

## ACCA UK Standardises on ADF and JHeadstart to Rapidly Develop Key Self-Service and Back Office Applications



ACCA, the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants  
London, United Kingdom  
[www.accaglobal.com](http://www.accaglobal.com)

**Industry:**  
Accountancy / Professional Services

**Employees:**  
732

**Oracle Products & Services:**  
An Oracle customer since 1995, using

- Oracle Database
- Oracle Forms & Reports
- Oracle XML Publisher
- Oracle eBusiness Suite
  - Financials
  - CRM
  - OTA
- Oracle Fusion Middleware
  - Application Server
  - InterConnect
  - BPEL
  - OCS & Content Services
  - Single Sign-On
- Oracle ADF & JHeadstart
- Remote Support Consulting NL

**Key Benefits:**

- Provide the organization with a scalable and secure application environment.
- Secure and protect sensitive information using VPD
- Rapidly develop solid web applications
- Easy transformation from Oracle Forms to a J2EE environment

ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) is the largest and fastest-growing global professional accountancy body with 296,000 students and 115,000 members in 170 countries. They aim to offer the first choice qualifications to people of application, ability and ambition around the world who seek a rewarding career in accountancy, finance and management.

ACCA delivers their qualifications in partnership with many organizations. Operating in 18 joint examination schemes worldwide and working closely with over 470 registered tuition providers and over 8,500 employers of accountants and finance professionals. ACCA delivers services to students and members through a network of nearly 80 offices and other centers, aiming to support them throughout their careers.

They use their expertise and experience to assist governments, donor agencies and professional bodies to develop the profession. ACCA aims to achieve and promote the highest professional, ethical and governance standards and advance the public interest.

### How do the Oracle products support ACCA's business?

Oracle technology is used across the entire application architecture. All ACCA's business data is stored on Oracle databases. The back-office processing is done by custom-built Oracle Forms/ADF and Oracle eBusiness Suite. All the B2B and B2C applications also use Oracle technology.

There are over 400,000 members and students in over 170 countries around the world. This makes ACCA truly a global organization. This requires scalable and secure applications to support all their customers (e.g. every 6 months exam results are published on ACCA's web-site, which results in almost 100,000 hits over the course of a few hours). ACCA also stores sensitive information in its database, which has restricted access. ACCA uses Oracle's Virtual Private Database facility to ensure security at the database level.

### Why did you switch from a Forms/Designer platform to a Java platform and why Oracle Java (Oracle ADF)?

The main reasons for ACCA to switch to Java were:

- Oracle's announcement to de-support Oracle Forms client/server
- Complicated to deploy Forms to staff in 40 international offices
- Applications need to support future strategic objectives (e.g. multi-lingual systems)
- Consolidating the business functions so that particular functions/services could be deployed to staff and customers, instead of having two separate systems

After having looked at different frameworks, ACCA found that Oracle ADF in combination with JHeadstart was the closest fit to their current skill sets. It holds similar concepts as they were used to using Oracle Forms (e.g. Business Components, JSF). With this they could move to a J2EE environment and still make use of their trusted design principles.

Denis Hamill, technical architect at ACCA, says:

*"JHeadstart enabled us to move smoothly from Oracle Forms to a J2EE environment and achieve similar productivity."*

### What did it take to get started using the Oracle J2EE environment?

In spring 2006 a JHeadstart expert from Oracle Consulting did an on site JHeadstart workshop for ACCA employees. This resulted in great enthusiasm for Oracle's ADF framework, especially in combination with the productivity booster JHeadstart. After that, they could start right away.

*"Without having to obtain deep Java ADF skills, JHeadstart made it possible for us to become very productive in a short period of time."*

For additional support on complex functionality, Oracle Consulting offered remote support through their Expert Services Ticketbook. This gave ACCA the possibility to acquire 5 days of remote support from our specialists on an hourly basis.

*"The remote support we receive from Oracle is very impressive and has been essential in solving "lower level" issues quickly. In addition, the JHeadstart forum on the Oracle Technology Network is very good and has a quick response time."*

### What's the current status on ACCA's ADF/JHeadstart projects?

ACCA now has three major ADF/JHeadstart applications in production, two in user acceptance test and one in development. They are essentially re-writing their entire applications in ADF.

*"Without JHeadstart, we wouldn't have been able to deliver our projects!"*