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Oracle Data Integrator 11g 11.1.1.6 New Features Overview

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Executive Overview

Oracle Data Integrator (ODI) is a best-of-breed data integration platform focused on fast bulk data movement and handling complex data transformations.

Oracle Data Integrator is fully integrated with the Oracle technology stack, including Oracle Database, Exadata Database Machine, Oracle WebLogic Server, Business Intelligence, and Oracle Applications. ODI is the strategic data integration platform for Oracle.

The 11g version of ODI has pushed the state of the art technology in data integration further ahead of the rest of the industry. Since the first 11g release in July 2010, Oracle has continued its investments on this strategic data integration platform.

For this new ODI 11.1.1.6 release, Oracle has included several new features and bug fixes. This whitepaper describes in detail some of the new features and capabilities offered in the 11.1.1.6 version of the Oracle Data Integrator 11g platform.

Feature Highlights: BI and Data Warehousing

The following features have been added in this release for customers using Oracle Data Integrator in Business Intelligence and Data Warehousing projects.

Shortcuts

This ODI release introduces new objects called shortcuts which greatly improve productivity by allowing end users to express the large commonality that often exists between two different versions of the same source application, such as same tables and columns, same constraints, and same transformations.

Shortcuts are links to common Oracle Data Integrator objects stored in separate locations and can be created for datastores, integration interfaces, packages, and procedures. In addition, release tags have been introduced to manage the materialization of shortcuts based on specific tags.

Tracking Variables and Sequences

Variables and sequences are often used in Oracle Data Integrator processes. Oracle Data Integrator 11.1.1.6 introduces a new feature allowing end users to determine the actual values of variables and sequences that were used during an executed session. Tracking variables and sequences is extremely useful for debugging purposes.

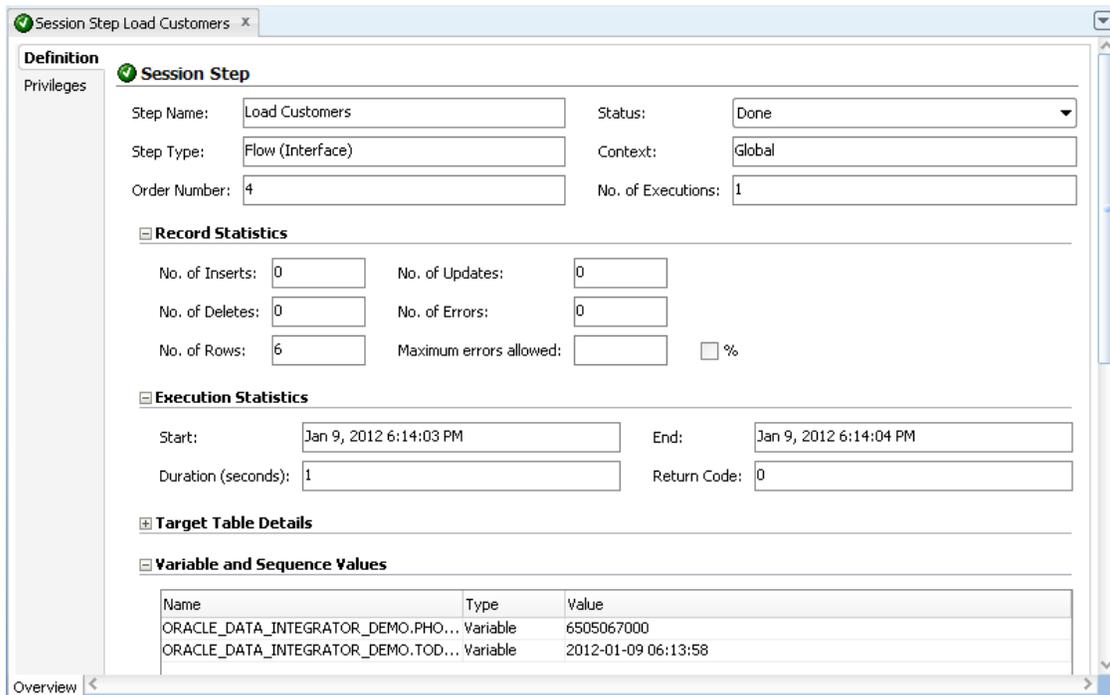


Figure 1 - Variable and Sequence Values are displayed in the Operator Navigator

With the variable tracking feature you can also easily determine whether the variable was used in a mapping or an internal operation such as an Evaluate Variable step.

Global Knowledge Modules

ODI 11.1.1.6 introduces Global Knowledge Modules (KMs) allowing specific KMs to be shared across multiple projects. In previous versions of Oracle Data Integrator, KMs were specific to Projects and could only be used within the project into which they were imported. Global KMs are now listed in the Designer Navigator in the Global Objects accordion.

Enhanced Session Logging

The readability of the execution logs has been improved in this patch for Knowledge Modules and Procedure steps. The final code for source and target commands is now available in the Operator Navigator, making it easier to review executions containing several runtime parameters.

Handling Failed Load Plan Enhancements

It is now possible to change the execution status of a failed Load Plan step from Error to Complete on the Steps tab of the Load Plan run Editor. This particular Load Plan step will then be ignored the next time the Load Plan run is restarted. This is useful, for example, when the error causing this Load Plan step to fail is not possible to fix at the moment and you want to execute the rest of the Load Plan regardless of this Load Plan step status.

Enhanced Variable Handling in Load Plans

Load Plan variables that are not used in a Load Plan can now be hidden to improve the readability of Load Plans.

Feature Highlights: Development Lifecycle

Oracle Data Integrator has been enhanced to further simplify the management of the development lifecycle. The following feature has been added in ODI 11.1.1.6:

Smart Export and Import

Exporting and importing Oracle Data Integrator objects between repositories is a common practice when working with multiple environments such as Development, Quality Assurance and Production. The new Smart Export and Import feature guides you through this task and provides advanced code management capabilities.

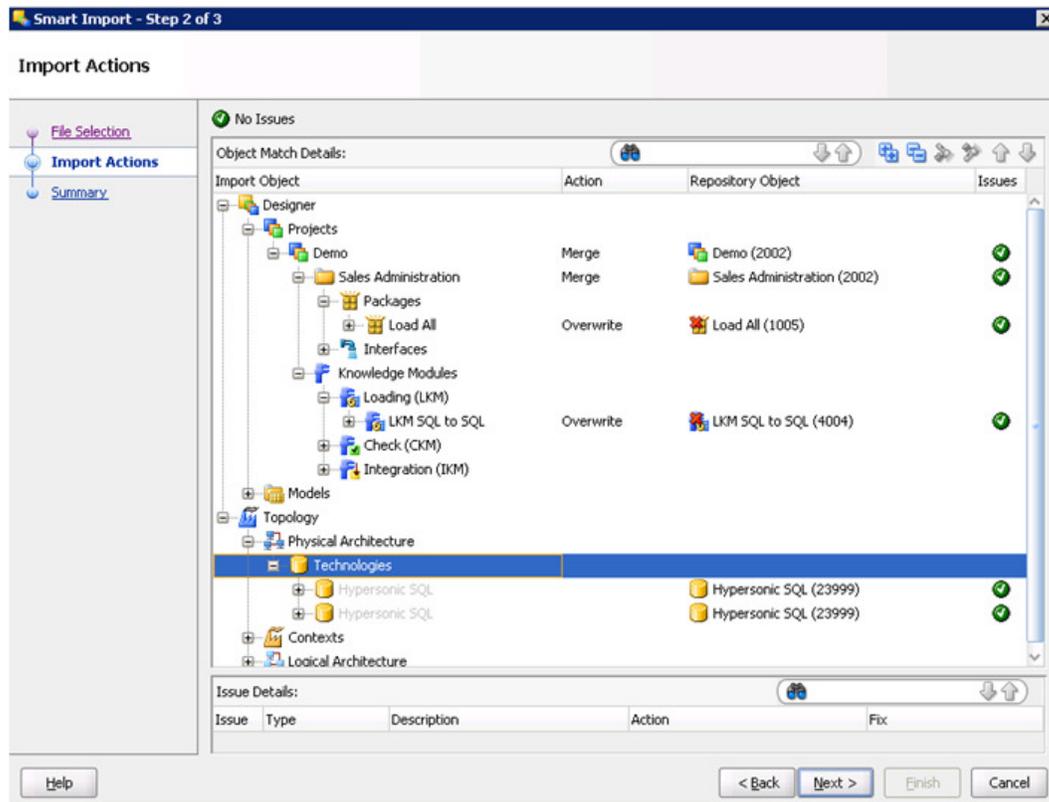


Figure 2 - Smart Export and Import provides a lightweight and consistent export and import mechanism.

Smart Export automatically exports an object with all its object dependencies. It is particularly useful when you want to move a consistent lightweight set of objects from one repository to another because Oracle Data Integrator manages all object dependencies automatically while creating a consistent subset of the repository.

The Smart Export and Import feature is a lightweight and consistent export and import mechanism providing several key features such as:

- Automatic and customizable object matching rules between the objects to import and the objects already present in the repository
- A set of actions that can be applied to the object to import when a matching object has been found in the repository
- Proactive issue detection and resolution that suggests a default working solution for every broken link or conflict detected during the Smart Import

Feature Highlights: Data Quality

Oracle Enterprise Data Quality extends the Data Quality features of Oracle Data Integrator to provide advanced data governance capabilities. This release integrates Oracle Data Integrator and Oracle Enterprise Data Quality together.

Enterprise Data Quality Integration

With the EnterpriseDataQuality Open Tool it is now possible to invoke an Oracle Enterprise Data Quality (Datanomic) Job in a Package. Developers can design a Data Quality process in Oracle Enterprise Data Quality and then invoke it in a Package in ODI along with the ETL steps.

The EnterpriseDataQuality Open Tool is installed using the standard procedure for Open Tools and can be used in a Package or a Procedure, similarly to the tools provided out of the box in Oracle Data Integrator.

Other Features

In addition to the features listed above, the following features have been included in this patch.

Groovy Editor

This release introduces the Groovy editor. The Groovy editor provides a single environment for creating, editing, and executing Groovy scripts within the ODI Studio context. It provides all standard features of a code editor such as syntax highlighting and common code editor commands.

Support of Undo and Redo Operations

It is now possible to undo or redo changes in editors, dialogs, wizards and in the Property Inspector using the following keyboard shortcuts: CTRL+Z and CTRL+Y.

Autocomplete for Text Fields and Lists

Certain text components and drop down lists in the ODI Studio now support the auto-complete feature, making end users more productive.

Version Numbering for Knowledge Modules

The version numbering of Knowledge Modules improves the information provided to identify the used environment:

- It is now possible to determine when a Knowledge Module (KM) has been modified and when it is not the original Knowledge Module as released by Oracle.
- The KM modifications can be tracked by a version number.

- It is now possible to find out when a KM has been released with an external component such as a jar file or a dll file (This is the case for example for the SAP and Hyperion KMs.)
- It is possible to indicate whether a given ODI version is compatible with a specific KM version.

Conclusion

With this ODI 11.1.1.6 release Oracle has consolidated numerous one-off patches, and introduced new enhancements such as Shortcuts, Smart Export and Import, Global Knowledge Modules or the integration with Oracle Enterprise Data Quality. This new release continues to improve Oracle's strategic Data Integration platform while preserving the key product differentiators: Declarative Design, Knowledge Modules, Hot-Pluggability, and E-LT.



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