E-BUSINESS SUITE ADAPTER FOR ORACLE CONTENT MANAGEMENT | IMAGING

The E-Business Suite Adapter for Oracle Content Management’s imaging solution automates paper-intensive processes by coupling document capture and imaging technology with workflow, to enable organizations running E-Business Suite to streamline high volume, document-intensive processes like invoice processing or employee on-boarding. The Adapter delivers a seamlessly integrated user experience to E-Business Suite, via a loosely-coupled, service oriented architecture that brings imaging capabilities to any forms-based application module, and can also be extended for use by those outside of the E-Business Suite environment to achieve greater efficiencies.

The Business & Technology Benefits of Image-enabled Business Applications

The E-Business Suite Adapter for Oracle Content Management’s imaging solution delivers an advanced imaging and workflow solution, with a core set of features that help manage large volumes of content and streamline operations across all functions that support critical business processes – back office clerks, departmental managers, business users and IT administrators.

- **For the back office clerk,** the imaging solution streamlines common operations like data entry by exposing imaging and workflow capabilities from within Oracle E-Business Suite interfaces. Imaged documents are exposed using familiar menus and hotkeys, and data entry is done via Oracle E-Business Suite screens. This allows the user to leverage business rules and validations provided by Oracle E-Business Suite, while the final validated data can be pushed into the imaging system eliminating the manual indexing of images. Additionally, the solution provides the ability to retrieve supporting documents by executing searches against index data allowing documents to be easily accessed from multiple business records e.g. a vendor contract that may need to be referred to while reviewing any invoice from that vendor.

- **For the departmental manager,** the imaging solution cuts down on departmental processing time by leveraging the powerful Oracle BPEL Process Manager workflow engine for areas of process automation that are not natively handled by ERP systems, such as exception handling. The workflow integration is designed to complement and take advantage of validation and approval rules that customers may have already configured in Oracle E-Business Suite, building out workflows to provide a complete solution to support process such as Accounts Payable or Expense Management. Real-time business intelligence capabilities are provided by Oracle Business Activity Monitoring, offering visibility into in-flight processes at the individual and aggregate level which enables workload to be monitored and process bottlenecks to be identified enabling continuous process improvement.

- **For the business user,** the imaging solution provides access to those users who are outside the E-Business Suite environment, exposing imaged documents as standard URLs in email notifications, for easy review and approval.

- **For the IT administrator,** the imaging solution offers a flexible, enterprise-wide solution that enables them to meet the functional requirements of financial management automation
as well as other departments who require imaging and workflow functionality, without having to sacrifice the integrity of their applications infrastructure or increase IT expenses in order to do so. As a loosely-coupled, service oriented architecture-based integration, the E-Business Suite Adapter for Oracle Content Management requires minimal hooks to integrate with Oracle E-Business Suite, ensuring that ongoing maintenance and future system upgrades will not require high services costs or jeopardize the ability to upgrade one system without impacting the other.

A Better Approach to Integrating Imaging with Applications

The E-Business Suite Adapter for Oracle Content Management’s imaging solution includes the following components:

- **Oracle Imaging and Process Management (Oracle I/PM):** Oracle I/PM acts as the storage and retrieval system for imaged documents. It provides a highly scalable and secure content repository, with built in lifecycle management that effectively handles documents throughout the various stages of business operations until they need to be archived for safekeeping. Oracle I/PM includes a restricted use license of Oracle Business Process Management Suite, enabling it to leverage the Oracle BPEL Process Manager for workflow. Oracle I/PM also includes the viewer component, to expose images, and provides the annotation and redaction capabilities.

- **E-Business Suite Adapter for Oracle Content Management – Imaging Solution:** The adapter is an out-of-the-box integration that manages the list of configured integrations and their association with the solution templates. This allows the additional commands which are made available to E-Business Suite users and what happens when a command is invoked from the E-Business Suite screen to be configurable via Oracle I/PM tools and not hard-coded in the Oracle E-Business Suite integration. The E-Business Suite Adapter for Oracle Content Management is built using a standardized application extension framework, to ensure consistency for all integrations, across E-Business Suite modules and other applications.

- **UI extensions:** Configurable E-Business Suite user interface extensions via the custom.pll customization mechanism for accessing workflow tasks (e.g. data entry, approvals, invoice review) and documents associated with business records.

- **Implementation accelerators:** Best practice templates for automating invoice and receipt processing comprising BPEL-based workflows with associated approval rules, data entry forms and reports.

The E-Business Suite Adapter for Oracle I/PM’s integration approach allows Oracle I/PM to
be maintained separately from your Oracle E-Business Suite environment, while providing end users access to documents and workflow tasks in the context of their application environment. A simple example of the functionality that the adapter component provides to E-Business Suite users is accessing images.

**Document Access With Oracle I/PM and E-Business Suite Payables**

Accounts payable clerks often have to search for invoices submitted by a particular vendor – the clerk enters the vendor information into the Oracle E-Business Suite Payables Invoice Workbench and executes the search.

The scanned invoice is accessible via the standard E-Business Suite paperclip attachment mechanism. Additionally this screen has been configured (via the E-Business Suite Adapter) to add a ‘Search Vendor Documents’ menu. Organizations can also secure the integrations – exposing different menus to different E-Business Suite responsibilities.

Clicking on the menu item executes a search in Oracle I/PM passing the supplier number of the selected invoice as the parameter to the search. The search returns all the correspondence,
such as contracts or W9s, or invoice images that have been received from this supplier. The documents are opened in the Oracle I/PM viewer allowing the user to annotate the document if necessary e.g. to post a note about an incorrect address.

The search that is executed as well as the mapping between the record information that is being displayed and the search parameters in Oracle I/PM is configured via the E-Business Suite Adapter for Oracle Content Management. This approach allows additional searches to be made available e.g. during invoice data entry the organization may also want to be able to search for all invoice images from a vendor that have the same invoice number to validate whether a new invoice is a duplicate or a re-submission.

Maximize Your IT Investment by Image-enabling the Enterprise

With the E-Business Adapter for Oracle Content Management’s imaging solution, accounts payable automation is just the beginning. As an enterprise imaging platform, you can expand services to other Oracle Financials applications or even to other E-Business Suite modules, from Human Resources to Order Management – without the complexity of administering multiple imaging systems, or incurring additional licensing costs. Oracle Content Management is the planned default imaging repository for Oracle Fusion Applications, so you can rest easy that you’ve made a sound long-term investment that will provide ongoing high return — image-enable applications across the enterprise, built on open integrations, with the simplicity of a single vendor solution only from Oracle.

Contact us

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