What’s Old is New Again:
Oracle Forms 11g R2 New Features

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Objectives

- Learn the latest features available in Oracle Forms 11gR2
- Become familiar with the monitoring and administration features of Forms 11g R2
- Know the many ways Forms has improved including: HTML interaction, and new window, menu, and image features
Who Am I?

- John King – Partner, King Training Resources
- Oracle Ace ♠ - member Oak Table Network
- Providing training to Oracle and IT community for over 20 years – [http://www.kingtraining.com](http://www.kingtraining.com)
- “Techie” who knows Oracle, SQL, Java, and PL/SQL pretty well (along with other topics)
- Leader in Service Oriented Architecture (SOA)
- Home is Scottsdale, Arizona USA
- Member of ODTUG (Oracle Development Tools User Group) Board of Directors
Who Are You?

- Oracle Forms Developer
- How Long?
  - Oracle Forms 11g
  - Oracle Forms 10g / 9i (Web Forms)
  - Oracle Forms 6i (Client-Server / Web Forms)
  - Oracle Forms 4.5 – 6.0 Forms
  - Oracle Forms 4
  - Oracle Forms 3
  - Oracle Forms 2.0 – 2.3
  - IAF / IAG
Is Forms Going Away?

- NO, NO, NO, NO, NO
- Oracle is committed to supporting Oracle Forms for many years to come
- A new version of Oracle Forms (12c) is on the way!
Introduction

- Oracle Forms 11g Release 2 provides a few new features
- I consider it a minor release designed to:
  - Improve integration with other tools
  - Improve developer productivity
- Docs:
  http://download.oracle.com/docs/cd/E24269_01/index.htm
Check out this link to see what Gartner has to say about Oracle Forms migration

Oracle Forms 11g R2

- Uses Oracle WebLogic Server 11gR1 (10.3.5)
- Uses Oracle Fusion Middleware 11gR2 tech-stack (11.1.1.5.0)
- Integration with Oracle Access Manager
- Smaller Footprint
- Performance Management & Monitoring
- Real User Experience
- Developer Features
Integration with Oracle Access Manager

- Oracle Access Manager provides centralized authentication:
  - Policy-based Authorization
  - Auditing
What is Oracle Access Manager?

- Oracle Access Manager combines identity management and access control services providing:
  - Centralized authentication
  - Policy-based authorization
  - Auditing
  - Identity administration

- Oracle Access Manager is part of Fusion Middleware and is based upon Oracle Enterprise Manager
Reduced Installation Footprint

- Installation may be tailored to components needed reducing memory and processing requirements
- Reduced but still not small
Several features allow for improved performance management and monitoring

- Pre-start Forms Runtime based upon time and number of users
- NetworkStats provides network performance monitoring
- Performance metrics may be logged to a database
Platform Certification

- Oracle Forms 11g R2 includes new platform certifications including Windows 64 bit support
Need Help Installing?

- Be forewarned: Windows 64-bit Forms can be difficult to install.
- Grant Ronald (from Oracle) suggests on his blog that you refer to Mia Urman’s (OraPlayer) documentation on installing Oracle Forms 11g R2 on Windows 64-bit machines:
  - http://oracleformsinfo.wordpress.com/2012/03/07/tips-and-tricks-the-dummies-guide-to-installing-oracle-forms-11g-r2-on-64-bit/
  - Shopping List of software required
  - Complete Install Notes
Real User Experience Insight

- Oracle Real User Experience Insight (RUEI) provides non-intrusive monitoring of user-application interactions allowing fine-grained collection of user experience data including:
  - User page visits
  - Length of time users spend on page
  - Task completion time
Why Should I use RUEI?

- Oracle Real User Experience Insight (RUEI) provides non-intrusive monitoring via Network Protocol Analysis (NPA) technology
  - No modification of applications required
  - No instrumentation added to application
  - Passive monitoring
RUEI in Action

- Client IP, Server IP
- URL (Page, Object)
- Cookie/Session ID
- Referrer
- Time/Date

- Response?
  - Server/website error, Hit OK
  - Size
  - Time/Date

- Delivered?
  - Aborted?
  - Network timeout?
  - Time/Date
Other Features

- PL/SQL Editor Line numbers
- Maximizable Forms Window
- Dynamic URI for Read_Image_File and iconic buttons
- Optional Display of Menus and Decorations
- Improved NCHAR
- Font Anti-Aliasing
Features You Might Have Missed, 1

- Uses WebLogic like other FMW products
- Can be managed from Enterprise Manager (Enterprise Manager Fusion Middleware Control): configuration, session monitoring, session management, logging, security
- Integrated with Oracle Access Manager
- Supports database proxy users
- Adds new PJC (Pluggable Java Components) client-side
Features You Might Have Missed, 2

- Integrated with DBMS AQ via when-event-raised trigger; can push event to client; forms calls PL/SQL to publish AQ events (Form2Form)

- Java Importer allows middle-tier Java
  - HTML page raiseEvent JavaScript method on Applet object passes event (plus payload) to Form (document.forms_applet.raiseEvent(event,payload))
  - Forms receives/processes when-custom-javascript-event trigger
  - Form can execute JavaScript in HTML page via Web.Javascript_Eval_Expr(expr,target) or Web.Javascript_Eval_Function(expr,target) return varchar2
Features You Might Have Missed, 3

- Embed forms in ADF, APEX, Java
- CSS to create Web 2.0 “look and feel”
- Forms Look and Feel community project [http://fdtool.free.fr/LAF/doc/Oracle_Forms_Look_and_Feel_project.htm](http://fdtool.free.fr/LAF/doc/Oracle_Forms_Look_and_Feel_project.htm)
- PJC tools to style forms via CSS
- Integration with external services/events (web services)
Wilfred van der Deijl has created a great tool for including Oracle Forms in ADF

Oracle’s Grant Ronald wrote an excellent paper showing what’s possible with Oracle Forms available on OTN:

Lucas Jellema and AMIS (Netherlands) sponsored a “Future of Forms” conference in May 2012 where many papers were presented and demonstrations given showing what Oracle Forms can do.

Here’s a description:
http://www.amis.nl/theme/amis/uploadedFiles/PDF/Future%20of%20Forms%20EN%20DAG.pdf
The “Oracle Forms Look and Feel Project” is a treasure-trove of examples for creating new and exciting applications with Forms (thank you Francois DeGrelle!)

http://fdtool.free.fr/LAF/doc/Oracle_Forms_Look_and_Feel_project.htm
Oracle’s home page for Forms has many interesting articles and links:

http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/developer-tools/forms/overview/index.html
Here is a list of some blogs to follow if you are interested in “what’s hot” in the Oracle Forms world:

- **Frank Nimphius**
- **Grant Ronald**
- **Shay Shmeltzer**
- **Lucas Jellema**
- **François Degrelle**
- **Mia Urman**
- **Wilfred van der Deijl**
- **Scott Tiger**
Additional Examples

- Thanks to Mia Urman for the following list of Forms example URLs:
  - Forms Javascript with google maps demo
    http://iadviseblog.wordpress.com/2010/06/10/forms-11g-javascript-integration-call-others/
  - Live demos of the look and feel project
    http://fdtool.free.fr/LAF/doc/demos.htm
  - Some great slides of new features
    http://oracleformsinfo.files.wordpress.com/2012/02/reach_for_the_clouds_final_web.pdf
  - Running Oracle Forms on the mobile - Demo
    http://oracleformsinfo.files.wordpress.com/2012/02/reach_for_the_clouds_final_web.pdf
Wrapping It Up

- Oracle’s support for Forms will continue for some time to come
- New development features in Forms are unlikely (product will be pretty static)
- Most new Forms features will provide integration with Fusion Middleware components or management/monitoring
- Oracle Forms is not going anywhere; it is not necessary to “convert” things to ADF or APEX (or anything else for that matter)
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Thanks for your attention!

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