



Integrating people, processes, and technology!™

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Question/Comment:

Is there a site with Product Configurator running under 11i?

Answer:

Currently, we know of no sites that are successfully running Oracle Configurator under 11i. The discussion in the Order Management and BOM/Engineering Q & A's indicate that Oracle Configurator still poses challenges for most customers.

Question/Comment:

What solutions/workarounds exist currently for the 11i Payroll problems?

Answer:

Some users after moving to 11i experienced trouble with cost-based queries in HR/Payroll. Applying patch 1513266 (available from MetaLink) solved the problem for some of them. Oracle made available another patch 1364314 that was never officially released to assist users with performance issues.

Certain elements process differently in 11i—PTO elements; regular, non-worked, separate check earnings; and accrual plan elements. Test these very carefully in your new system.

There is a white paper about upgrading HRMS from 10.7 to 11i. Try looking at Hazards of Upgrading 10.7 HRMS to 11i by Jonathan R. LeBlanc and Marilou T. Reeder.

Question/Comment:

Is anyone using CRM effectively?

Answer:

At this point several companies are using CRM Service effectively. The Sales module is still a bit unstable. Implementing Service should give you a majority of the functionality of Sales. The 11.5.4 release due in May/June should correct the instability issues for Sales.

Question/Comment:

How much of Advanced Planning and Scheduling has been "backported" to release 11?

Answer:

For Release 11.0.x, Oracle has "back ported" some of the components that make up Advanced Planning and Scheduling—advanced supply chain planning, demand planner, and global ATP server. We are uncertain at this time about whether or not Oracle has "back ported" Risk Optimizer for Release 11.0.x.

Manufacturing scheduling is available only with 11i.

Question/Comment:

Is the Express server engine "going away"?

Answer:

No, the Express Server engine is not "going away." Our understanding is that Oracle is rolling it into the 9i Advanced Analytic Services package that is scheduled for release this summer. We've been told that if you want to continue using the Express engine in the same way, there will be a toggle in the set up of 9i that allows you to do this.

Question/Comment:

What is the average time needed for an upgrade to 11i?

Answer:

We heard two different estimates regarding upgrades to 11i, especially if you are upgrading from 10.7. Without Order Management, the estimate is around 65 hours. With Order Management, you can expect an upgrade to require about 4 days.

Question/Comment:

A BIG issue for some Oracle customers is the required licensing of iAS for 11i when any developed program exists. iAS is a Power Unit license based upon CPU count and MHZ. This can have enormous potential cost implications, which Oracle is very much aware of, but is not public with. The concern of these customers is that Oracle's approach will be to bill customers after the upgrade!!!

Answer:

When we checked about this issue, it was addressed from the viewpoint of support. In other words, if your Oracle support contract was still in force, you should be fine because your existing agreement would be "grandfathered" in. If, on the other hand, your support agreement with Oracle had lapsed then they could tie you to the new pricing structure. If you want to negotiate with Oracle, now is the best time. Oracle's year-end is 31 May. They always want "to make their numbers." Consequently, they are more reasonable now than at any other time of the year.

Question/Comment:

Are there white papers available on how others have conducted their initial data conversions?

Answer:

Yes, there are white papers. Try looking at the following—*Upgrading from 10.7 to 11i-A Rough Guide* by Milan Rahman; *Upgrading to and Administering Release 11i-A Technology Perspective* by Kent Noble; *Release 11i Applications DBA-Teaching an Old Dog New Tricks* by Randy Giefer.

Question/Comment:

Are there write-ups on how to create copies of an instance (Clone)? How long does it take to Clone a copy of production. What are the limiting factors?

Answer:

Take a look at *11i: Duplication of Oracle Applications Instances-Uncollected Procedure* by Sushil Motwani.

Question/Comment:

How many planned releases are there over the next 15 months (after 11.5.3)?

Answer:

Since Oracle was not present at this conference, we don't have an answer for this question. Oracle lists 11.5.4 as being available sometime in May or June.

Question/Comment:

Is there a plan to develop a tool to convert 10.7 Char Responsibilities (with menu structure) to 11i?

Answer:

There is a tool on the market. It is available through Crystallize Solutions. You can check their Web site at http://www.crystallizes.com/index_2.cfm.

Question/Comment:

On future 11i releases (11.5.4, 11.5.5, ...), will the upgrade steps remain the same? We are now testing the upgrade from 10.7 Char to 11.5.3.

Answer:

Since Oracle was not present at this conference, we don't have an answer for this question.

Question/Comment:

There is currently a class on Installing and Maintaining Oracle Release 11. Is there a plan to create a similar class for 11i?

Answer:

Since Oracle was not present at this conference, we don't have an answer for this question.

Question/Comment:

How much time should I allocate for my DBA to administer patches for 11i?

Answer:

According to one company with 120 users and 12 modules installed, their Apps DBA spends 9 to 10 hours per day managing patches and 5 hours per day performing regular DBA functions (the patches number in the thousands).

Question/Comment:

Is there a minimum desktop hardware requirement for 11i?

Answer:

While users indicate that Oracle is reluctant about providing specific hardware recommendations, we are hearing that desktop machines should have a minimum of 128MG of RAM with a minimum CPU of 300 MHZ. Some users are recommending 256MG of RAM.

Question/Comment:

We have a 10.7 multi-org installation. Can we upgrade directly to 11i?

Answer:

Oracle customers who have similar installations are recommending that you perform a fresh install rather than an upgrade.

Question/Comment:

We are on 10.7 character. What is the migration path? Should we go to 11.0.3 and then 11i?

Answer:

Taking this approach simply delays the pain. We suggest going directly to 11i. Although, you will want to migrate your database to 8i before you upgrade the application. This approach reduces downtime.

NOTE:

If you are upgrading Accounts Payable to 11i, expect the size of your database to double as extra tables are added during the upgrade.

Most users noted that setting up CRP's early had a significant payoff.

Question/Comment:

What are the skill sets required for 11i?

Answer:

Your team should have a good understanding of Apache, HTML, and Java. If your installation requires substantial development, the Java skill set is required.