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

**Presented by: John Jay King**
King Training Resources - john@kingtraining.com

**Download this paper from: http://www.kingtraining.com**

# Objectives

- Learn the latest features available in Oracle Forms 11gR2

- Become familiar with the monitoring and administration features of Forms 11g R2

- Now how to improve HTML interaction using new window, menu, and image features

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# Who Am I?

- John King – Partner, King Training Resources
- Oracle Ace
- Providing training to Oracle and IT community for over 20 years – 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
- 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

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# How Did We Get Here?

IAF/IAG

SQL*Forms 2.0 & 2.3

SQL*Forms 3.0

Oracle Forms 4.0

Oracle Forms 4.5 & 5.0

Oracle iDS Forms 6i & 6i Web Forms

Oracle 9i Forms & 10g Forms

Oracle Forms 11g

Oracle Forms 11g R2

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# 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**

# Forms 11g R2 Documentation

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# Gartner Report on Forms

- Check out this link to see what Gartner has to say about Oracle Forms migration

  http://www.gartner.com/technology/reprints.do?id=1-198LN9P&ct=120208&st=sb

# 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

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## 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

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# Performance and Monitoring

- 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

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## Platform Certification

- Oracle Forms 11g R2 includes new platform certifications including Windows 64 bit support

- The complete spreadsheet of certified browsers, JRE, databases, and operating systems is on the Oracle Technology Network www.oracle.com/technology

  at

  http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/middleware/ias/downloads/fusion-certification-100350.html

# 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

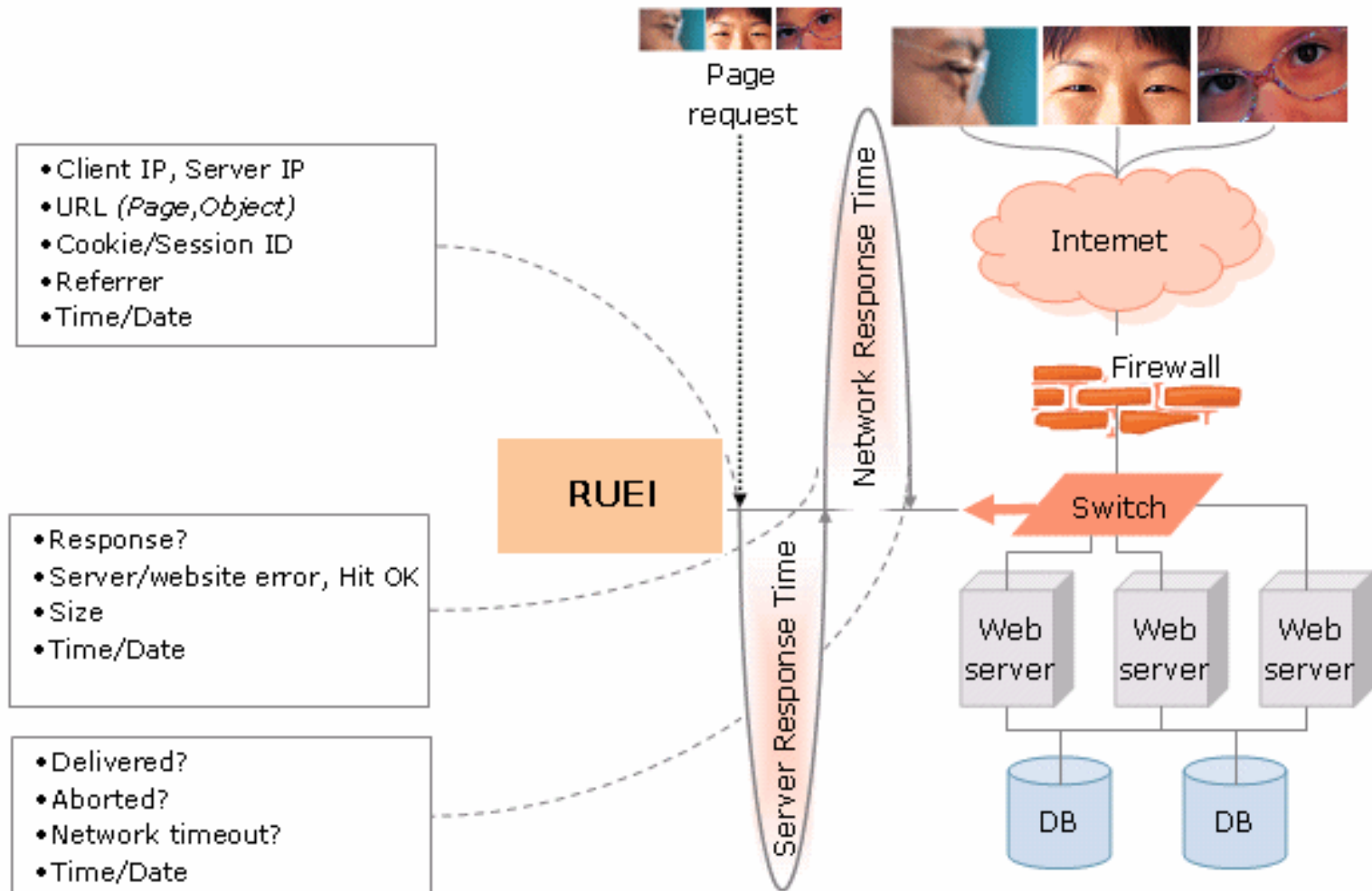  - Complete Install Notes

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# 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

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# What is Oracle Real User Experience Insight?

- 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

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# RUEI in Action

# RUEI Management Screen

# 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

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# Forms 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 PJCs (Pluggable Java Components) client-side

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# Forms 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

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# Forms 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
- PJC tools to style forms via  CSS
- Integration with external services/events (web services)

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## Using Oracle Forms in ADF

- Wilfred van der Deijl has created a great tool for including Oracle Forms in ADF

  http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/articles/wilfred-adf-forms-099635.html

## Grant Ronald's "Ten Years Younger" Paper

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

  http://www.oracle.com/ocom/groups/public/@otn/documents/webcontent/459564_en-gb.pdf

## "Future of Forms" Conference

- Lucas Jellema and AMIS (from Holland) 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

## Oracle Forms Look and Feel Project

- 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 Forms Page

- Oracle's home page for Forms has many interesting articles and links:

  http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/developer-tools/forms/overview/index.html

# Blogs to Follow

- 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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*What's Old is New Again:*

*Oracle Forms 11g R2*

To contact the author:

**John King**

**King Training Resources**

PO Box 1780

Scottsdale, AZ  85252-1780 USA

1.800.252.0652 - 1.303.798.5727

Email: john@kingtraining.com

**Thanks for your attention!**

Today's slides are on the web:

**http://www.kingtraining.com**

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