

tips and techniques

November 1999

Upgrades

Ron Wohl of Oracle announced at the OAUG conference that you may upgrade to R11.i from either R11 or R10.7. Oracle is promising R11.i to ship in Q1 (probably late February 2000) for FIN, PA, HR, and supply chain applications. Order management applications are scheduled to be released two months later in Q2 of 2000. Four rounds of beta testing were completed by the OAUG conference and two more rounds are scheduled before the release of the new software.

HR/PAY

Q. On our paychecks, some of our earnings and deductions are being reported listed in an "other" category. Why is this?

From: Ken Conway
Ken.Conway@bosscorporation.com

This is an Oracle Payroll "feature". Only 8 earnings and 15 deductions throughout the entire year can be displayed on a paycheck. If an earning is used once, such as vacation pay, then the earning will take up one of the 8 spots in order to display YTD information for the rest of the calendar year. Thus, later in the year, various earnings will be thrown into "Other Earnings". There is no way around this except to consult with the client about a different set up strategy for earnings or deductions. This strategy change should be made at the beginning of the year.

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From: Richard Collar
rcollar@turbineengine.textron.com

The secured user for payroll problem has been fixed. It seems when new patches are applied and a new data base object is loaded, all secured users must have execute grants to that object else error messages occur. In the future, any error messages that occur when going in to your payroll responsibility that says "NEW-FORM-INSTANCE", it's probably the same situation. Let me know and we'll get it fixed real fast now that we know how. (Richard Collar, Division MIS: 912-228-8928)

Next Meeting Friday, November 19 at 9 AM

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JW Marriott at Lenox
3300 Lenox Road, Buckhead
Hosted by: Optio Software
Reservations: Jennifer Stutler, 770-283-8571, jens@optiosoftware.com

Agenda

"Success and Lessons Learned Implementing Oracle Applications" Member
Spotlight Company, Flexible Products
"Release 11i" Chris Thornhill, Oracle Corporation
Breakout Sessions

Editor's Comments

From: Jim Crum
Jim.Crum@bosscorporation.com

The www.OAUG.org web site had one million hits in August 1999. It's because they have great content. If you are not using it, you should investigate. Much of the really good stuff is behind the members' only button.

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In the keynote speech at the Orlando OAUG conference, Ray Lane of Oracle presented his 5 rules of business in this Internet era:

1. The Internet brings order of magnitude economies of scale.
2. The customer is KING.
3. When something is bought on the Internet, the transaction is pull rather than push.
4. Knowledge is the most important thing (especially knowing about your customer).
5. IT should have a zero based budget mentality

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In this space in our last newsletter, we told how the folks that administer the Oracle Certified Professional program awarded the OCP credential to a BOSS Corporation Oracle Master without testing. We speculated that Oracle believes a "Master" is a superior credential (and they confirmed this because a Master is supposed to represent additional education beyond the OCP). But, it appears that we were reporting a mistake in the shipping department that fulfills orders. It turns out the same people at Oracle administer both programs and their third party fulfillment house sent the Oracle Master at BOSS Corporation the wrong credential. Oracle regrets any confusion this error may have caused.

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This is the final edition of the newsletter for 1999. Please excuse the short 3-page length of this edition, but we have been extremely busy at BOSS Corporation. Have a great holiday season.

Financial Apps

GL

Q. Can someone please tell me the advantages or disadvantages of running "Maintain Budget Organization" Programs, basically I would like to know if this program is to be run before the generation and posting of Mass Budgets or after that.

From: Joe Maliszewski
jmaliszewski@csi.com

A. This program is to be used after you have added Code Combinations in GL (or for that matter any other module that would create a Code Combination). When you create a Budget Org you usually put in ranges. So the program checks to see if there are any new Code Combos that should be added to the Budget Org based on the ranges previously established. So if you want to Budget to new Code Combo you need to have it in the Budget Org first. That is the purpose of the program...to add new Code Combos to a Budget Org.

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From: Steve Bradley
sbradley@sprynet.com

If you disable a segment value you cannot use it in normal AFF data entry windows. Oracle Apps will not let you exit an AFF segment field with a disabled segment value. Because of this you never get a chance to test that the combination is not disabled.

If you disable a segment value you can still post a transaction to any existing combination using that segment value. This is very important when you consider batch operations such as imports - Journal, Invoice, AP/PO Matching, etc. where you do not get trapped by the disabled segment value. For efficiency, Oracle looks to see if the combination has been used before instead of looking at each segment value and then the combination. Oracle totally ignores the fact that segment values may be disabled in these operations.

Now the tricky part. Notice in the above statement I said batch operations look to see if the combination "has been used before". I did not say looks to see if the combination also "is enabled". In my testing of earlier versions I have found the interfaces for AP do not test to see if the combination is enabled. This can cause problems when a disabled combination flows freely from PO to AP in a match, into

AP through Invoice Import and from AP to GL in an interface. Oracle Post was the only process looking for disabled combinations.

Does disabling a segment value disable the combinations that use it? The answer is no. The next question not asked is "Do you really want to disable it?" Based upon the above scenario, what do you do with the PO combination that was created a year ago and is now flowing through AP and then into the GL? Do you want it to be rejected in GL? You can't go back to AP and correct it and then re-execute the AP to GL interface.

If the answer is you do want to disable the combination, there is an easy way to disable all the combinations including a disabled segment value - even if there are thousands of them. It is a simple report in System Administration call Cross Validation Rules Violations which has an option to disable all combinations in violation of a CVR. All you have to do is write a CVR that does not let your disabled segment value be used with any other segment and run the report with the disable option.

Caution: this will disable all combinations violating all rules!!!! You may want to run the report with disable off and see what you get. Or, you may want to disable all of your other CVR's when you run this report with the disable option on. If you start disabling other combinations the problems I mentioned above may come to haunt you later.

AP

From: Karen Jenkins
kjenkins@familydollar.com

Invoices processed before a vendor is set up as a 1099 vendor will not show as 1099 invoices unless you run the Update Tax Details Utility. You can initially run this as Report only. Verify it will update the invoices you need to change. Then run as Update.

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Q. We are having a problem with 1099 reporting. We have performed the following setup steps: In System Options, we have set up Combined Filing Program = 'Yes', Use Vendor Site's Tax Region as Default Invoice Tax Region = 'Yes'. We are using the same tax regions as defined by Oracle Applications in Define Income Tax Region. For the 1099 Vendors we have the following setup in the Tax zone at the

Header level: Federal Reportable = 'Yes' Income Tax Type = 'MISC1' or 'MISC2' or 'MISC3' or 'MISC7' State Reportable = 'Yes' and in the Tax zone for at least one of the Vendor Site we have set Income Tax Reporting Site = 'Yes'.

Problem 1: When we run the 1099 Vendor Exceptions Report we get the following exceptions for all 1099 reportable vendors: 'No Tax Reporting Site'

Problem 2: We now enter the invoice along with the invoice distributions. We pay the invoice and transfer both the invoice and payment to GL. then run the Invoice Exception Report, which shows us NO EXCEPTIONS. Now when we run any of the 1099 reports (1099 Forms, 1099 Payments Report or 1099 Tape) we get the following message: No data exists for this report.

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From: Karen Jenkins
kjenkins@familydollar.com

- 1) When setting up 1099 vendors, you also go into the Sites alternate region, open the 1099 reporting site, select the Tax Reporting alternate region and check the Income Tax Reporting Site box.
- 2) Do you have a tax reporting entity defined to begin with? If not, no data will appear.
- 3) The invoice exception report only shows invoices flagged differently than the vendor. So, it would show a 1099 flagged invoice for a non-1099 vendor OR a non-1099 flagged invoice for a 1099 vendor
- 4) The hidden parameter on the 1099 payments report doesn't match. Look at the request log to see what the last parameter is passing (I think the log says P_QUERY_DRIVER.) It will say either PAY or INV. This is what was set as the driver for the 1099 payments. Installation of related 1099 patches needed to follow how your driver is set up. It will pull off of either the bank payment account (PAY) or the invoice distributions account (INV). If patches were applied one way but your driver is another, you won't get any data.

System Administration

Q. Is it possible to determine the average record length of all records in a given table?

From: Margaret Murray
mmurray@delorme.com

A. The simplest solution to your question is to analyze the table in question: most thorough analysis: ANALYZE TABLE FA_MASS_ADDITIONS COMPUTE STATISTICS FOR TABLE FOR ALL INDEXED COLUMNS FOR ALL INDEXES; with estimate only: ANALYZE TABLE FA_MASS_ADDITIONS ESTIMATE STATISTICS SAMPLE 50000 ROWS; or ANALYZE TABLE FA_MASS_ADDITIONS ESTIMATE STATISTICS SAMPLE 20 PERCENT

This will create statistics in the dba_tables table. The column you're interested in is AVG_ROW_LEN. If you don't regularly analyze ALL the tables in your instance, you should delete the statistics from this one table after your analysis. ANALYZE TABLE FA_MASS_ADDITIONS DELETE STATISTICS; (analyze should be done on all tables or on none; the optimizer will have problems choosing the best plan if it doesn't have complete information).

MFG

Source: Special Edition Using Oracle Applications* - BOSS Corporation

Planning

When you define planning parameters, you can specify whether the planning process considers all planned items, demand schedule items or Supply schedule items. Although Oracle Master Scheduling/MRP provides these options, you will probably want to select "all planned items" for this parameter. This way you include all possible sources of demand in your plan. If you wish to exclude certain items from the planning process on an individual basis, you can set the "MRP Planning Method: attribute for these items to "Not Planned".

WIP

The choice of setting the supply type at the item or bill of material level depends on how you wish to manage the material flow through production. If it is likely that an item will have one supply type regardless of the assembly it uses, then setting this at the item level is adequate. However, if the supply of material changes depends on the assembly an item uses, then you must set the supply type on the BOM.

INV

There is a profile option called "INV:Updatable Item Name". This option defaults to a value of *No* and generally should be left with this value. However, it is possible that you may have created an item record that has bad data in it and that information can't be corrected, E.g. unit of measure on an item can not be modified once entered for an item. You would like to be able to reuse this item number and re-key in the correct data. You can update this profile option to *Yes*, change the bad part's item number to some obsolete number, and then recreate the item with correct data. Remember to change this profile option back to *No* so that you don't inadvertently update an item number key by mistake.

* To be published in Q1 2000 by Macmillan

Meeting Minutes

Friday, October 15, 1999

Presentations

www.atloaug.org/presentations/index.html#oct99

"E Commerce Implementation Process"
Chiranjib Chatterje, KPMG Consulting

"Technical Foundation - Accounts Payable"
Steve Bradley, Oasis Consulting

Breakout Sessions

Volunteers are needed to facilitate the breakout sessions. Please send an email to bcarlton@kpmg.com and volunteer in your area of expertise. The following sessions were held on October 15.

iStore
Chatterje

Chiranjib

AP Tables

KPMG
Steve Bradley
Oasis Consulting

Preserving Customizations Thru Upgrades
Eric Shin

Sage Group

Data Warehousing

Mary Ledbetter
Decision Point

Use Taxes

Michael Levine
Oracle

ECO/SEOUC Conference

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. Ten tracks per day, 100 sessions (35+ for apps) are scheduled. Attendance is expected to be ~800. Visit these www.seouc.org and www.oracleusers.com.

Golf Outing

Eric Shin has volunteered to organize a golf outing after November's meeting. Stay tuned to Atl-Apps-L@atloaug.org for more details.

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 Contact

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 BellSouth for providing us with the conference space, refreshments, audiovisual equipment and door prizes. 54 attendees were present.

Administration

You are welcome to correspond by email

Coordinator:
Brenda Carlton, KPMG Consulting
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Jim Crum, BOSS Corp
Jim.Crum@bosscorporation.com

Audiovisual Equipment:
Toni Cobb, Caribiner International

Liaison Member:
Volunteer needed from each company to spread meeting info

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