to reports in the drop down list.

#

Q. We are looking for ideas on how to resize a production instance so that it will fit into a smaller development instance.

From Kevin Gillins kgillins@yahoo.com Disk is much cheaper than the labor you will put into the effort of resizing the system. There is just no easy way to do it, especially to preserve integrity. You would be money ahead to buy more disks or even a new server compared to the cost of development and administration of this activity.

Meeting Minutes

The last meeting was on February 18 and was hosted by Noblestar Consulting. The March and April meetings were replaced by the SEOUC conference in Atlanta and the OAUG conference in Philadelphia.

Presentation

- I. Presentation – Member Spotlight – Chick-fil-A by Dan Strain and Scott Wilke
- II. Presentation – I-Procurement by Chris Thornhill of Oracle Corporation

Breakout Sessions

- III. Breakout sessions discussed I-procurement with Chris Thornhill of Oracle, Global Oracle Reports Access Distribution and Management with Ron Koster of Quest Software, and Enabling Change with Helene Abrams of Crystallize, Inc

You can access presentation notes at

www.atloaug.org/presentations/2000index.html

Attendees at the last meeting represented the following Companies...

Lithonia Lighting, NCR, Chick-fil-A, Equifax, Greenway Medical Technologies, Indus International, NDC Health Information, Tensar Corporation, National Data Corp, AnswerThink, Oasis, BOSS Corporation, Noblestar, AT&S, Ordusion Technologies, The DBA Group, Future Next, Peachcrest Graphic Design Group, DecisionPoint Applications, Mindshare Systems, Cumberland Tech, Sage Group, OptioSoftware, Crystallize, Precise Software, Bottom Line Technologies, Quest, and Oracle Corporation.

OAUG List Server

The national OAUG announces a new Oracle Applications list server, OAUGnet. OAUGnet offers you a list server with constant monitoring, prompt communication of list server problems, an easy to use web interface, and an archive with daily updates. To subscribe, send a blank email to subscribe-oaugnet@lists.ksinet.com. You will receive more than 100 email messages per day about Oracle Applications.

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 Noblestar Consulting for providing us with the conference space, refreshments, audiovisual equipment and door prizes. Thanks also go to Chick-fil-A, Precise, KPMG and SEOUC for providing door prizes.

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Volunteer needed from each company to spread meeting info

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