

Oracle WebCenter Interaction Statement of Direction

February 2009

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INTRODUCTION

Oracle WebCenter Interaction, formerly BEA AquaLogic User Interaction (ALUI), is an integrated collection of components used to create enterprise portals, collaborative communities, line-of-business Intranets and social applications. WebCenter Interaction (WCI) provides rich capabilities for social networking and other Web 2.0 initiatives within a heterogeneous enterprise. These features are designed for diverse platforms with native support for .NET and Java environments and provide a range of capabilities from infrastructure services to collaboration and Microsoft SharePoint integration for knowledge workers.

WebCenter Interaction customers can enhance their deployments with enterprise content management capabilities through Oracle Universal Content Management (UCM) and can add Enterprise 2.0 capabilities to their existing portals using Oracle WebCenter Services. WCI has certified interoperability with both of these complementary solutions.

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Oracle WebCenter Interaction is available as part of Oracle WebCenter Suite which also includes WebCenter Framework, WebLogic Portal, WebCenter Services and other related components. For a complete overview of WebCenter Suite, please refer to the Introduction to Oracle WebCenter Suite whitepaper on the Oracle Technology Network located at <http://webcenter.oracle.com>.

ALUI customers prior to the acquisition of BEA can upgrade their ALUI/WCI components or purchase additional licenses on an individual component basis. Oracle plans to fully support WebCenter Interaction with ongoing major and minor releases that will provide significant enhancements to product functionality including certified interoperability with other Oracle Fusion Middleware components and Oracle enterprise applications.

ORACLE'S OVERALL PORTAL PRODUCT STRATEGY

Maintain leadership through innovation and continued individual product enhancements that protect customers' investments, including no rip and replace or forced migration.

Integrate the different parts of the Portal portfolio through native APIs and standards-based, producer-consumer patterns to ensure backward capability and new capabilities for all existing portal customers including WebCenter Interaction customers.

Maximize engineering efforts by delivering shared infrastructure through common, standards based componentized services such as WebCenter Web 2.0 Services.

Provide significant new capabilities to augment your portal deployment with pre-integrated Enterprise Content Management, Web Content Management, Identity Management, Business Intelligence and other Oracle infrastructure components

Offer a product Suite (WebCenter Suite) that includes all of the portal products plus a common set of services to allow customers maximum flexibility in determining the feature set that is best for their situation.

Set a common direction for unified portal framework elements to meet the future needs of portal, middleware and application customers.

MAPPING ALUI COMPONENTS TO WEBCENTER PRODUCTS

The ALUI product family has been rebranded and re-packaged as part of Oracle's WebCenter Suite and WebCenter Services portal solutions as well, in some cases, as part of Oracle's Secure Enterprise Search solution. As part of the go-forward Oracle product strategy, select ALUI products have been replaced by equivalent functionality via alternative products – these alternatives also represent the upgrade option for existing customers who wish to upgrade their current ALUI products. Please contact your Oracle sales representatives for further details. All ALUI products, regardless of go-forward status, continue to be supported by Oracle as per the terms of customers' valid maintenance agreements. The new rebranding and packaging for key ALUI components is summarized below:

- AquaLogic Interaction (ALI) – the core portal framework has been rebranded WebCenter Interaction and is part of WebCenter Suite.
- ALI Collaboration – provides project team collaboration for documents, tasks and event. This product has been rebranded WebCenter Collaboration and is part of WebCenter Suite.
- ALI Analytics – provides metrics-based reporting analytics on user activity and content usage. This product has been rebranded WebCenter Analytics and is part of WebCenter Services.
- ALI Studio – this ALI add-on product is expected to be replaced by capabilities in WebCenter Services via new Polls, Survey and Lists portlets expected in the 11g timeframe.
- ALI Publisher – the web content publishing add-on to ALI is replaced going-forward by the Web Content Management functionality of Oracle Universal Content Management. The last release was Publisher 6.5 in August 2008.
- AquaLogic Ensemble – provides REST-based application integration blending Web resources via mashups to any existing application built in PHP,

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PERL, .NET, Ruby and other development frameworks. This product has been rebranded WebCenter Ensemble and is part of WebCenter Services.

- Aqualogic Pages – this product has been replaced by the wiki/blog features in WebCenter Services.
- AquaLogic Pathways – this product has been replaced by WebCenter Services and Oracle Secure Enterprise Search.
- ALI .NET App Accelerator – allows developers to integrate new or existing Microsoft ASP.NET applications and services directly into any compliant WSRP consumer. This product has been rebranded WebCenter Application Accelerator for .NET and is part of WebCenter Suite.
- SharePoint Console – is a packaged integration solution for Microsoft Windows SharePoint Services that allows users to easily search, discover and retrieve SharePoint resources for use in enterprise-class WebCenter deployments. This product has been rebranded WebCenter SharePoint Console and is part of WebCenter Suite
- ALI Identity Services and ALI Content Services – these products have been rebranded WCI Identity Services and WCI Content Services and are part of WebCenter Suite.
- ALI Grid Search – this federated search product has been replaced by Oracle Secure Enterprise Search.
- ALI Integration Services – these products have been replaced by features in WebCenter Suite and Secure Enterprise Search

ORACLE WEBCENTER INTERACTION 10.3

Oracle WebCenter Interaction 10g R3 or 10.3 is the first generally available Oracle branded release of the ALUI products. From a versioning and upgrade perspective, WCI 10.3 is equivalent to ALI 6.5 MP2. In addition to rebranding, select WCI 10.3 components also included new features as summarized below:

- New features in Oracle WebCenter Interaction 10.3 include:
 - Expanded experience definition capabilities that allow experience rules based on browser HTTP header strings. This allows easier creation of experience definitions targeted for specific devices (such as Blackberrys or iPhones) and/or specific browsers (IE, FireFox, Safari etc.).
 - Enhancements to adaptive layouts including: adaptive-layout based search results, out-of-the-box iPhone adaptive layout and global overrides for adaptive layouts
 - Key interoperability with Oracle WebCenter Services and Oracle Universal Content Management via certified integration.

Oracle WebCenter Interaction (WCI) 10gR3 is the first Oracle branded release of ALUI products and is equivalent to ALI 6.5 MP2.

- Support for Oracle WebLogic Server 10.3 and Java 6.
- WCI 10.3 also continues full support for other platforms such as IIS and WebSphere Application Server; for a complete list of supported platforms, please refer to the interoperability support matrix for WCI 10.3 found here: <http://e-docs.bea.com/platform/suppconfigs/BIDExtInteroSupportMatrix3.xls#IntegrationWksheet>
- New features in Oracle WebCenter Ensemble 10gR3 include:
 - Widget Production enables secure (SSO) access and modification of non-portal pages as well as page consumption in WCI and UCM.
 - Web Injection for inserting widgets, changing styles and content on any web page proxied by Ensemble.
 - JavaScript Widgets allow portlets to be inserted into any page and integrated with the portlet's authentication mechanism.
 - Other features include Lightweight Web page Clipping, REST-based APIS for resource and widget introspection including CRUD operations and enhanced SPNEGO support for federated identity.

ORACLE WEBCENTER INTERACTION RELEASE 11

WebCenter Interaction 11g is the next planned release under development and is expected to include new Enterprise 2.0 capabilities that extend its collaborative environment from 10gR3 in order to improve knowledge management, communication and teamwork. Furthermore, UI and user experience features introduced in WCI 10gR3 are expected to be enhanced in 11g. WCI 11g is also expected to include improved standards support to better integrate both with Oracle products and with additional enterprise-class applications and services. Finally, WCI 11g is expected to consolidate many of its underlying services to better leverage existing Oracle technology to enhance deployment.

New Enterprise 2.0 Capabilities

WCI 11g is expected to support a broad array of Web 2.0 services including tagging, blogs, wikis, micro-blogging (“wall” portlet), networks, groups, friends, customizable social profiles, social bookmarking, activity feeds, crowd sourcing, rating, and status updates. Many of these capabilities were introduced in WCI 10gR3 but release 11g is expected to significantly refine and improve on the first versions. WCI 11g is expected to leverage WebCenter Web 2.0 Services 11g to deliver as much of these as possible with additional integration options of RSS/Atom/REST/simple HTML in addition to WSRP.

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UI/User Experience Enhancements

WCI 11g is expected to provide additional adaptive layouts aligned with Oracle's branding styles. Other user experience focus areas expected in this release include enhanced password management functionality for WCI native users and groups and productized portlets (beyond the samples provided in ALI 6.5) for user profile pages.

Collaboration Enhancements

WebCenter Collaboration 11g is expected to include Office Task Panel functionality for Collaboration artifacts and the ability to include wikis, blogs and Excel spreadsheet functionality on a per Project basis in Collaboration.

Content Management

WebCenter Interaction 11g is expected to include certification with Publisher 6.5. WCI 11g also includes a crawler for UCM for KD that will enable search and a Content Publisher portlet for content publishing in the portal.

Expanded Standards and Platform Support

WCI 11g is expected to continue full support of .NET as a first-class development platform and is expected to continue to support WCI 10.3-certified OS and application server platforms in addition to new standards and platforms listed below.

WCI 11g is expected to increase support for industry standards including WSRP 2.0 and SAML. WCI 11g is expected to enable native consumption of SharePoint .NET WebPart as part of the next release of WebCenter SharePoint Console.

WCI 11g is expected to support Windows Server 2008, IPv6 and 64-bit Windows in both Java and .NET versions. WCI 11g is also expected to support Microsoft SQL Server 2008 and .NET Framework 3.5.

Consolidation of Infrastructure Services

WCI 11g is expected to consolidate many of the underlying services of the portal framework to enhance the installation, configuration, management and scalability of WCI. The goal is to reduce the large number of WCI services that are highly distributed and start to consolidate services including leveraging key Oracle solutions where possible. Potential Oracle solutions being considered for WCI consolidation include SES for federated search and Oracle WCM (part of UCM) for web content management.

WCI 11g is expected to continue full support of .NET as a first-class development platform and is expected to continue to support the latest versions of Windows and SQL Server in addition to industry standards such as WSRP 2.0.

ORACLE'S COMMITMENT TO WEBCENTER INTERACTION

Oracle is committed to protecting the investment of WCI customers and fully maintaining, supporting, and growing its WCI installed base of customers. Oracle's product strategy for WebCenter Interaction is consistent with the requirements of existing and future WCI customers and builds upon the unique capabilities and functional strengths of WCI. Oracle has retained the WCI product engineering staff located in San Francisco and this team continues to work on future major and minor releases of the product. WCI 10.3 was the first release post-BEA acquisition and the engineering team is now working on WCI 11g.

Although former ALUI components are now packaged as WCI components with WebCenter Suite or WebCenter Services for new customers, Oracle continues to provide individual component upgrades for existing WCI customers (prior to the Oracle acquisition of BEA). Oracle plans no forced migration for existing WCI customers in conjunction with Oracle's official support policies – for more details please see Oracle's Lifetime Support Policy at:

<http://www.oracle.com/support/library/brochure/lifetime-support-technology.pdf>

As part of the rebranded WCI 10.3 release, there is certified interoperability with WebCenter Services and UCM, allowing WCI customers to easily add collaborative Web 2.0 capabilities and/or enterprise-class content management to their WCI deployments. Longer-term plans are expected to include certification of WCI interoperability with Oracle applications and other Oracle Fusion Middleware components.

Oracle is also committed to maintaining and enhancing WCI's support for heterogeneous environments including platform support for IIS, .NET, Java and WebLogic Server as well as WebSphere Application Server.

Customers invested in WebCenter Interaction are protected with current and future releases of WCI. At the same time, Oracle is setting a common direction for a unified portal framework (under the WebCenter name) to meet the future needs of portal, middleware and application customers for portal-related use cases, from extranets and employee portals to composite applications and collaborative workspaces. Different portal technologies will be rationalized over time using common, standards-based components.

Over the coming years, selected WCI capabilities are expected to be included in converged future releases of the WebCenter product suite as part of normal release cycles. For those component areas of the converged roadmap, development work done with WCI is expected to be able to migrate to the corresponding, converged WebCenter components. Oracle plans to support this product convergence with migration tools, shared infrastructure components as well as continued interoperability across the application stacks.

Customers invested in WebCenter Interaction are protected with current and future releases of WCI. Longer-term plans are expected to include certification of WCI interoperability with Oracle applications and other Oracle Fusion Middleware components.

Purpose

This document provides an overview of features and enhancements included in release 11g. It is intended solely to help you assess the business benefits of upgrading to 11g and planning for the implementation and upgrade of the product features described.

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This document is for informational purposes only and is intended solely to assist you in planning for the implementation and upgrade of the product features described. It is not a commitment to deliver any material, code, or functionality, and should not be relied upon in making purchasing decisions. The development, release, and timing of any features or functionality described in this document remains at the sole discretion of Oracle.

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.



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