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Oracle Application Express
Statement of Direction
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Due to the nature of the product architecture, it may not be possible to safely include all features described in this document without risking significant destabilization of the code.
Executive Overview

Oracle Application Express is the native Web application development framework for the Oracle Database. Since its introduction in February 2004 as a feature of Oracle Database 10g, Oracle Application Express has seen tremendous uptake, with hundreds of thousands of downloads, and thousands of customers with secure, scalable web applications deployed into production. Oracle Application Express is a standard database component of Oracle Database 11g and above. Oracle continues to invest in the development and support of Oracle Application Express and new versions of Application Express will be released approximately once a year.
Oracle’s Product Strategy

Application Development Tools

Oracle provides multiple development tools including Oracle Application Express, Java development tools, and Oracle Forms. Oracle Application Express is a database centric application development framework and is designed to be used by database-centric developers who are familiar with SQL and PL/SQL.

Oracle Application Express 5.2

Oracle Application Express 5.2 will focus on both new features and enhancements to existing functionality, and it is planned to incorporate the following:

- New Create App Wizard / Blueprints - Allows creation of more advanced pages like Dashboards, Filter Reports, and so forth. Also enables adding out-of-the-box features, such as access control, notifications, feedback, and more. Blueprints represent an application definition in JSON format allowing for easy editing, and copy / paste operations.
- New Remote SQL Data Access - Extend common components such as Reports, Charts, and Calendars to use remote SQL (Using ORDS), eliminating the need for database links.
- REST Service Consumption - Provide declarative methods to define references to external REST APIs and generic JSON data feeds and to use these references as data sources for Reports, Charts, and Calendars.
- New REST Workshop - Provide declarative methods to support the development of ORDS enabled REST web services, taking advantage of the latest features and functionality of ORDS.
- Interactive Grid enhancements - Add additional capabilities such as URL based filtering, Dynamic Action support, Auto-complete item type, and general UI improvements.
- Upgrade Oracle JET and jQuery - Adopt the most recent versions of the integrated JavaScript libraries (JET 4.0) to take advantage of new Data Visualizations such as Gantt charts, Pyramid, and Box Plot, plus new Form widgets and controls.
- Universal Theme enhancements for mobile devices - Improved support for smaller screens and introduction of mobile-optimized components to allow for easier migration from jQuery Mobile apps to Universal Theme based apps.

Future Investment

As a key component of the Oracle Database, Oracle intends to continue enhancing Oracle Application Express. Oracle Application Express will be included with each new version of the Oracle Database as a standard database component. The Oracle Database Cloud Services come with Application Express preinstalled and preconfigured. Oracle Application Express is the standard application development tool included with the Oracle Database Cloud Services.
Oracle’s Support Policy

Oracle Application Express is a standard feature and component of the Oracle Database. Support guidelines for Oracle Application Express are similar to those specified for the Oracle Database.

Oracle Application Express has a large and active installed base, with over 250,000 developers creating thousands of applications. Oracle recognizes the considerable investment in Oracle Application Express by our customers and remains committed to the long-term support of this product.

Oracle’s Lifetime Support Policy

Oracle’s Lifetime Support Policy defines the support levels and dates for Oracle products. The support timelines are defined in Oracle Lifetime Support Policy: Oracle Technology Products. In general, Premier Support for Oracle Application Express is provided for 5 years from the date of general availability of a product release.


Oracle Application Express customers readily upgrade to new versions of Oracle Application Express with no loss of functionality to their applications, while capitalizing on improved performance, security, accessibility and functionality.

Conclusion

Oracle Application Express is critically important to countless Oracle customers and Oracle remains committed to the ongoing development and support of Oracle Application Express. As Web technologies evolve and mature, Oracle customers expect to quickly exploit these technologies within their own Oracle Application Express applications. Internally, Oracle uses Oracle Application Express extensively to streamline business processes and improve information availability, while also improving productivity and minimizing costs. External facing applications such as the Oracle Store (http://www.oracle.com/store) and Oracle Partner Store (http://partner.oracle.com) highlight how Oracle uses Oracle Application Express to provide public-facing web applications in multiple languages, tailored to specific countries’ business rules. These applications integrate heavily with Oracle back-office applications to fulfill customer and partner requests. Some of Oracle’s own products, including Oracle Audit Vault, include components created with Oracle Application Express. Oracle Application Express is not only critical to the success of our customers but also to Oracle itself.