AMEC: PART I

“This has been one of the easiest Forms conversions we’ve ever done and it was a simple recompile in all cases.”- Lloyd R. Buckler, Manager Convero Development, AMEC Inc.

Executive Summary

Convero is the Project Management System at AMEC and has run on Oracle products since the 1980’s. It was originally developed in Oracle Forms 1 (Beta) and released in Oracle Forms 2. It was then migrated to Forms 2.3, 3.4, 4.5, 6, 10g and now 11g.

The most recent goal was to upgrade the Convero Project Management system to Oracle Forms 11g in order to easily integrate with ADF and begin the process of leveraging a Java based framework and all the modern benefits it provides such as including a Service Oriented Architecture.

Organization

AMEC is a focused supplier of high-value consultancy, engineering and project management services to the world’s natural resources, nuclear, clean energy, water and environmental sectors.

With annual revenues of over £2.5 billion, AMEC has major operations in the UK and Americas and works internationally for customers from the Arctic to Australia, employing some 23,000 people in around 40 countries worldwide.

The Business Issue

AMEC has always upgraded to the latest and greatest version of Oracle Forms and they followed suit with 11g once it was available. Current modernization plans are to build feature-rich JavaServer Faces (JSF) Web applications that integrate Oracle’s Application Development Framework (ADF) with AMEC’s 1000+ 11g Forms thus providing a transition point for their future.

Going forward, AMEC intends to fully migrate their Forms 11g application to Oracle ADF which will provide them with a solid SOA base allowing them to create advanced business processes with Oracle BPEL Process Manager in order to meet the evolving global business needs of their clients.

Oracle Forms 11g integration with Oracle ADF will be elaborated on more in Part II of this study.

Key Challenges

The process of upgrading AMEC’s Convero Project Management system from Oracle Forms 10g to 11g was a simple process. The only challenges encountered were the time to create scripts and properly install and configure Oracle WebLogic Server 10.1.3.

- 1 day to develop upgrade process program using the Forms Java Development API (JDAPI).
- 2 days to develop UNIX shell scripts to run the upgrade program.
- 14 hours to run script to perform 10g to 11g upgrade.
- 3 days total time to download, properly install and configure WebLogic Server 10.1.3 and Forms 11g for production.

Solution
The solution based on Oracle Forms 11g is essentially the same as the Oracle Forms 10g application where the only difference being that the Oracle Forms 11g solution leverages the Forms JavaScript features that simplify communication with Oracle ADF.

Business Value
The primary value that the upgrade to Oracle Forms 11g has provided to AMEC is one of easy integration with Oracle ADF 11g and thus a bridge to the new application technologies.

Application View
This screenshot of the Convero Project Management application illustrates an approved purchase order.
This screenshot of the Convero Project Management application illustrates a position assignment authorization.