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11.5.X to R12 Functional and Architectural Differences

A Technical Summary and Analysis

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INTRODUCTION:

This document has been essentially written by Oracle Consultants familiar with both the 11.5.X and R12 architectural and functional differences. This document is intended for IT application teams within end user accounts who might be considering and who might be participating in an upgrade from 11.5.X to R12. It provides some insight into the architecture and the functional differences that need to be considered when planning and scoping and staffing such an effort. And so in that regard, this more of a technical document – See bulleted outline - and is clearly not intended as a selling document.

This document has two component sections: New Functionality and New Architecture.

ORACLE APPLICATION R12 FUNCTIONALITY

MULTI-ORG ACCESS CONTROL (MOAC)

MOAC provides role based access to Operating Units, and allows client to perform multiple tasks across operating units without changing responsibilities.

- In 11i, when users had to enter or process data for multiple operating units, they had to login to different responsibilities because each responsibility could only access one operating unit. So if there were a centralized payment processing center where users processed payments for multiple organizations, they would have to keep logging in and out of different responsibilities to process payments for a different organization or operating unit.
- Now in Release 12, Multi-Org Access Control enables companies that have implemented a Shared Services operating model to efficiently process business transactions by allowing users to access, process, and report on data for an unlimited number of operating units within a single application's responsibility.
 - This increases the productivity of Shared Service Centers as users no longer have to switch application responsibilities when processing transactions for multiple operating units. Data security and access privileges are still maintained using security profiles that will now support multiple operating units.
 - Enhanced Multi-Org reporting is not the same as cross-organization reports that allow you to run a report at the ledger level to obtain results for all operating units assigned to that ledger or obtain results for all the operating units for a GRE/LE.
 - Multi-Org Reporting allows a user to select any operating unit from a list of accessible operating units. This allows users to report on data for multiple operating units from a single application responsibility. The benefit of this includes 1) reduced reporting time and 2) improved efficiency.

LEDGER AND LEDGER SETS

One Repository of Financial Truth is further enhanced:

- Implements the 4 C's:
 - Chart of Accounts
 - Currency
 - Calendar
 - Accounting Convention
- Ledger sets provide global information at a glance. Ledger sets share a chart of accounts and a calendar.
- The key benefits to many Ledgers in one set are:
 - Decision-driving business information always available
 - Simpler processing and General Ledger management
 - Data and definitions that can be shared and secured

SUBLEDGER ACCOUNTING

Description and Features:

Subledger accounting is a new product in R12 which significantly enhances the accounting support across the E-Business Suite products. Subledger Accounting includes new ledger support and enhances the legal entity and intercompany accounting features.

- SLA is a toolset, engine, and repository for centralized accounting processing. This means that SLA provides the ability to set up journal creation rules and creates journal entries according to multiple different accounting methods simultaneously. However, there are many options and advanced features that facilitate the entire accounting process, including:
 - Converting foreign currency journals into the functional currency
 - Calculating exchange rate gain/loss
 - Scheduling the automatic recognition of deferred revenue and expenses across the relevant accounting periods

- Supporting automatic accrual reversals
- Tracking versions and effective dates on rules
- Processing a subset of transactions at a time, based on transaction type
- Enabling straight through accounting processing generating journal entries straight from the transaction view to posting to general ledger at the single click of a button
- Allowing testing of rule setup by what-if type of analysis with draft accounting
- Easy to use inquiry pages and customizable reports
- Intelligible errors reporting and tools to troubleshoot
- Ability to copy rules in and between environments
- Manual adjustment entries in each subledger application
- Auto-maintenance of rules when accounts are disabled
- Various geography-specific requirements such as journal entry sequencing, and control accounts reporting

Benefits:

- In 11i, accounting information and the tie back to the underlying transaction is maintained differently for each module. Different subledgers/modules have their own model as to how and what they capture in terms of accounting data. Some allow capturing more details and some link between the journals and the underlying transactions. Some do not have the same flexibility or detail. This causes difficulty and inconsistency in reporting for auditing, reconciliation or whichever purpose across modules
- In R12, SLA provides the ability to retain the full link between transaction and accounting data for all modules, and thus allow auditability. The accounting SLA creates is strongly tied to the underlying transactions.
- Faster, Easier Reconciliation
- Improved Audit- ability
- Improved Internal Control

The new E-Business Tax System provides users with a single point of management for tax with the E-Business Suite. The new self-service user interface extends control for products-based tax. It further provides country-specific tax content and simple to complex country-specific legislations. It supports cross-border transactions, as well as local compliance requirements. E-Business Tax users can easily modify tax content to keep up with constant tax changes by local jurisdictions, legislation, rates and exceptions. The tax configurations have also been simplified to ease manageability.

New Features

Several new features are now available and provide improvements in functionality for users.

- One addition is the “Tax Repository”. All tax transactions are stored in this repository, providing a single source of transactional tax information (tax lines). This supports tax reporting, tax accounting and tax reconciliation processes. The repository further provides an underlying infrastructure for users to view and/or modify (override) tax lines.
- E-Business Tax also supports a “Self-Assessment/Reverse Charge”. A self-assessed tax is a tax calculated and remitted for a transaction, where tax was not levied but is deemed as due. The purchaser is responsible for calculating and remitting tax. An example: a consumer/purchaser receives an invoice for \$100, which is due to be paid to the supplier. Tax A (10%) was not charged on the invoice, however the purchaser is deemed responsible to pay Tax A. The purchasers would “selfassess” the \$10 and remit it directly to the taxing authority for Tax A.
- The new “Tax Zone Type” is used to define, identify and group correlated tax zones. For example, an Iowa Sales Tax Zone Type will include the handful of Iowan cities that actually have a city level sales tax rate. It can be whatever pertinent rate levels exist at the particular authority.
- “Tax Formulas” can be used to provide special calculations not covered by the standard calculations available in the system. Users can now define formulas to calculate taxable basis, set up complex compounding rules and tax amounts. Release 11*i* users could define open PL/SQL formulas to accomplish this, but that functionality will no longer be supported in Release 12 because of the addition of Tax Formulas.
- “Tax Condition Sets” are used in tax rules and are a group of tax conditions, defined for a “Tax Determining Factor Set”. Several “Tax Condition Sets” can be defined for the same “Tax Determining Factor Set”. A Tax Determining Factor Set identifies certain factors to consider when evaluating a tax rule.
- Determining factors can also be derived from information available on the transaction and are the key building blocks of the tax rules. They fall into four groups:

- Parties: Information about the party such as party classification, registration, exemptions. For example:
 - Legal Entities
 - First and Third Party Ship From/To, Bill From/To, etc.
 - First and Third Party Tax Registrations, Classifications
- Places: Information on the geography of places associated with the transactions such as:
 - Party Locations
 - Define and Validate Party Locations
- Products: Information on the types of goods and services on the transaction such as:
 - Product Type (Physical Nature)
 - Item Categories
 - Fiscal Classifications
 - Intended Use
- Processes: The types of transactions for which tax services are being requested, i.e.
 - Document Type
 - Transaction Business Categories
 - Transaction Fiscal Classifications
- This information is passed to Oracle E-Business Tax through a single and uniform product interface. Then, eBTax:
 - Determines tax regimes and applicable taxes.
 - Determines Tax status.
 - Identifies the appropriate tax rate belonging to the tax status and/or tax jurisdiction
 - Calculates tax amount by multiplying the taxable basis by the tax rate.
 - Stores calculated taxes the form of tax lines in the tax repository. These tax lines have all necessary information needed for tax reporting.

- At this point you can extract tax reports from the repository and display the date in formats such as PDF, HTML and RTF as required.
- Finally, the “Tax Simulator” provides a mechanism for users to simulate tax calculations based on “what-if” scenarios. It can be used to replicate standard transactions such as purchase orders, invoices, and invoices matched to purchase orders that are typically integrated with the tax lines interface. A parallel audit trail is generated to review which Tax Rules have been satisfied. This tool is a quick way users can enter transactions to perform “what-if” scenarios on tax calculations, but not perform normal validation in the application forms.
- Though eBTax is an entirely new product, customers upgrading from Release 11i are not required to re-implement their tax setup. You can continue to get the same tax calculation results as in Release 11i.

Benefits

Based on the New Features above and overall architecture, some of the benefits derived from the eBusiness Tax System are:

- Greater efficiencies through automated processes
- Improved consistencies using global tax rules, allowing the business to conform to governmental requirements both foreign and domestic
- Allows better control of the decision-making process through increased global visibility of the enterprise
- Ease of configuration and usage
- Ability to test/pre-determine taxable scenarios

CENTRALIZED BANKING MODEL

Description and Features:

The new bank account model allow you to define and keep track of all bank accounts in the e-Business Suite in one place and explicitly grant account access to multiple operating units/functions and users. Bank accounts for internal use in Cash Management, Payables, Receivables, Treasury and Payroll are consolidated in Release 12. If you were using internal bank accounts in prior releases, all bank accounts will be migrated into the centralized bank account model automatically during the upgrade.

- In release 11i, Oracle Accounts Payable owned banks, bank branches and bank accounts. Such bank accounts could also be used by Accounts Receivable. Payroll and Treasury, however, had their own bank account models. In Release 12, banks and bank branches are created as Trading Community Architecture parties.
- The bank accounts are associated with Bank Branches but reside within the Cash Management application. During the bank account creation, you will be able to define in which applications this bank account can be used.

Bank Account Model Benefits:

- The new model reduces the number of access points to manage bank accounts by providing a centralized user interface where all internal bank accounts can be set up.
- Bank account access in the new model can be granted to multiple operating units, thus eliminating the redundant duplicate bank account setup under different operating units in case these operating units share the same bank account. This simplifies the reconciliation process since now one bank account is the system corresponds to one bank account at the bank.

REPORTING INCLUDING XML PUBLISHER

Description and Features:

- Enables you to format, manage, and deliver documents
- Meets business requirements such as:
 - Removes complexity
 - Reduces maintenance cost
 - Reduces TCO
 - Integrated with: R9 CRM, ESA, FMS, HCM, and SCM

Benefits of the new architecture

- Maintain 1 Ledger with 1 OU for each Company (LE)
 - Get privacy for each company's data
 - Manage each company's national and local compliance
- Combine many companies' ledgers in a set

- Share GL services and workload
- Get combined data
- Use MOAC to enable access to many OUs
 - Process in and report across many Companies' Operating Units

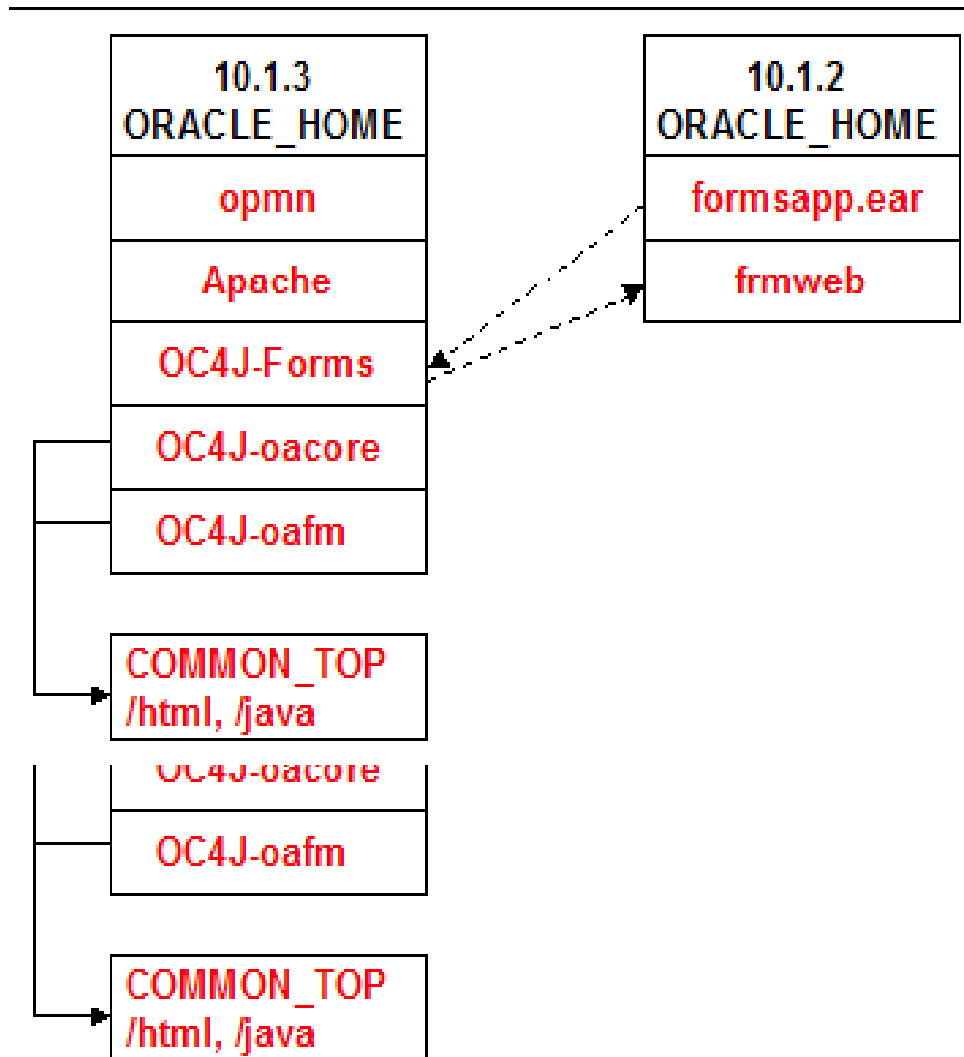
ORACLE APPLICATION R12 NEW ARCHITECTURE

Oracle application R12 has come up with new file system models and new tech stack components. Below are the differences between 11i and R12 architecture.

- Oracle application 11i comes with database 9i. Oracle application R12 replaces by default with database 10g release 2 that comes with OATM (Oracle application tablespace model) and total 12 tablespaces where as 11i comes with 400+ tablespaces. Performance is 2x faster in R12, features includes optimization, resource usage, space management and access rights. SQL used in R12 has been extensively tuned for cost based optimization. Database resource manager gives system administrator extensive control over processing resources on the database node. The administrator can distribute server CPU based on business rules, ensuring that the highest priority activities always have sufficient CPU resources.
- Oracle application server 10.1.2 oracle home in R12 replaces developer 6i (Forms and Reports) 8.0.6 oracle home provided by 9i application server 1.0.2.2.2 in release 11i. Frmweb executable is invoked out of the 10.1.2 oracle home. Oracle AS 10g 10.1.2 home (Forms and reports services)
 - -Updated Swan UI
 - -Delivers native runtime executables for forms (frmweb), 11i (frmwebx)
 - -Forms servlet is default deployment/communication mode
 - -Forms trace in addition to Forms runtime diagnostics (FRD)
 - -FORMS_ environment variables replace FORMS60_
 - -Reports only available through concurrent managers
 - -Reports server is not used
 - -Reports executable rwrn is used directly

- Oracle application server 10.1.3 oracle home (Sometimes referred as web or java oracle home) in R12 replaces 8.1.7-based oracle home provided by oracle 9i application server 1.0.2.2.2 in release 11i. All major services are started out of this oracle home. The application modules (Packaged in the file formsapp.ear) are deployed into the OC4J-forms instances running out of the 10.1.3 oracle home. OracleAS 10g 10.1.3 home provides:
 - -Oracle HTTP server 10.1.3 (Apache 1.3.34)
 - -Oracle Containers for J2EE (OC4J). 3 OC4J instances are oacore (Runs OA framework based applications), Forms (Runs form based applications), oafm (Runs ws, mapviewer, ascontrol). OC4J instances replaces Jserv groups.
 - -Oracle process manager and Notification server (OPMN). Oracle process manager (PM) starts, stops, restarts, detects death of processes. Oracle notification server (ONS) delivers notifications between components OHS <->OPMN<->OC4J
 - -Application server control (ASControl)
 - -modplsqli or mod_pls is removed from R12

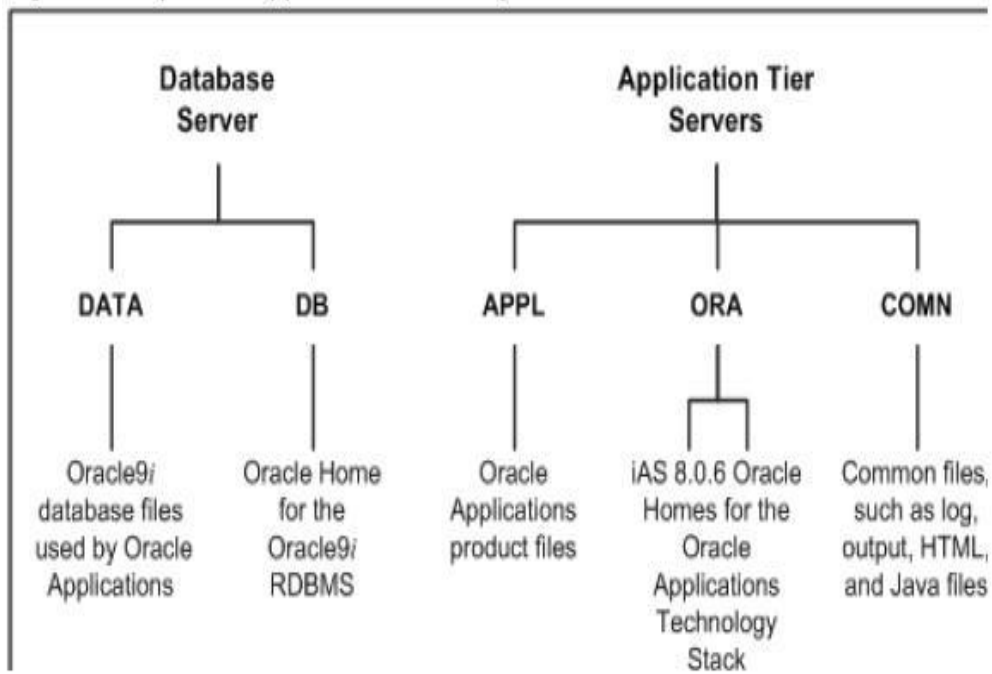
Below diagram shows the relationship between 10.1.3 oracle home and 10.1.2 oracle home

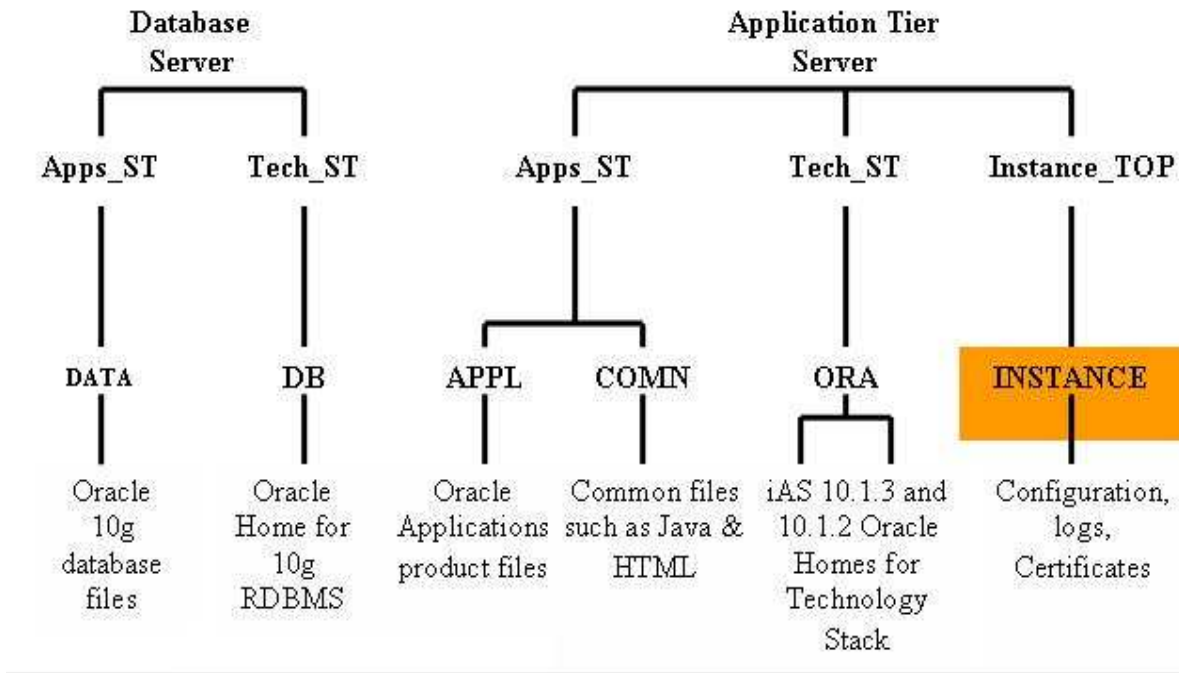


Notes on Diagram:

1. Sun J2SE plug-in in R12 replaces jinitator in 11i. Sun J2SE plug-in component allows use of the oracle JVM on web clients, instead of the browser's own JVM. J2SE plug-in is invoked when a user chooses to access functions, such as running a form.
2. File system model is changed in R12. Below diagrams shows 11i and R12 file system layout. INST_TOP is introduced new in R12.
3. No hardcore apps password is stored on unix file system in R12. FNDCPASS utility enhances security with non-reversible hash password.

4. Forgot password feature has been improved in R12. This has retrieve username and password feature where as in 11i has only password retrival. No workflow inbound process needed for this in R12.
5. It is much easier to setup primary/secondary nodes for PCP through OAM in R12
6. An R12 opatch is used to apply patches to the 10.1.3 and 10.1.2 oracle home
7. R12 introduces Codelines (R12.0:A, R12.1:B etc) and Codelevels (R12.AD.A.1, R12.AD.A.2 etc.). Patch prereq. checking only require codelevel as a prerequisite.
8. R12 registered flagged files for customizations impact through patches replaces applcust.txt file in 11i. Customized files are now maintained in database format.
9. Patch application assistant (PAA-admsi.pl) introduced in R12 is tool/perl script to generate customized installation instructions for a patch helps user to track and perform manual steps during patching.
10. Cloning is much easier in R12. In 11i, APPL_TOP have its different name and files in each APPL_TOP will depend on type on node. In R12, it will use unified APPL_TOP which means all files required for all middle tier services are included in all nodes of multi nodes installations. For multi node to single node cloning, no need to merge appl_top. For multi node to multi node only one copy is required. This allows choosing or switching services on each node easily. All nodes will have Y against all services in FND_NODES table.
11. New INST_TOP or file system layout in R12 has many benefits includes:
 - -Clear distinction between the location of data, codes and configuration files
 - -Configuration and log files are centrally contained in the instance configuration home
 - -Ability to share codes (Applications, Technology stack) among multiple instances
 - -Collection of configuration, log is much easier since they are centrally located
 - -Ability to place configuration home on a network or local file system for performance improvement





CHANGES BY MODULES:

Functional Changes and Impact on Financials Upgrade

This section describes the way the upgrade affects existing Financials and Procurement products and highlights the impact of these financial changes on day-to-day business.

Assets

Changes to Oracle Assets in the upgrade are described in this section.

Subledger Accounting

The new Subledger Accounting Architecture upgrade changes Oracle Assets in the following way.

- Transactions in Assets books and accounting lines related to these transactions are migrated to Subledger Accounting for a user-specified number of periods during the upgrade. Accounting for current period depreciation is upgraded only if depreciation is already run for the period and the period remains open.
- The value for the new profile option FA: Use Workflow Account Generation is set to Yes during the upgrade. You should analyze current customizations in the workflow setup.

There are two options if you need to use the rules in workflow to generate code combinations for asset transactions:

- Re-implement the custom rules in Subledger Accounting account derivation rules and set the profile option value to No.
 - Use the workflow rules as they are (default).
 - If you do not have customizations to Workflow-based Account Generator and wish to use Subledger Accounting account derivation rules for generating code combinations, set the profile option value to No after the upgrade.
- Create Journal Entries is replaced by Create Accounting.
 - The Account Drill Down report is replaced by the new Subledger Accounting report, Account Analysis.
 - Journal Source and Journal Category setups are no longer on the Book Controls setup form, and the setup is now located in Subledger Accounting.
 - Depreciation Expense Account and the Bonus Expense Account for all category and book combinations in the Asset Category setup form are upgraded from a single segment account value to entire account combinations.
 - The intercompany account setup in the Book Controls form is replaced by Intercompany/Intracompany setup in accounting setups. You should review the migrated setups for relevant ledgers upon the upgrade.
 - The FA: Include Nonrecoverable Tax in Mass Addition profile option is obsolete. It has been replaced by Post Accounting Programs under Subledger Accounting. These programs manage the setup for all eligible lines from Payables to Assets for the Mass Additions Create program.

Invoice Distributions from Oracle Payables

- Invoice distributions from Oracle Payables that interface to Assets are upgraded to display the Invoice Line Number.

CASH MANAGEMENT

Cash Management changes in the upgrade are described in this section.

Centralized Banks and Accounts

- The new centralized bank account model provides a single point for defining and managing internal bank accounts for Oracle Payables, Oracle Receivables, Oracle Payroll, Oracle Cash Management, and Oracle Treasury. A single legal entity is granted ownership of each internal bank account, and one or more organizations are granted

usage rights. In addition, banks and branches are migrated to the Oracle Trading Community Architecture (TCA) and defined as parties.

- Banks are merged if the following attributes are the same:
 - Bank number
 - Institution type
 - Country (w/default country setting for null)
 - Bank administrator's email
 - Bank name
 - Alternative bank name
 - Taxpayer identifier
 - Tax reference
 - Description
 - Active date
 - End date

- During the upgrade, Cash Management grants ownership of each internal bank account to one legal entity. The owning legal entity is derived from the organization that owns it in Release 11*i*.

Internal Bank Account Security

- In Release 11*i*, bank accounts were used by a single operating unit, and operating unit security was used to control the maintenance of these accounts. In the new model, bank accounts can be accessed by multiple operating units, but are owned by a single legal entity. Therefore, the bank account maintenance security, which secures the create and update of bank accounts, was moved to the legal entity level. Using the new security wizard, you can grant each responsibility access to create and modify bank accounts owned by one or more legal entities.

- During the upgrade, Cash Management sets the Bank Account Maintenance security for each responsibility that had access to the bank account forms in Release 11*i*. For each of these responsibilities, a legal entity is derived from the organization that the responsibility had access to in Release 11*i*. The responsibility is then granted bank account maintenance security for this legal entity.

System Parameters

- In order to provide more flexibility and control over the reconciliation process, many of the options that used to be defined as system parameters at the system level (operating unit) have been moved to the bank account level. By placing these controls at the bank account level, both the manual and automatic reconciliation processes can be configured depending on the bank account and its uses.
- In addition, the remaining system parameter options and controls from Release 11*i* are defined at the legal entity level in R12

FINANCIALS COMMON MODULES

Changes to Oracle Financials Common Modules are described in this section.

Advanced Global Intercompany System

Oracle Advanced Global Intercompany System (AGIS) is a new module that allows companies to streamline intercompany processing and facilitates the reconciliation of intercompany transactions. It replaces the Global Intercompany System (GIS) feature provided by General Ledger in Release 11*i*.

All setup and transaction data is moved to a new data model and all Oracle forms in the Global Intercompany System are replaced by browser-based user interface pages. Changes include:

- Subsidiaries are replaced by intercompany organizations. They represent trading partners and can be used as initiators and recipients of Advanced Global Intercompany System transactions.
- As part of the Grant-based Security Model, intercompany trading partners are mapped to users instead of responsibilities. A user may be given access to many different intercompany trading partners regardless of the responsibility used to log in.
- The GIS transaction types are upgraded to the new Intercompany system transaction types.
- The Intercompany accounts set up in GIS are upgraded as the new Intracompany Balancing rules. Autoaccounting rules set up in GIS are not upgraded and need to be set up in the new Subledger Accounting Transaction Account Builder.
- All GIS new and completed transactions are upgraded as AGIS transaction batches. Generally, for each GIS transaction, a batch is created.
- Release 11*i* GIS profile options are obsolete and are not upgraded. All options are available on the AGIS System Options page.

Benefits

- Addresses the Top Barrier to a Fast Close
- Generates subledger invoices
- Controls transaction entry with Intercompany Calendar
- Has a Fully Configurable Approval Rules
- Has a Flexible Security Model
- Has a Centrally defined Intercompany Accounts

Payables and Receivables Netting

- In Release 11*i* Oracle Financials had three netting solutions: Single Third Party in Oracle Public Sector Financials International Contra Charging in Oracle Financials for Europe, and Receivables and Payables Netting in Oracle U.S. Federal Financials. These are all replaced in this release with the Netting functionality of the Oracle Financials Common Modules.
- Setup related to Contra Charging and Receivables and Payables Netting features in Release 11*i* is migrated in the following way:
 - Preserves existing customer and supplier relationships and creates new entities known as agreements.
 - The Payables and Receivables Transaction Types are migrated to allow new netting batches to be created in this release.

PAYABLES

This release introduces Oracle Subledger Accounting, E-Business Tax, Ledgers, Banks, and other common data model components that are used by Oracle Payables.

Suppliers in Trading Community Architecture

- Suppliers are now defined as TCA Parties. During the upgrade, TCA Party records are created / updated for all suppliers, they are linked to their records in the existing supplier entities, and the payment and banking details are migrated into the Oracle Payments data model. Although the underlying data model has changed, you still enter and manage suppliers in the Suppliers windows.

Invoice Lines

- Oracle Payables introduces invoice lines as an entity between the invoice header and invoice distributions. With the new model, the invoice header remains unchanged, and continues to store information about the supplier who sent the invoice, the invoice attributes, and remittance information.
- Invoice lines represent the goods (direct or indirect materials), service(s), and/or associated tax/freight/miscellaneous charges invoiced. Invoice distributions store the accounting, allocation and other detail information that makes up the invoice line. The charge allocation table used in prior releases to manage accounting allocations is obsolete.
- During the upgrade, Oracle Payables creates invoice lines for all existing invoices, creating one line for every distribution available in the Release 11i distributions table, except in the case of reversal pairs. In those cases, Payables creates one line with a zero amount.

Centralized Banks and Bank Accounts Definitions

- All internal banks and bank accounts that you had defined in Release 11i are automatically migrated to the central Cash Management entities. The bank accounts and their payment documents are owned by a legal entity rather than by an operating unit. See Cash Management in this appendix for more information.
- Also, the banks and bank branches are centralized in Cash Management entities as described in the preceding paragraph. However, the bank accounts you had defined for your suppliers are migrated from the Payables entities to the central Payments entities. Payments centralize and secure all payment instrument data, including external bank accounts, credit cards, and debit cards. See Payments in this appendix for more information.

Payment Document Sequencing

- If you used document sequencing for payment documents in Release 11i, your document sequence category is migrated from the payment document, which is associated with a bank account and, hence a legal entity, to the bank account uses entity. This change preserves the option of having document sequence categories vary across operating units.
- Integration with Payments for Funds Disbursements
- Oracle Payments can be used by Oracle Payables for processing invoice payments. See Payments in this appendix for more information.
- Payment Features Controlled by Global Descriptive Flexfields
- Many European payment features that were implemented using global descriptive flexfields in Release 11i are migrated to the Oracle Payables, Oracle Payments, and Oracle Cash Management data models.

Integration with Subledger Accounting (SLA)

- This release introduces Oracle Subledger Accounting (SLA) to manage accounting across subledger transactions. Payables no longer create any accounting entries. During the upgrade, accounting options and their settings, and the existing accounting entries in the Payables data model, are moved to the new SLA accounting data model to ensure a continuous business operation between the two releases.
- During the upgrade, all accounting events, headers, and lines from the Release 11i data model are upgraded to the new Subledger Accounting events, headers, and lines data model, regardless of the period range you set for the upgrade.

Integration with E-Business Tax

- Oracle E-Business Tax manages tax across the E-Business Suite. In prior releases, the setup, defaulting, and calculation of tax for Payables was managed within Payables using tax codes, their associated rates, and a hierarchy of defaulting options. This method is still available in this release. During the upgrade, E-Business Tax migrates the tax codes as appropriate within E-Business Tax so that your tax processing can work the same way after the upgrade as it did before.
- New fields are added to the supplier, invoice, and invoice lines entities to track tax attributes used by E-Business Tax. Many of these attributes were implemented with global descriptive flexfields in prior releases and are upgraded to regular fields on these entities.

PURCHASING

Changes to Oracle Purchasing are described in this section.

Local Contract Purchase Agreements upgrade to Global Contract Purchase Agreements

- In this release, the distinction between Global and Local distinction for Contract Purchase Agreements no longer exists. All Contract Purchase Agreements can now be enabled for use across multiple operating units. All existing Contract Purchase Agreements are upgraded to have a single organization assignment. In this assignment, the values of Requesting and Purchasing operating units are that of the operating unit that owned the Local Contract Purchase Agreement, and the value of the Purchasing Site is the Supplier Site on the Local Contract Purchase Agreement.

Unified Catalog for Purchasing and iProcurement

- Prior to this release, iProcurement and Purchasing maintained separate catalogs. In this release, these catalogs are combined together in Purchasing. During the upgrade, the items that were bulk-loaded into iProcurement are migrated to Global Blanket Agreements in Purchasing. If you have implemented iProcurement, you may notice new Global Blanket Agreements in Purchasing. See iProcurement in this appendix for more details.

Integration with E-Business Tax

- A fully automated E-Business Tax upgrade migrates setups related to Oracle Purchasing. This ensures that tax-related functions in Purchasing continue to work as before. With the new tax solution, you have the option to centrally manage tax rules and configure them to support local requirements.
- All common tax setups are performed through the E-Business Tax module. Tax Defaulting Hierarchy in Purchasing Options is migrated to E-Business Tax.
- The Tax Details and Tax Code Summary forms are obsolete. This information is now displayed on the Manage Tax page (accessible through menu options). In addition, the Tax Code field on the Enter Purchase Order, Release, and Requisition forms is obsolete. Tax Code is now referred to as Tax Classification, which you can specify on the Additional Tax Information page (from the Manage Tax page).
- The profile options Tax: Allow Override of Tax Code and Tax: Allow Override of Tax Recovery Rate are migrated to eBTax: Allow Override of Tax Classification Code and eBTax: Allow Override of Tax Recovery Rate, respectively.

RECEIVABLES

Changes to Oracle Receivables are described in this section.

Integration with E-Business Tax

- This release 12 introduces Oracle E-Business Tax to manage tax across the E-Business Suite. During the upgrade, system and customer options used to control tax calculation and tax code defaulting are migrated from Oracle Receivables into Oracle E-Business Tax entities. See E-Business Tax in this appendix for further details.

Integration with Subledger Accounting

- This release introduces Subledger Accounting for managing accounting across subledger transactions. Receivables no longer create any accounting entries.
- Receivables accounting options and setups remain and affect the generation of accounting distributions in the Receivables data model. However, the accounting distributions are now simply one of many sources for generation of final accounting in the Subledger Accounting module.
- Release 11i customizations to Receivables accounting tables still work after the upgrade, provided you do not use any of the new features of Subledger Accounting. Once you use Subledger Accounting to update an accounting rule, or any other aspect of accounting, you must transition your customizations to reference the Subledger Accounting data model.

- Transactional data is upgraded for a user-specified number of fiscal years. If you need to run reports or query transactions that are outside the specified upgrade period, you have to launch the upgrade of additional periods. See Subledger Accounting in this appendix for further details.

Centralized Banks and Bank Accounts Definitions

- In this release, all internal banks and bank accounts you had defined for your operations are automatically migrated to the central Cash Management entities. Remittance bank accounts are owned by a legal entity rather than by an operating unit.
- Banks and bank branches are centralized in Oracle Cash Management entities, as described in the preceding paragraph. However, bank accounts you had defined for your customers are migrated from the Payables entities to the central Payments entities. Oracle Payments centralizes and secures all payment instrument data, including external bank accounts, credit cards, and debit cards. See Cash Management in this appendix for further details.

Integration with Payments for Funds Capture

- This release introduces Oracle Payments, which is used by Oracle Receivables for processing funds capture. See Payments in this appendix for further details.

Balance Forward Billing

- The Release 11i Consolidated Billing Invoices functionality has been enhanced to include more flexible billing cycles, to consolidate invoices at site or account level, and to present Balance Forward Bills using the user-configurable Bill Presentment Architecture. If you are using Consolidated Billing Invoices in Release 11i, your setup is automatically migrated to Balance Forward Billing enabled at the customer site level.

Late Charges Enhancements

- The Receivables Late Charges feature has been enhanced to incorporate the Global Interest Invoice setups, charge calculation logic, and charge generation processes. Charges for delinquent payments can now be generated as adjustments, debit memos, or interest invoices. The Interest Invoice Global Descriptive Flexfield is obsolete. Release 11i finance charge setup attributes are automatically upgraded to late charge setups at the account and account site levels.

Customer UI Redesign

- This release introduces a new HTML user interface for entering and maintaining customer data.

Process Changes

The following features are obsolete:

- Collections Workbench – The Oracle Advanced Collections module delivers similar functionality. See the Collections Migration white paper and the Oracle Advanced Collections User Guide for further details.
- Trade Accounting – Similar functionality is delivered by integration with the Oracle Trade Management module. Trade Management integration is available in Release 11i.
- Bill of Exchange – This functionality has been replaced with the Bills Receivable feature. Bills Receivables is available in Release 11i.

INTERNET EXPENSES

Changes to Oracle Internet Expenses are described in this section.

Itemization

- Internet Expenses can represent the parent-child relationship of an itemized expense line by creating a new parent line with a unique parent identifier.

Integration with Payments

- Integration with Oracle Payments takes advantage of encryption capabilities. Credit card transaction data has been moved to Payment's secure data payment central repository. See Payments in this appendix for more information.

Per Diem and Mileage

- Per diem and mileage transaction data is not migrated. However, data that existed before the upgrade remains intact. Mileage and per diem setup data is automatically upgraded.
- Expense reports that were created prior to the upgrade display information in a pre-Oracle Internet Expenses minipack (11i.OIE.K) format. Newly created expense reports use the new user interface.

Integration with E-Business Tax

- The integration with Oracle E-Business Tax has no direct tax upgrade impact. Tax lines run through Oracle Payables. See Oracle Payments documentation for details.

Oracle General Ledger has made significant enhancements to support multi-national companies and shared service centers. These changes allow companies to maximize processing efficiencies while maintaining a high level of information and setup security.

You can perform simultaneous accounting for multiple reporting requirements. Companies can also gain processing efficiencies by being able to set up, access and process data across multiple ledgers and legal entities from a single responsibility. In addition, General Ledger definitions and setup definitions, such as Mass Allocations and Financial Statement Generator (FSG) reports, can be more easily shared and secured across your organization by allowing you to restrict certain users from viewing or updating those definitions or using them in processes.

Terminology Changes

Note the following changes in the terminology related to General Ledger.

- A set of books is replaced by ledgers
 - This is simply a terminology change. All set of books options are now called ledger options. The upgrade retains all Release 11i settings.
- Multiple Reporting Currencies is replaced by Reporting Currencies
 - Reporting sets of books are replaced by reporting currencies. Reporting sets of books assigned to primary sets of books automatically upgrade to reporting currencies that are assigned to a primary ledger. All conversion options for Multiple Reporting Currencies are retained as part of the reporting currency definition.
- Global Intercompany System (GIS) is replaced by Advanced Global Intercompany System (AGIS)

Centralized Accounting Setup

The new Accounting Setup Manager simplifies and centralizes accounting-related setup for common financial components that are shared across financial applications. From a central location, you can define your legal entities and their accounting context, such as the ledgers and reporting currencies that perform the accounting for your legal entities.

Accounting Setup Manager allows global companies that operate in different localities to meet multiple reporting requirements through the use of multiple ledgers and reporting currencies.

Sets of Books

- All sets of books upgrade to ledgers in an accounting setup.
 - The upgrade creates data access sets for upgraded ledgers to facilitate the creation of advanced data access and data security policies.
- A subledger accounting method, such as Standard Accrual, is automatically assigned to all upgraded ledgers.

- A subledger accounting method allows General Ledger to integrate with subledgers via Subledger Accounting.
- The secondary tracking option for revaluation and closing and translation has been streamlined.

Multiple Reporting Currencies

Some Release 11i options for reporting sets of books have been moved to the reporting currency definition. For example, many MRC profile options have been moved to the reporting currency definition.

Many options for a set of books that were independently defined for the primary and reporting sets of books have been streamlined. In addition, many of the ledger options for the reporting currency default from the primary ledger. The upgrade for MRC sets of books varies depending on the current configuration and conversion options you specify.

Global Accounting Engine

Single posting sets of books with multiple main sets of books upgrade to multiple primary ledgers that share the same secondary ledger.

Period Rates Replaced by Daily Rates

Period rates are replaced with daily rates.

Revaluation

General Ledger modifies revaluation templates to use corresponding daily rates for those that used period rates prior to the upgrade. No user interaction is required.

Revaluation sets are now usable across ledgers that share a common chart of accounts. In some cases, you may need to enter the secondary tracking segment for revaluation sets involving a secondary tracking segment before running revaluations with upgraded templates.

STAT Report-level Currency for Financial Statement Generator Reports

The report-level and runtime currencies for Financial Statement Generator reports now need to represent the ledger currency. If you need to report on statistical balances, modify report definitions to use the STAT currency at the row-level or column-level or use currency control values for the STAT currency.

PAYMENTS

In release 12, the Oracle E-Business Suite introduces Oracle Payments, a highly configurable and robust engine to disburse and receive payments. In addition to new features, Oracle Payments offers functionality previously released as Oracle iPayment, which is now obsolete.

Configurable Formatting and Validations Framework

Oracle Payments provides a new formatting solution based on standard XML technology. In previous releases, payment formats required creation in proprietary Oracle reports technology. In this release, formats are created as templates in Oracle XML Publisher, and applied to an XML data file produced by Oracle Payments.

The upgrade transforms each payment format that Oracle Payments supports into two entities: an XML Publisher template and a Payments seeded format. The seeded format is linked to the template. Logic to validate the formatted data has been separated from the format programs, and is upgraded to a prepackaged library of validations. These validations are linked to the seeded Payments format, and are executed during the payment process.

Secure Payment Data Repository

Oracle Payments serves as a payment data repository on top of the Trading Community Architecture data model. This common repository for payment data provides improved data security by allowing central encryption management and masking control of payment instrument information.

The upgrade moves party information into Oracle Trading Community Architecture. The party's payment information and all payment instruments (such as credit cards and bank accounts) are moved into Oracle Payments. Party payment information moves from entities such as customers, students, and Global Descriptive Flexfields and is created as a payer record in Oracle Payments and linked to the party. Party payment information moves from entities such as suppliers and Global Descriptive Flexfields and is created as a payee record in Oracle Payments, again linked to the party. Third-party (customer and supplier) bank accounts held in the Oracle Payables bank account model are migrated to Oracle Payments and linked to the owning payer or payee. Third-party credit card detail is migrated from the Payables data model and applications such as Order Management into Oracle Payments' data repository.

Credit card data held in the following products in Release 11i is migrated to Oracle Payments:

- Oracle Payables
- Oracle Order Capture
- Oracle Order Management
- Oracle Service Contracts
- Oracle Student System

Improved Electronic Transmission Capability

Oracle Payments provides secured electronic payment file and payment message transmission and transmission result processing, replacing previously existing electronic transmission features in Oracle iPayment, Oracle Payables, and globalizations. The transmission feature in Oracle Payables was simply a framework to support a customization, so the automatic upgrade cannot migrate this information. If you are using the Payables transmission architecture, you

should review Oracle Payments' electronic transmission capability and plan on replacing your customization.

Payables Impact

The process to issue payments from Oracle Payables changes in this release to use the new Oracle Payments funds disbursement process. The changes impact other versions of Payables such as U.S. Federal Financials and country-specific globalizations.

Some of the key areas of impact are:

- **Payment Methods:** Each document to be paid requires a payment method to indicate how it should be handled in the funds disbursement process. Payment methods can now be defined as broadly or narrowly as appropriate, and are not restricted to the seeded values. Rules can be set for when payment methods can be used on documents. Rules can also be specified to default payment methods on documents when they are created. The upgrade seeds payment methods that existed in Oracle Payables and globalizations.
- **Processing Rules:** The payment method on a document links it to processing rules configured in Oracle Payments. These setup rules are held in a key entity called the Payment Process Profile. You can configure as many of these process profiles as you need for payment processes. Each profile holds rules for how documents should be built into payments, how payments should be aggregated into a payment instruction file, and how the payment file should be formatted. Rules for printing checks, transmitting electronic files, generating separate remittance advice notifications, and other options can be easily configured.
- **Payment System:** A payment system holds information about the third party involved in processing payments. The third party may be a financial institution or clearing house that disburses or settles payments. This entity is defined to hold information about transmission and required settings for communication to the payment system.

The upgrade uses various data from Oracle Payables to create the new Payment Process Profiles. Since this entity is so central to the funds disbursement process, an overview of the upgrade process is provided here.

For each Payables payment program that is linked to a format definition, one Oracle XML Publisher template is created and linked to one Oracle Payments format. In Oracle Payables, you can create different format definitions linked to the same payment program. So for each Payables format definition, the upgrade creates one Payment Process Profile linked to the Oracle Payments format.

A key part of the payment process profile is the usage rules. Values set here control when a profile can be assigned to a document for routing through the payment process. There are four categories of usage rules:

- **Deploying company's internal bank account** – the account from which funds will be disbursed. A bank account is assigned as a usage rule when the upgrade finds the appropriate information. First, it looks at the format definition that was used to create

the profile. Then, it finds all payment documents assigned to the format definition. Each internal bank account that is a parent of the payment document is assigned as a usage rule to the profile.

- First party organization – values are migrated when they are available, specifically from some globalizations.
- Payment methods and currencies – the upgrade determines these values based on information within the format itself.

Another important part of the payment process profile is its link to a payment system and its setup. This information is upgraded based on values set in globalizations and should be understood for payment processing in those countries.

Receivables Impact

Oracle Receivables integrates with Oracle Payments for funds capture processing to electronically receive money owed by debtors, such as customers. Oracle Payments works with Receivables to authorize and capture funds against credit cards, process refunds to credit cards, perform electronic funds transfers from bank accounts, and to format bills receivable. Note that Oracle Receivables retains its existing features for lockbox processing and the electronic upload of remittance messages. Globalization formats and features in this payments area also move to Oracle Payments.

Some of the key areas of impact are:

- **Payee Configuration:** A payee is defined for each entity in the deploying company that will process payments; typically only one setup is needed for the enterprise. The payee configuration holds various processing options that are used to handle transactions. In Release 11i, Receivables linked each receipt class with an automatic creation method to the Oracle iPayment Payee. Now operating units are assigned to the payee. This helps ensure consistent payment processing across the applications. The upgrade assigns operating units to the payee based on existing transactions in Receivables.
- **Payment Methods:** Each transaction requires a payment method to indicate how it should be handled in the funds capture process. In Oracle Receivables, this payment method is specified on a receipt class defined with an automatic creation method. Note that in the receipt class setup, Receivables has changed its Release 11i payment method term to be called receipt method.
- **Processing Rules:** Rules for processing electronic funds capture transactions are held in a key entity called the Funds Capture Process Profile. Users can configure as many of these process profiles as they need for their payment processes. Each profile holds the configuration for how to format and transmit authorization messages and settlement files. Rules for aggregating settlements into batches, limiting the number or amount of settlements in a batch, notifying payers of settlements, and processing acknowledgements can be easily configured.

- **Payment System:** A payment system holds information about the third party involved in processing payments. The third party may be a payment processor or it may be a financial institution. This entity is defined to hold information about transmission and required settings for communication to the payment system.
- **Routing Rules:** Routing rules can be configured to specify how a transaction should be processed. A routing rule applies specified criteria and determines the funds capture process profile and the payment system to use. Routing rules are defined as part of the payee configuration.

The upgrade uses various data from Oracle Receivables to create these entities. Since these entities are so central to the funds capture process, an overview of the upgrade process is provided here.

For each of the formats that are upgraded from Receivables or globalizations to Oracle Payments, one Oracle XML Publisher template is created and linked to one Oracle Payments format. A Funds Capture Process Profile is created and the format is linked to the profile.

Other entities are created by the upgrade: 1) one payee to hold master settings for the funds capture payment process; 2) one payment system; and 3) one payment system account.

The upgrade creates new routing rules from Receivables setup. Routing rules are created from each receipt class that has an automatic creation method. For each of these receipt classes, the upgrade creates a routing rule for each combination of the receipt class remittance method, its internal bank account, and the organization derived from the bank account.

ORDER MANAGEMENT

NEW FEATURES IN R12

Header Attribute Cascading

With Release 12, cascading of header attributes to corresponding line details is now enhanced to provide greater flexibility when entering orders. When certain header attributes are changed, the corresponding line attributes can be changed automatically or the user will be given the choice of propagating the header changes to the lines.

Price Book

With this release, Oracle Pricing/Advanced Pricing provides a robust self-service capability for users to generate and publish lists of products they sell with their related prices. The user has

the ability to generate a Price Book showing list and net prices for a specific customer. The Price Book can cross multiple price lists to derive the net price for a customer. Multi-currency price lists as well as formula pricing are included. Current, past or future effective pricing dates are supported. Input criteria can optionally include specific items, item category, pricing attributes, qualifiers and price lists.

A Price Book can be generated for a customer or a Delta Price Book showing only items with changed prices can be created. The publication options for the Price Book include: printed report, online views, XML messages and email. Additionally, a Price Book API is provided for other applications to generate a price book and then use the information as required.

Support for Hierarchical Categories in Advanced Pricing

Advanced Pricing in R12 offers extensible pricing support for flattened and hierarchical item categories. This feature allows users to have more flexible and simplified pricing setups that can span across multiple category sets. Several enhancements have been made in order to support this feature:

- Users can now define one or multiple functional areas for a given source system. Each functional area will have an associated category set that may be hierarchical or flattened. On the pricing setup UI's, the product value (or product in HTML) list of values will display all categories belonging to those enabled functional areas.
- At runtime, the pricing engine will source all the categories belonging to those category sets associated with the source systems for that request type through the pricing transaction entity. All the parents of the categories of the items are sourced only for hierarchical categories.

This feature is only available to Advanced Pricing users.

Continuous Price Breaks

Starting in release 12, Advanced Pricing supports continuous price breaks ranges for price lists, modifiers and agreements. This means that within a price break, the starting value must be 0 and there are no gaps across the break lines. Pricing behavior for existing price break setups is not affected and will be backward compatible. Any new price break line created through Copy Price List, Copy Modifier, or duplicate line functionality will be converted to continuous.

This feature is available for Basic and Advanced Pricing users wherever price breaks are supported.

Support TCA Party Hierarchy

Advanced Pricing has added the attributes that are required to support the party relationship structure provided by Oracle's Trading Community Architecture. This functionality enable users to easily set up party qualifier based price lists and modifiers such that they apply not only to the qualifying party but also to all parties that are in levels below the qualifying party in the party hierarchy.

Recurring Charges

With Release12 Advanced Pricing can now price based on the value of a new charge periodicity pricing attribute. Examples of values for charge periodicity include: Monthly, Quarterly, etc.

Applications Oracle iStore, Oracle Quoting and Oracle Order Management will leverage this new functionality to calculate prices when telecommunications services with recurring charges are quoted or ordered.

The feature is available in Basic and Advanced Pricing.

ORACLE WORK IN PROCESS:

NEW FEATURES IN R12

Discrete Execution Workstation for Shop Floor Operator and Supervisor

With Release12 Discrete Execution Workstation, discrete manufacturing users will have deeper shop floor execution capabilities as well as an improved user experience in performing and monitoring shop floor activities. Through a simplified user interface, this workstation provides, all in one place, the information needed for shop floor workers to perform their work, thus maximizing the value-added manufacturing time and catering to customers requiring MES (Manufacturing Execution System) like capabilities in Oracle Work in Process. Shop floor operators and supervisors can see what jobs are assigned to which work centers, view requirements and instructions for performing work, and monitor progress and problems. The workstation provides enhancements to current discrete manufacturing features, an increase in the types and numbers of functions supported, and a significant improvement to the process flows of accessing and reporting information related to work in the factory.

Transaction Enhancements

In order to simplify transaction data entry for the operator in R12, some of the transactions have been enhanced to allow the user/operator to perform multiple transactions in one pass. Some of these transaction enhancements are in the area of reporting good and bad assembly units through an operation – move or completion transaction combined with an assembly scrap or reject -- all in a single user entry.

ORACLE BILLS OF MATERIAL:

NEW FEATURES WITH R12

APS - Sequencing Window on Dept-Resource Entity: Added an additional attribute for identifying the sequencing window for a resource within a department on a Department Resource Form.

APS - Batchable Resource Validations in Routing Form: Added a new attribute on the resource definition form to identify if a resource is batchable.

APS - Usability Improvements in Setup Changeovers Screen: Enhanced usability of Penalty and Change over definition interfaces. Significantly improved Setups and change over User Interface for mass maintenance of large setup matrices (FROM multiple setup types TO multiple setup types)

MFG - Enhance BOM to Capture Inverse Usage: A new attribute is introduced in the BOM Definition Form to support an inverse of component quantity.

MFG – Fixed Component Usage on the BOM for WIP and OSFM: Traditionally, the quantity of a component in a BOM has been restricted to 'quantity per assembly'. Users now can designate a lot-based quantity for a component or substitute component rather than a quantity per assembly.

OPM - Convergence to Discrete Manufacturing Calendar and Validations for Process Organizations: There is a new ORG classification to designate an ORG to be a Process ORG and this enhancement will prevent model option class type of BOMs from being updated and ordered in a Process ORG.

BOM – Batch Import Capability for Open Interface for Bills of Material: Users can segment the import data by assigning a batch identifier and launching the open interface using that identifier. This allows the user to break down large datasets and process them concurrently.

ORACLE INVENTORY:

NEW FEATURES IN R12

Discrete Manufacturing Enhancements

Planning and execution has the following additional attributes in Release12:

Repair Lead-time –Time to repair the part at the supplier site. The definition is always in context with the final usable part or product and not based on the defective part

Repair Yield - Yield when a defective part is repaired/upgraded to a new part. The definition is always in context with the final usable part or product and not based on the defective part.

Pre-positioning Point - The Pre-positioning Point represents the Push type of relationship with the trading partner. When planning hits a Pre-positioning point for an item organization, it will push all the existing supply downstream till this point.

Repair Program - defines the relationship with the vendor for the repair item.

Process Manufacturing Enhancements

In order to support the needs of process manufacturing organizations, several additional features have been added to Oracle Inventory:

- Dual unit of measure control for any item
- Advanced lot control
- Material Status
- Enhanced inventory allocation rules

ORACLE ISTORE:

OVERVIEW

Oracle iStore is an electronic commerce application that enables companies to build, manage, and personalize powerful and scalable global Internet storefronts. Oracle iStore may be used in both business-to-business (B2B) and business-to-consumer (B2C) settings.

In Release 12, Oracle iStore has new functionality in both the Store Administration Application and the Customer Facing Application.

NEW FEATURES IN R12

Telecommunication industry specific features

Instead of relying solely on call centers and physical stores, companies can now sell at a lower cost telecom services and shippable items via Oracle iStore. The main goal is to allow merchants to sell high volume and low margin services like wireless, broadband and phone services to consumers and small businesses.

iStore Flow

iStore supports the following flow:

- Customers can configure services and items via Oracle Configurator to ensure that all business and technical rules are enforced. Products can be restricted based on customer input like their current phone number or their zip code (through Configurator rules).
- Once the products are selected, customers can see all items selected, along with their prices, in the shopping cart. Prices can be either one-time or recurring prices (e.g., monthly).
- The customer also can be informed about what has to be paid at the time of ordering (Pay Now amount) versus what will be billed in the future (Pay Later amount). In case of payment via credit card, only the 'Pay Now amount' is authorized at the time of order placement.
- Once the order is placed the customer is notified and can track online the fulfillment of the order thereby reducing the load of the call center.
- Customers can review all of the services and items they currently own and modify services if desired.

Contracts Enhancements

- Integrates with Oracle Contracts expert module to provide the Terms and Conditions based on the items in the shopping cart.
- Oracle Quoting allows sales representatives to download the terms and conditions to their desktops in Rich Text Format (RTF), modify them and upload the changes to the quote. Customers are still able to view the terms and conditions when these types of quotes get published on iStore.

Procurement Collaboration

In Release 12 iStore provides catalog punch-out capability. Instead of feeding product information into multiple procurement systems of buyer organizations, suppliers can own and manage their catalog information centrally in iStore.

Duplicate Cart

Companies can now create duplicates of the saved shopping carts for repeat orders.

ORACLE PURCHASING:

OVERVIEW

Oracle Purchasing is the application for procurement professionals that streamlines purchase order processing while strengthening policy compliance. It is a key component of Oracle Advanced Procurement, the integrated suite that dramatically cuts supply management costs.

Professional Buyer's Work Center

Oracle Purchasing Release 12.0 speeds up daily purchasing tasks with an enhanced Professional Buyer's Work Center. Based on the latest web-based user interface models, the Work Center is a central 'Launch Pad' from which buyers can efficiently perform their daily tasks:

- View and Act upon Requisition Demand
- Create and Manage Orders and Agreements
- Run Negotiation Events including Auctions and RFxs (requires Oracle Sourcing)
- Manage Supplier Information

The Professional Buyer's Work Center leverages Multi-Org Access Control (MOAC) by allowing buyers to view and manage documents across all of the operating units they service. For more details, please reference the MOAC section of this document.

Enhanced Catalog Access

Release 12.0 of Oracle Purchasing builds on the popularity of Oracle iProcurement's search capabilities by offering professional buyers a similar search interface to easily find the items they need to procure. From the Demand Workbench, buyers can access the catalog to find negotiated alternatives to non-catalog requests. While authoring orders and agreements, buyers can use the catalog to quickly add items, thereby accelerating the document creation process.

Document Publishing Enhancements

Release 12.0 further enhances the 11i10 feature, which introduced the ability to generate purchasing documents in Adobe PDF format.

-Support for RTF and PDF layout templates

- In Release 11i10, generation of purchasing documents in Adobe PDF format required organizations to create layout templates in the form of XSL-FO style sheets.
- With Release 12.0, organizations can also use RTF or PDF layout templates which require little training to configure and maintain.

- Publish Contracts using user specified layout

- In Release 11i.10, Oracle Purchasing supported generating purchasing documents in Adobe PDF. Format for such documents were limited to a single layout template as configured in the Document Types Setup.

- Release 12.0 enables buying organizations to easily publish documents on demand using any predefined layout template. To generate a document using a certain layout, organizations simply provide the layout name as a runtime parameter while submitting the 'PO Output for Communication' concurrent program.

Communicate Document Attachments to Suppliers

In previous releases, only text attachments were communicated to suppliers.

Release 12.0 enables buyers to communicate all necessary document attachments to suppliers. Oracle Purchasing supports various types of file attachments (MS Word, Excel, PDF etc.) that can be appended to purchasing documents in addition to long and short text attachments. Buyers can now communicate all necessary attachments to suppliers, including file attachments via email. When the system emails a purchase order to the supplier, the corresponding file attachments appear in a zip file attached to the email.

iProcurement

Changes to Oracle iProcurement are described in this section.

Catalog Management

- Oracle iProcurement provides catalog administrators online authoring capability for content stored in global blanket agreements (GBPA). The existing batch upload process continues to be optimized for handling large catalog data file uploads. It is also available for buyers (from the new Buyer's Work Center) and for suppliers (from the iSupplier Portal). Bulk-loaded items in iProcurement are migrated to newly created GBPAs. The extractor is obsolete, and the catalog content is updated in real time.

Content Security

- Release 11*i* functionality for Realms, Stores, and Catalogs has been combined and is collectively referred to as enhancements in Content Security. In this release, Content Zones have replaced Catalogs.
- Catalog administrators can partition local catalog content into Local Content Zones based on items' supplier, supplier site, item category, and browsing category information. Once defined, Content Zones may be made accessible to users with specific responsibilities or operating units. Content Zones may be assigned to multiple stores, and stores may contain multiple Content Zones.