

Achieving a Superior Ownership Experience in Manageability and Quality for Oracle E-Business Suite

An Oracle Whitepaper
April 2011

INTRODUCTION

Oracle E-Business Suite provides class-leading capabilities to improve the performance of organizations. To help you maximize the value of this mission critical application, and to achieve a Superior Ownership Experience in application manageability and quality, Oracle provides a set of tools that facilitate business-driven application management and cover the entire application lifecycle.

BUSINESS-DRIVEN APPLICATION MANAGEMENT

A key requirement for managing Oracle E-Business Suite Application is the ability to manage the entire application stack, which includes Oracle E-Business Suite-specific components such as Concurrent Manager and Workflow Manager, as well as infrastructure components such as database and operating system. All these components must work optimally together in order to deliver availability and performance required of the Oracle E-Business Suite applications. Therefore, it is important that all these components be managed together.

Traditional system management tools tend to provide a silo approach of management – handling each component individually, and then try to piece together information about the health of the application environment from the bottom up. Oracle Enterprise Manager goes beyond this bottom up approach by providing a business-driven perspective also, which delivers a business-centric view of the application environment and helps you manage your Oracle E-Business Suite applications according to their business requirements.

This business-driven approach starts with Application Management Suite for Oracle E-Business Suite, which extends Oracle Enterprise Manager to manage Oracle E-Business Suite applications. Through the service level management (SLM) capabilities of the management suite, your administrators can model the availability and performance requirements that your Oracle E-Business Suite application needs to satisfy, and then monitor according to these requirements automatically. This approach helps you focus your organization's resource on issues that are truly important – those that actually impact your business.

Application Management Suite for Oracle E-Business Suite is complemented by other Oracle products such as Oracle Applications Manager, Oracle Application Testing Suite, Oracle Database Management Packs, Oracle Middleware Management Packs, Oracle Provisioning Pack and System Monitoring Plug-in's for third party technologies to provide management coverage for your entire system environment, and support for each phase of the application lifecycle.

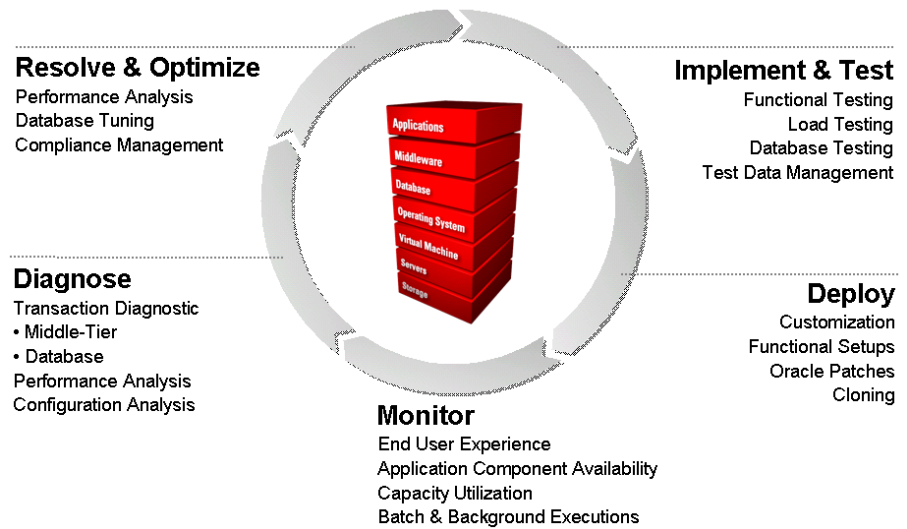


Figure 1 – Oracle E-Business Suite Application Management Solution

COMPLETE APPLICATION LIFECYCLE COVERAGE

The deployment of Oracle E-Business Suite application goes through several distinct phases – Implement & Test, Deploy, Monitor, Diagnose, and Resolve & Optimize, and each phase presents its own set of challenges. In the very first implementation cycle, your developers may take an out-of-the-box Oracle E-Business Suite application and make functional configuration changes. In subsequent cycles, your developers may take an already deployed Oracle E-Business Suite application and make further functional changes, deploy a new module, or upgrade to a new release of Oracle E-Business Suite. Throughout the implementation process, your testers need to constantly test the application to make sure that it performs properly. Your team would also be constantly migrating configuration changes from development to test to staging environments. Ultimately, when you are ready to go live with your Oracle E-Business Suite applications, your administrators would deploy your tested configuration from staging to production environment.

As you enter production, the focus shifts to management. Your administrators need to monitor the performance and availability of the application from both end user and system component perspectives. If any problem is detected, your administrators and support analysts need to triage the problem quickly in order to engage the right expert to locate problem root cause. In addition, your administrators need to monitor operational changes that are made to the environment on an on-going basis to ensure that these changes do not introduce problems into your environment.

Lastly, you need to fine tune your environment in order to achieve further optimization. The starting point of this process is a set of service level and

capacity utilization reports that provide insight on the performance, availability and resource utilization of your application. Your administrators may use the information provided by these reports to decide whether to apply software patches from Oracle, tune the database, or make other functional adjustments to the Oracle E-Business Suite application in order to improve application end user experience. You may want to test the optimization of your application in a test environment using actual production data, in which case you need to mask sensitive information so that it is not exposed unnecessarily. As you make these optimization changes, you would also need to track the changes that you make, and maintain an audit trail for compliance purpose.

In the following pages, we'll describe how you may use various Oracle technologies to accomplish tasks in each of the application lifecycle phases.

IMPLEMENT AND TEST

Challenge 1 – Ensuring Functional Conformance to Business Requirements

Running functional tests to ensure an application's implementation conforms to business functional requirements is critical to the successful adoption of the application. However, relying on redundant manual testing is an inefficient use of quality assurance (QA) resources, especially for regression tests that need to be run over and over whenever changes are made. This is particularly true for Oracle E-Business Suite given the wide array of functionality these applications provide.

Most automated testing solutions on the market carry a steep learning curve and require that your testers become programmers in order to test. Oracle Functional Testing provides an efficient and accurate way to automate functional testing of Oracle E-Business Suite applications. A powerful, easy-to-use functional testing solution, Oracle Functional Testing accurately reproduces and validates complex end-user transactions through an intuitive record-and-playback model against OA Framework and Oracle Forms based user interface elements. Oracle Functional Testing simplifies the scripting process and enables users to add custom checkpoints into their script to validate Oracle E-Business Suite application content during script playback. Oracle Functional Testing also enables automated testing at the Web Services level as an additional option, which enables users to automate testing of SOA interfaces that various E-Business Suite modules expose.

Oracle Test Manager, another component of ATS, manages the entire test process, including test requirements, manual and automated test cases, and defects identified during testing. Oracle Test Manager maximizes the return on investment for your testing tools by providing a centralized repository for storing all of your test assets, which is accessible through a simple and intuitive Web-based interface and can be completely customized to fit your test process.

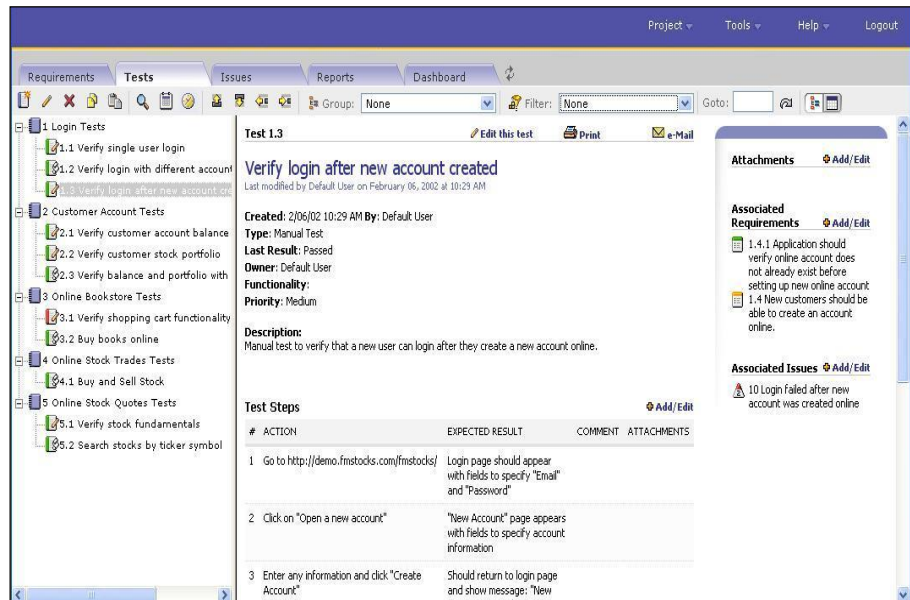


Figure 2 – Oracle Functional Testing

Challenge 2 – Projecting Capacity Utilization and Achieving Scalability

Load test is important to ensure that the application will scale and consume resources efficiently when it is used by a large number of users. Since Oracle E-Business Suite provides business critical functionality deployed to potentially thousands of users in an organization, ensuring application performance prior to deployment is critical. Manual testing is not an alternative for load testing since you can't realistically simulate the loads needed and it's impossible for testers to provide objective performance results. However, automated load testing for Oracle E-Business Suite is very difficult, given the highly dynamic nature of Oracle E-Business Suite application requests which must be accurately parameterized in order to create working load test scripts. Furthermore, as load tests are run, your testers need to be able to work with your application developers to quickly analyze performance problems that are identified during the tests in order to satisfy application performance requirements and optimize capacity utilization.

A powerful, easy-to-use performance testing solution, Oracle Load Testing can automate Oracle E-Business Suite transactions and then simulate thousands of virtual users accessing the application simultaneously to measure the effect of user load on application performance. This information is critical to inform decisions about application design, system hardware architecture and tuning options.

Testers can configure one or more scripts to run with hundreds or thousands of concurrent users simulating the load that their Oracle E-Business Suite

applications would experience in production to assess performance. Oracle Load Testing not only stresses your application to simulate the impact of end-user workloads, but also enables rigorous validation that protocol-based legacy client/server testing tools cannot provide.

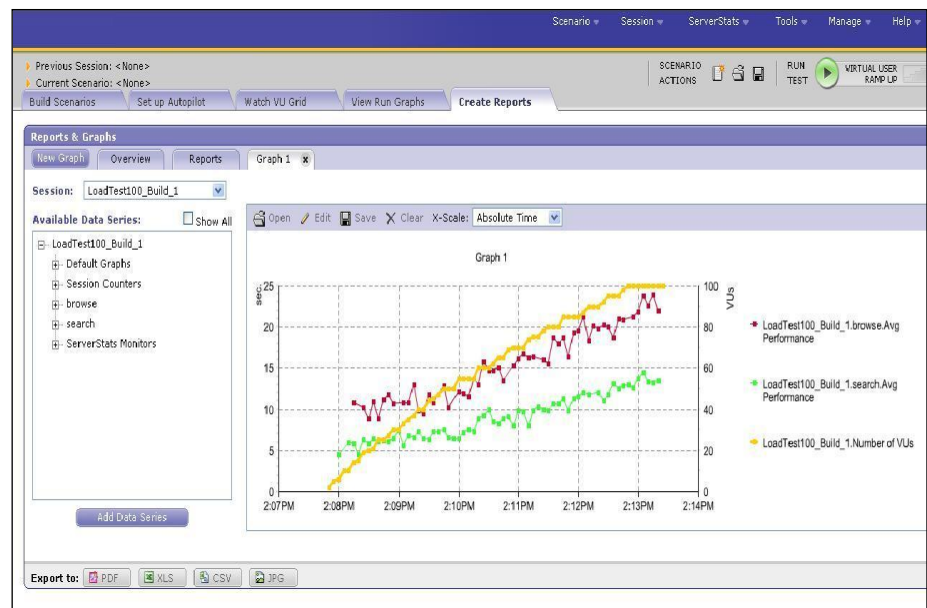


Figure 3 – Oracle Load Testing

As load tests are run, use Application Management Suite for Oracle E-Business Suite to observe the application's behavior under various load profiles. You may capture performance and utilization metrics of both Oracle E-Business Suite and the underlying server machines. All these captured metrics would be stored in Oracle Enterprise Manager's repository, and can be used to establish performance baselines that provide context for production monitoring.

Challenge 3 – Replicating Production Data to Test Optimization Changes

In carrying out optimization tasks, it is often beneficial to use real production data in order to assess optimization impacts accurately. However, using real data may raise information security and privacy concerns. Safeguarding production data and preventing leaks of confidential or sensitive information to non-production users has become a corporate imperative for all organizations – thanks to the slew of global regulations governing data privacy. The Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002 in the US or the Financial Instruments Exchange Law (FIEL) of Japan (also called J-SOX) provides enhanced standards on internal controls for corporate information. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 in the US or the European Union's Data Protection Directive are a part of the global laws governing the privacy of personal data related to individuals. Even credit card payment processors have adopted Payment Card Industry (PCI) standards regarding the use and sharing of credit card information.

Application Management Suite for Oracle E-Business Suite's cloning automation can be used to make a replica of the production environment to create a realistic testing platform. When setting up a cloning process, you may choose to scale down the number of mid-tier servers for your test environment. You may also choose to clone only the database. Lastly, you may choose to clone your production environment into an image, and then generate multiple test environments from the single image.

To protect sensitive data, Application Management Suite for Oracle E-Business Suite's cloning procedures let you scramble data as part of a clone job. You may define the columns that you want scrambled in templates, and apply these templates when setting up clone jobs. Data scrambling is an irreversible process and ensures that the original data cannot be retrieved, recovered nor restored. This capability helps maintain the confidentiality of the information while the data is copied for testing use.

DEPLOY

Challenge 4 – Orchestrating Controlled Deployment of the Tested Application

After functional and load tests confirmed the functional compliance and performance characteristics of the application, you are ready to have your administrators deploy the application into production. It is very important to make sure that the application that is deployed into production represents the exact configuration that was tested in functional and load tests. Otherwise, the application might not behave as it is expected to. Manually deploying an application, with its various functional artifacts such as metadata objects, web UI templates, database schema objects, list-of-values, etc... can be very error prone and time consuming. After deployment is carried out, your administrators may also want to validate the proper configuration of your production environment by comparing it against the tested environment, and it is very tedious to perform this task manually.

Use Application Management Suite for Oracle E-Business Suite's cloning automation tool to make a copy of your tested stage environment to create your production instance. Leveraging Oracle Enterprise Manager's deployment framework, a set of out-of-box cloning procedures allows your administrator to orchestrate and automate multi-step cloning processes, schedule and monitor their executions. In addition, they may also modify the out-of-box cloning procedures to incorporate custom scripts that they have written to implement site specific operations. Lastly, cloning procedures automates scale out deployment of the production environment by specifying the additional number of mid-tier application servers to replicate from the source environment.

For making even more granular migration of changes and updates to Oracle E-Business Suite environments, Application Management Suite for Oracle E-Business Suite provides the following capabilities: Customization Manager, Patch Manager, and Setup Manager.

Customization Manager provides a toolset and infrastructure to package and deploy custom applications, reports, and extensions. Customization Manager bundles the respective files into an AD-compliant patch, and then uses standard EBS tools to deploy those patches into downstream instances. The product supports a wide variety of files types, and also integrates into Patch Manager for deployment. Customization Manager provides a more structured and organized way to manage customizations, and lowers both the cost and resource effort for this activity.

The screenshot displays the Oracle Applications Change Management Dashboard. It features three main sections: Patch Manager, Customization Manager, and Setup Manager. The Patch Manager section shows a summary of patch completion (0% completed, 100% in progress) and a table of recent patch activities. The Customization Manager section shows a summary of package releases (0 for Release 11i, 0 for Release 12) and a table of recent package activities. The Setup Manager section shows a summary of project releases (1 for Release 11i, 5 for Release 12) and a table of recent project activities. Each section includes search filters and related links.

Oracle Applications
System Management | Change Management

Page Refreshed Apr 22, 2009 2:47:58 PM PDT

Patch Manager
Completed: 0 ✓ (0%) 1 ✗ (100%) In Progress: 0 Scheduled: 0

Recent Activity

Name	Status	Last Updated Date
patch_R12	Failed	08:52:05 AM Apr 06 2009 PDT
patch_R12	Succeeded	08:52:05 AM Apr 06 2009 PDT

Start a Patch Copy2 of Patch Oracle E-Business Suite Go

Search Patches Applied
Oracle E-Business Suite Patch Number Go

Related Links
Home

Customization Manager
Packages Released: 0 (Release 11i) 0 (Release 12)

Recent Activity

Package Name	Owner	Status	Last Updated Date
pkg file type testing on RAC	SYSMAN	Saved	06:02:10 AM Mar 31 2009 PDT
Java Package	SYSMAN	Succeeded	01:57:40 AM Mar 30 2009 PDT
with subversion	SYSMAN	Succeeded	01:39:39 AM Mar 30 2009 PDT

Search Packages
Name Go

Related Links
Home File Source Mapping Reports Create Package E-Business Suite Mapping File Metadata Repository

Setup Manager
Projects Summary: 1 (Release 11i) 5 (Release 12)

Recent Activity

Project Name	Last Updated Date
Copy of JR_RAC_Project_Apr 10 2009 20:41:24	08:42:31 PM Apr 10 2009 PDT
Copy of test2_Mar 31 2009 01:04:39	01:04:54 AM Mar 31 2009 PDT
test2	08:38:19 AM Mar 30 2009 PDT
JR_RAC_Project	06:41:07 AM Mar 30 2009 PDT
JR_Test_Project	06:39:28 AM Mar 30 2009 PDT

Search Projects
Project Name Go

Related Links
Home Create Project

Figure 4 – Change Management Dashboard

Patch Manager eliminates many of the manual, redundant tasks associated with existing patch application practices. Key features of the product include an guided interview process, the ability to deploy custom patches as well as Oracle patches, the ability to apply the patch simultaneously on multiple targets, and a central console to manage patches for all instances, to name a few. The result is that Patch Manager greatly facilitates and expedites the patching process, thereby freeing up resources to concentrate on higher value-added tasks.

Setup Manager provides substantial enhancements to an existing E-Business Suite tool, Oracle iSetup. Key enhancements include the ability to group individual extracts into a project, and then deploy that project to multiple instances simultaneously. In addition, the project concept enforces any dependencies that might exist between the individual extracts. The result is a dramatic reduction in

the amount of time and effort associated with the management of configuration information, as well as considerable improvement in consistency and accuracy.

The Change Approval Framework helps ensure that all changes go through a change approval mechanism. This change control mechanism entails one level of approval for any change that results in a configuration or code change of an Oracle E-Business Suite instance. The Change Approval Framework provides tracking and auditing with respect to the change control requests and historical data.

Oracle E-Business Suite Patch Information Configuration: VIS-Oracle E-Business Suite Patch Information Configuration >

Compare: Oracle E-Business Suite Patch Information

First Host VIS-Oracle E-Business Suite Patch Information Configurationtdsmfgebiz1.oracleleads.comCollectedSep 19, 2008 7:01:17 PM |

Second Host VIS12-Oracle E-Business Suite Patch Information Configurationtdsebizzi01.oracleleads.comCollectedSep 19, 2008 5:37:17 AM |

Summary

Patches Applied (Summary)

Patchset Information

Patches Applied (Summary)

ViewDifferencesReturn to top

Information

Only the first 2,000 rows are shown.

Previous1-10 of 2000Next10

Result	Applied Patch Id	VIS-Oracle E-Business Suite Patch Information Configuration	VIS12-Oracle E-Business Suite Patch Information Configuration	Related Details
	11,233			
	12,233			
	13,233			
	14,233			
	15,233			
	16,233			
	17,233			
	18,233			
	19,233			
	105,750			

Previous1-10 of 2000Next10

Patchset Information

ViewDifferencesReturn to top

Previous1-10 of 231Next10

Result	Application Short Name	Application Name	VIS-Oracle E-Business Suite Patch Information Configuration	VIS12-Oracle E-Business Suite Patch Information Configuration
			Patch Level 11I.AD.I.2 Creation Date Sep 7, 1995 4:09:01 PM	Patch Level R12.AD.A Creation Date Mar 9, 2005 10:03:36 AM

Figure 5 – Configuration Comparison

To ensure that Oracle E-Business Suite configurations for components such as Concurrent Manager in your production environment is consistent with your staging or test environments, you administrators may also use Application Management Suite for Oracle E-Business Suite’s configuration analysis tool to compare the production environment against the test or stage environments to make sure that the production setup is done according to the tested configuration.

MONITOR

Challenge 5 – Aligning IT Priorities with Business Demands

A common dilemma in organizations is balancing business needs with IT spending. IT management constantly needs to satisfy business owners while keeping a lid on spending and increasing IT efficiency. Key questions that need to be answered include:

- What are the IT dependencies of a business process? When business problems arise, how to determine if they are caused by IT issues?

- When changes are made to the application environment, what is the potential impact on the business?
- How to prioritize IT activities according to business needs?
- What is the impact of IT on business? Some key performance indicators needed to answer the question may be traditional IT system-based indicators while others may need to be derived from the business applications.

Application Management Suite for Oracle E-Business Suite's service level management capabilities helps you define service level objectives (SLO) based on business requirements, model the end-to-end service down to the system components it depends on, monitor performance against these goals, and report on service level agreement (SLA) compliance to key stakeholders.

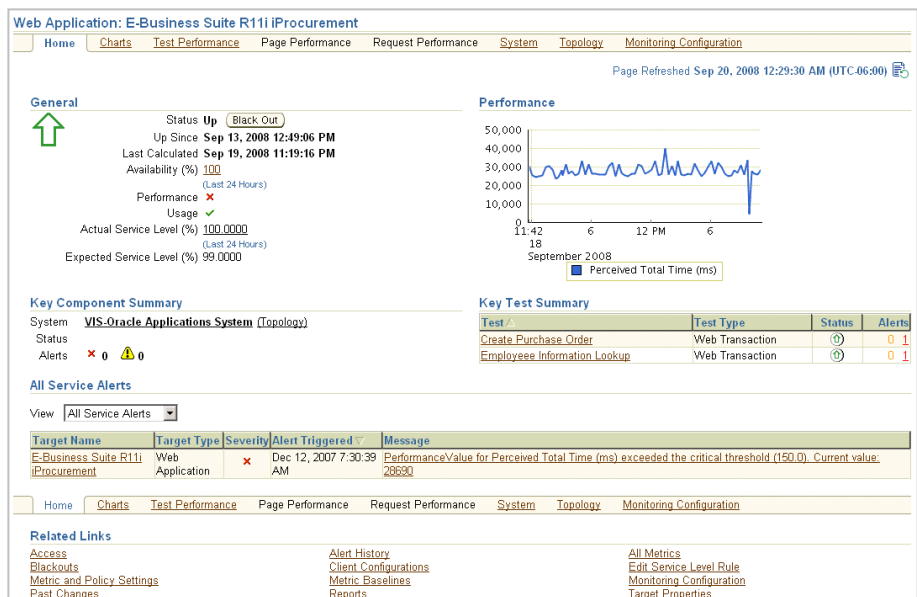


Figure 6 – Service Home Page

Service Level Objectives can be specified not only in terms of the system-level metrics for the components supporting the service, but also in terms of end user experience metrics and business KPIs imported from other systems. Application Management Suite for Oracle E-Business Suite is unique in allowing all these classes of metrics to be used in measuring service levels. The basis for the service level management capability is a modeling facility that allows you to define a business service to be composed of component services and supporting infrastructure.

To visualize the information, a services dashboard provides real-time views into service level agreements (SLAs) and, along with other custom reports, is invaluable in communicating SLA compliance to business customers.

Challenge 6 – Proactive Monitoring of the Complete Application Environment

In order to deliver the application service level required by your business, your administrators need to monitor your entire application environment proactively. This requires them to monitor all the components that make up your Oracle E-Business Suite environment, including components such as Concurrent Manager, Workflow Manager, web server, database server, server machines, network and storage devices. The key metrics that your administrators need to monitor include component up/down status, load, resource utilization, performance, exceptions such as errors and warnings etc... The monitoring needs to be carried out in a “lights out” manner with the monitoring tool alerting the administrators only when a problem occurs so that administrators are freed to concentrate on their other duties when the application is functioning normally.

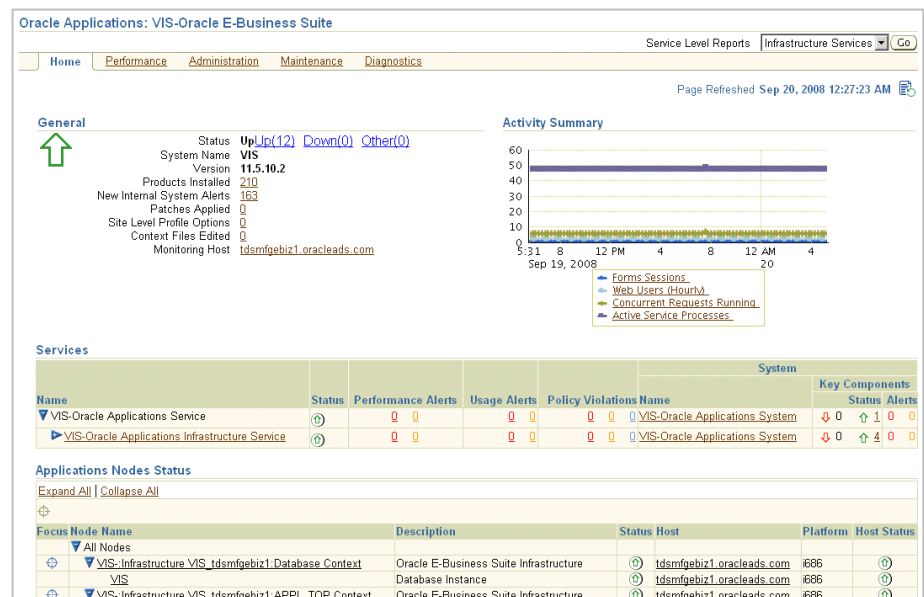


Figure 7 – Oracle E-Business Suite System Dashboard

Application Management Suite for Oracle E-Business Suite anchors the solution for proactively monitoring a Oracle E-Business Suite application environment. Using the management suite, your administrators may monitor the health of your Oracle E-Business Suite-specific components such as Concurrent Manager and Workflow Manager, Database Server, and Web Server. Thresholds may be defined against metrics such as CPU utilization, the current number of component tasks running, and up/down status of servers and components. Log files that are associated with the various Oracle E-Business Suite servers and components can be monitored by specifying Oracle E-Business Suite error codes, or by defining regular expressions that match the log messages. Besides relying on information that Oracle E-Business Suite outputs, synthetic service tests may be defined against the web servers, Oracle E-Business Suite components, the SOAP interfaces that

Oracle E-Business Suite exposes, and against third party components that Oracle E-Business Suite relies on such as Crystal Report Server in order to monitor them actively.

When monitoring the various statistics, you may rely on Application Management Suite for Oracle E-Business Suite's built-in event management capabilities. Notification methods could be defined to send email, trigger SNMP traps to forward alerts to third party management tools, or to kick off custom scripts. Notification may be defined according to a schedule, so that different administrators who are on duties at different times would get the alerts during their shifts.

To reduce the possibility of false alarms, Application Management Suite for Oracle E-Business Suite uses several tactics to throttle the raising of alerts. First, you may define an alert to go off only if a certain condition persists for a certain number of sampling interval. This approach prevents a singular rogue event such as a spike from triggering un-necessary alert. Second, you may define notification rule to stop sending alert after a certain number of attempts so that you don't get alerted over and over if a condition persists and you already know about it. Furthermore, you may define threshold alerts against metric snapshots so that the alerts are based on deviation from observed behavior of the components.

Besides managing the Oracle E-Business Suite application components, Oracle Enterprise Manager provides a range of management packs and system monitoring plug-in's to cover the infrastructure components that support the Oracle E-Business Suite applications. You may mix and match these additional packs and plug-in's to complement the core application monitoring provided by Application Management Suite for Oracle E-Business Suite.

Use Oracle Database Diagnostic Pack for deep monitoring of database's functions such as tablespace, buffer pool, memory, CPU and I/O. In addition, if you have integrated Oracle E-Business Suite with other software using Oracle SOA Suite or Application Integration Architecture (AIA), use SOA Management Pack to monitor the BPEL processes that orchestrate business processing across Oracle E-Business Suite and other applications and monitor the partner links that connect BPEL with the applications.

Lastly, to monitor infrastructure technologies such as F5 Big-IP Load Balancer, EMC Storage Arrays and NetApp Filers, Oracle offers System Monitoring Plug-in for Network Devices and System Monitoring Plug-in for Storage Devices. Management data collected through these plug-in's as well as from database, middleware and SOA management packs can be combined with system and end user experience data collected from Oracle E-Business Suite on the same Oracle Enterprise Manager instance to give Oracle E-Business Suite administrators a holistic, business-driven and end-to-end view of the entire Oracle E-Business Suite environment and the extended infrastructure.

Challenge 7 – Monitoring End User Experience

No matter how well tuned the application is during testing, production performance problems may still occur because of unforeseen usage or interdependencies with other components of the IT infrastructure. Studies indicate that most application performance issues are still reported first by application end users before IT administrators find out about them. Unfortunately, this delay means that business operations have been impacted.

Your administrators need to proactively identify the end user issues before the end user community is impacted by a performance problem. First step in guaranteeing end-user satisfaction is to learn about the end-user performance experience. Some of the questions that your IT staff needs to answer related to the end-user performance experience are:

- Are end-users satisfied with the application performance?
- Are end-users able to complete key business transactions successfully?
- Is the application performance problem impacting all the users or limited to a geographical region?
- How to ensure that key business transactions have consistent performance and do not have any server-side performance issues?

There are two ways to monitor your end users' experience. The first method is by using Application Management Suite for Oracle E-Business Suite's synthetic service test. These tests are designed to simulate key end user activities such as logging in, navigating to the customer screen, and querying customer records. The tests are run via "beacons" from locations within your network to actively measure the performance and availability of your Oracle E-Business Suite applications from end user perspectives. Because these are controlled tests and they do not rely on actual end users being present, they can be used to collect consistent data that are useful for performance trending analysis more easily.

Complementing Application Management Suite for Oracle E-Business Suite's synthetic service test is its real user monitoring capabilities. Real User Monitoring enables you to maximize the value of your application by delivering insight into real end user experiences. It can help identify lost revenue from frustrated users, reduce support costs by lowering call center volumes, accelerate problem resolution of poorly performing applications, and help businesses adapt to changing needs by providing insight into business trends and user preferences. It integrates performance analysis and usage analysis into a single offering, enabling business and IT stakeholders to develop a shared understanding into their application user experience.

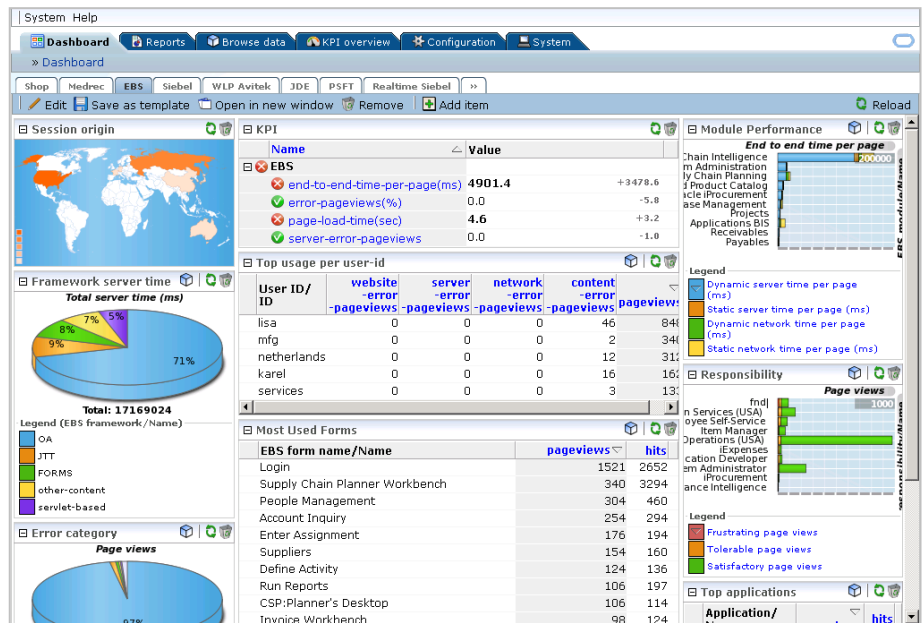


Figure 8 – Application Usage Analysis

Application Management Suite for Oracle E-Business Suite's real user monitoring capability is built using state of the art Network Protocol Analysis technology, which does not require any modification, changes, or instrumentation of the application. Its passive monitoring approach allows enterprises to deploy in production, without requiring costly test/QA environment validations.

Real User Monitoring provides you with powerful analysis of network and application infrastructure. You can monitor the real-user experience, set Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and Service Level Agreements (SLAs), and trigger alert notifications for incidents that violate them. There is also a library of powerful reports that provide both business-orientated and technical-orientated users with the information they need to make effective decisions. Reports generated from real user monitoring can be consumed by line of business (LOB) owners who review and optimize the business performance, IT managers who are responsible for availability and performance of an application and IT operators who run day –to-day operations such as monitoring and diagnosing application performance. Here are real user monitoring's capabilities for different usage scenarios:

Monitor Real End-user Performance

- Monitor the response times of transactions on various application pages. View response time breakout between server time and network time end-user transactions.
- Determine which parts of application are having performance problems.
- Analyze how page components and objects that are contributing to overall page response time.

- Satisfaction reports: end-user satisfaction reports such as frustrated page views, tolerating page views, satisfied page views and also failed views.

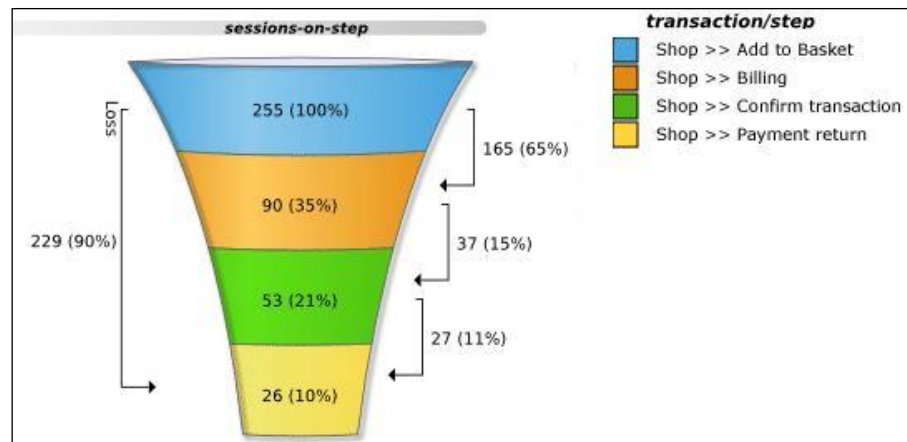


Figure 9 – Business Transaction Funnel

Application Usage Analysis

- Business transaction funnel indicates how many users were able to move from step1 of a transaction to the final step of a business transaction.
- View end user geographical regions and view the application response times by regions
- Identify transactions with failures and replay end-user transactions to view application errors
- Define and monitor KPIs and SLAs on dashboards

Using information captured by RUEI, you may determine who your users are, what parts of the applications are being used, the response times that actual end users experience, and whether they are having any trouble using the application. You may then make decisions to adjust the application or its infrastructure accordingly.

DIAGNOSE

Challenge 8 – Diagnosing Production Problems Quickly

When problems are detected, you need to fix them quickly in order to minimize impacts to your end users. Problem diagnostic can be a very tedious task often involving guesswork because of difficulties in accessing pertinent diagnostic information. Diagnostic is also difficult because of the large number of components involved. As a result, diagnostic often require multiple people who manage the application, database, server, network and storage to get together to determine the problem, making the task very expensive and time consuming to perform.

Application Management Suite for Oracle E-Business Suite simplifies diagnostics by presenting relevant diagnostic information in dashboards and providing tools to analyze information from the different parts of the application environment. The management suite simplifies initial problem triage so that the task can be done quickly and with fewer people. It also provides deep diagnostic capabilities to identify problems that are rooted in the Oracle E-Business Suite specific code.

The starting point of a diagnostic effort is the Oracle E-Business Suite dashboard. The dashboard provides a one page summary on the health of your entire Oracle E-Business Suite environment, showing aggregated information on the number of servers and components having problems, number of errors and warnings raised, and number of application services that are down. This dashboard helps you achieve an overall perspective on the environment before you proceed further to deeper investigation.

From the dashboard, you may drill down to the application services to assess whether the problem has impacted service levels. Then, begin the triage process by examining service test data to see whether the problem is network location specific. If it is network specific, you may then engage the network administrator to resolve the problem. If not, you may want to bring up metric history information of the various servers and components to see if the problem is due to over utilization or lack of resource. Application Management Suite for Oracle E-Business Suite automatically saves all the metrics that it collected from your application and its environment, so you can go back to a point in time to examine the state of the system when the problem occurred.

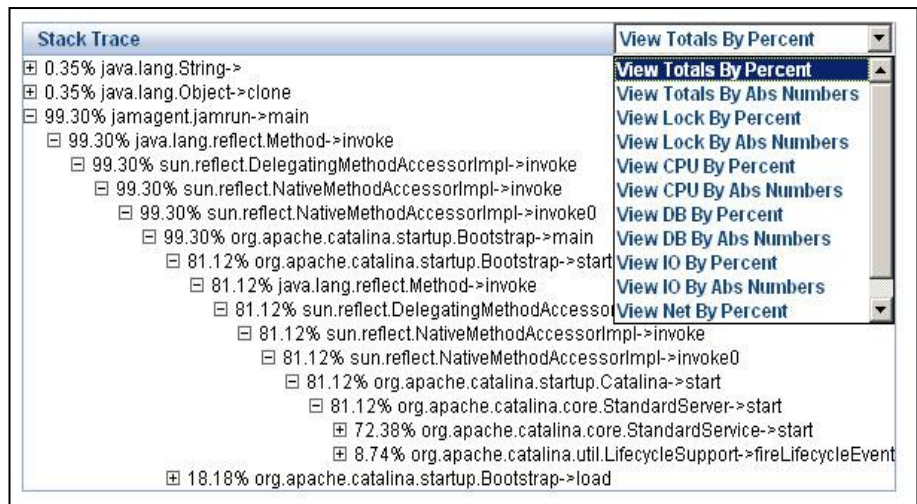


Figure 10 – Java Stack Trace via JVM Diagnostics

To troubleshoot E-Business Suite logic running on the Java-based application server mid-tier, use JVM Diagnostics. JVM Diagnostics helps in diagnosing application performance problems in production applications with very low overhead. Because of this low overhead, administrators do not need to reproduce the problems in test environments as they can diagnose the problems in

production system directly, resulting in faster problem resolution by eliminating the need to reproduce problems in a test environment. JVM Diagnostics enables administrators to visualize in real-time active Java threads and their states, and pinpoint the line of code causing a transaction bottleneck. It can also be used to analyze hangs, inefficient database locking, and memory leaks.

For problems that may be system configuration related, use Application Management Suite for Oracle E-Business Suite's configuration analysis tool to locate the cause. You may query against Oracle Enterprise Manager's configuration analysis tool to find out whether any Oracle E-Business Suite, server or component parameter has changed. You may also compare configuration settings across different server components, between servers, or even against different Oracle E-Business Suites to find out why there are discrepancies in behavior amongst different environments.

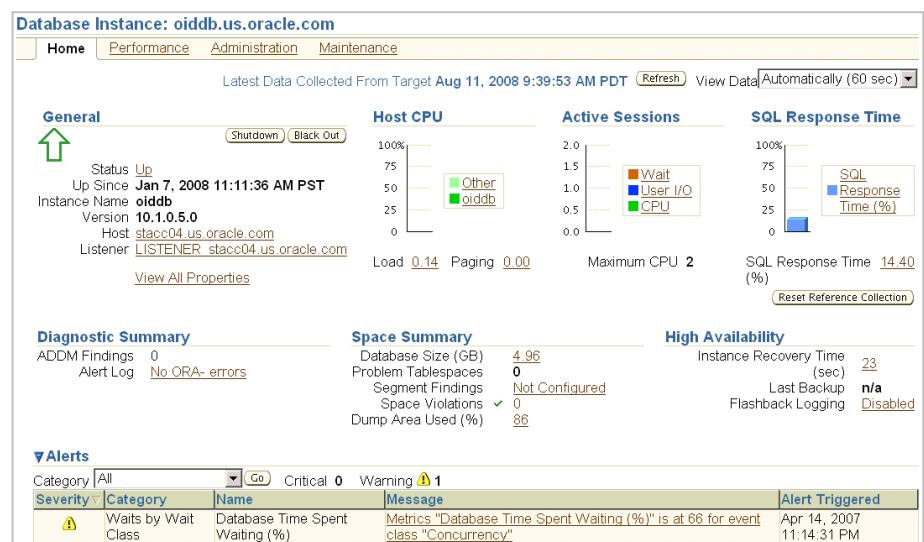


Figure 11 – Oracle Database Diagnostics

Use Oracle Database Diagnostic Pack to carry out deep database level diagnostics. The pack includes a self-diagnostic engine built right into Oracle Database kernel, called Automatic Database Diagnostic Monitoring (ADDM). ADDM periodically examines the state of the database, automatically identifies potential database performance bottlenecks, and recommends corrective actions. Oracle Database Diagnostic Pack presents ADDM's findings and recommendations in a convenient and intuitive fashion, and guides administrators step-by-step to quickly resolve performance problems by implementing ADDM's recommendations. ADDM starts its analysis by focusing on the activities that the database is spending most time on and then drills down through a sophisticated problem classification tree to determine the root cause of problems. The problem classification tree used by ADDM encapsulates decades of performance tuning experience of Oracle's own performance experts and it has been specifically designed to accurately diagnose the most frequently seen problems, such as CPU and I/O bottlenecks, poor

connection management, undersized memory, resource intensive SQL statements, lock contention, etc... Each ADDM finding has an associated impact and benefit measure to enable prioritized handling of the most critical issues. To better understand the impact of the findings over time, each finding has a descriptive name that facilitates search, a link to number of previous occurrences of the finding in the last 24 hours, and affected instances.

If you have augmented your Oracle E-Business Suite application with Java or SOA technologies, use Diagnostic Pack for Oracle Middleware or Weblogic Server Management Pack to troubleshoot OC4J or Weblogic containers, or Management Pack for Non-Oracle Middleware to diagnose your IBM Websphere or JBoss servers. For either sets of servers, you may use Oracle Java Virtual Machine Diagnostics to troubleshoot performance problems. These problems may include inefficient database locks, SQL statements, slow performing Java methods, memory leaks, or invocations to core Oracle E-Business Suite code.

OPTIMIZE AND RESOLVE

Challenge 9 – Making Fact-Based Optimization Decisions

Optimizing an application is a time consuming task often surrounded by myths and legends, few of them based on facts. Like diagnostics, application optimization is very hard to do unless you have access to the right information. Application Management Suite for Oracle E-Business Suite, along with Oracle Database Tuning Pack and Oracle E-Business Suite Performance Monitor, provide the information that you need to make fact-based optimization decisions.

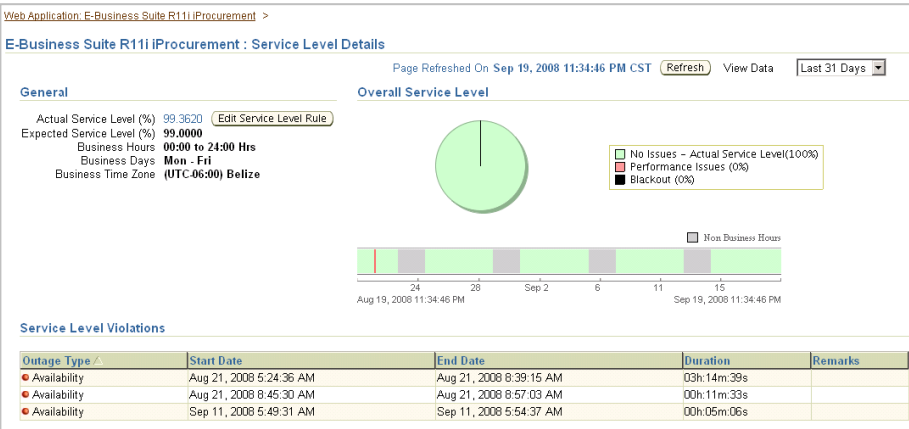


Figure 12 – Service Level Report

The starting point of the optimization process is Application Management Suite for Oracle E-Business Suite’s service level management reports. Based on service level indicators collected from the application over a period of time, these reports indicate whether Oracle E-Business Suite applications have provided the performance and availability needed to support critical business operations. These reports are further complemented by capacity utilization reports of the underlying

system components, and by RUEP's application usage reports that show the usage patterns of the application.

With these information, you may then decide whether you need to invest in further optimization, which may include tasks such as adjusting the functional configuration of your application, applying patches from Oracle, tuning Oracle E-Business Suite components, or tuning the database.

To optimize Oracle E-Business Suite components, you need to consider several statistics collected during run-time. These statistics are gathered by Application Management Suite for Oracle E-Business Suite and are stored in Oracle Enterprise Manager's repository. You may retrieve them in reports that show the graph of these metrics over time to understand how the application behaves or compare the metrics across different servers to see if your servers are load balanced properly. Using these information, you may work with your application developers to modify your application's functional configurations if they prove to be too resource intensive, or use adjust component parameters accordingly.

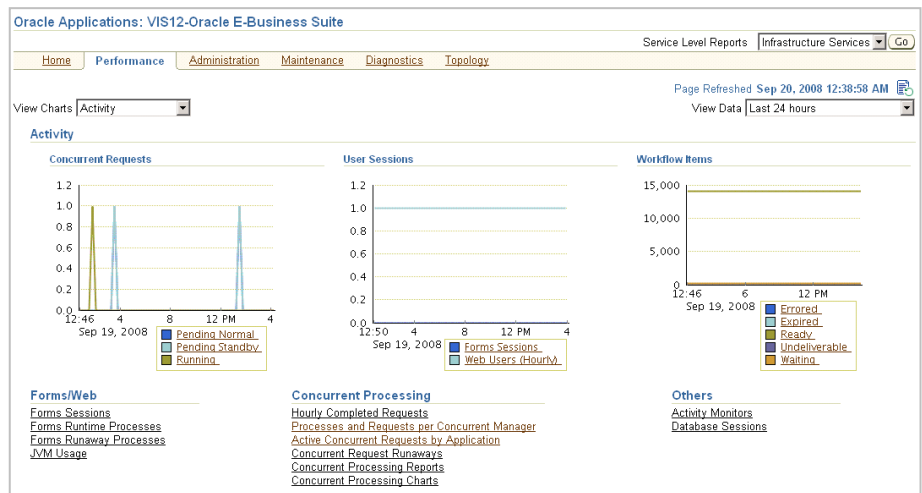


Figure 13 – Oracle E-Business Suite Metric History

For tuning the database, use Oracle Database Tuning Pack. Even though Oracle E-Business Suite dynamically generates SQL statements for database access, you may still effect changes to database performance through the use of indices, database system component tuning, and SQL profiling to tune the execution plans.

Manual SQL tuning is a complex process that presents many challenges. It requires expertise in several areas, is very time consuming, and requires an intimate knowledge of the schema structures and the data usage model of the application. All these factors make manual SQL tuning a challenging and resource intensive task that is ultimately very expensive for businesses.

SQL Tuning Advisor is Oracle's answer to all the pitfalls and challenges of manual SQL tuning. It automates the SQL tuning process by comprehensively exploring

all the possible ways of tuning a SQL statement. The analysis and tuning is performed by the database engine's significantly enhanced query optimizer.

These analysis performed by SQL Tuning Advisor are applicable to Oracle E-Business Suite:

- **Statistics Analysis:** The query optimizer needs up-to-date object statistics to generate good execution plans. In this analysis objects with stale or missing statistics are identified and appropriate recommendations are made to remedy the problem.
- **SQL Profiling:** This feature, introduced in Oracle Database 10g, revolutionizes the approach to SQL tuning. Traditional SQL tuning involves manual manipulation of application code using optimizer hints. SQL Profiling eliminates the need for this manual process and tunes the SQL statements without requiring any change to the application code. This ability to tune SQL without changing the application code also helps solve the problem of tuning packaged applications. Packaged application users now no longer need to log a bug with the application vendor and wait for several weeks or months to obtain a code fix for tuning the statement. With SQL profiling the tuning process is automatic and immediate.
- **Access Path Analysis:** Indexes can tremendously enhance performance of a SQL statement by reducing the need for full table scans. Effective indexing is, therefore, a common tuning technique. In this analysis new indexes that can significantly enhance query performance are identified and recommended.

The output of this analysis is in the form of recommendations, along with a rationale for each recommendation and its expected performance benefit. The recommendation relates to collection of statistics on objects, creation of new indexes, restructuring of the SQL statement, or creation of a SQL Profile. A user can choose to accept the recommendation to complete the tuning of the SQL statements.

Oracle Database Tuning Pack also provides the ability to reorganize objects. Managing the space usage of your tablespaces efficiently by removing wasted space is not only a good space management practice but it also enhances performance by reducing unnecessary disk I/Os. Reorganization is used for:

- Rebuilding indexes and tables that are fragmented
- Relocating objects to another tablespace
- Recreating objects with optimal storage attributes

Oracle Database Tuning Pack provides a wizard that can perform reorganization at schema and tablespace levels, and gives the option for both online and offline reorganization. The wizard also provides an impact analysis report as well as a

review script that contains the exact operations that will be performed. This helps users to precisely understand the implications of the operation before implementing it.

Challenge 10 – Managing Configuration Changes and Achieving Compliance

Changes in the forms of patches or system parameter adjustments are made during optimization to improve the performance of Oracle E-Business Suite. The tasks for making these changes are highly complex and very labor intensive. In addition, it is important to be able keep track of the changes for diagnostic and compliance purpose. Traditionally, people have relied on manual methods of static analysis and maintaining change history, often keeping the information in spreadsheets. The manual approach is very tedious, and is often inaccurate. In addition, changes are sometimes made temporarily for testing purpose, but end up becoming permanent as the person who made the change forget to back it out, and this causes what is known as configuration drifts that can impact application performance and availability over time.

Oracle Applications Manager and Application Management Suite for Oracle E-Business Suite cover the four different aspects of patching. The first step in patching is to identify the patches that are needed. This can be done in one of two ways. Use Oracle Applications Manager's Patch Wizard to examine the current patch level of your E-Business Suite environment, and query My Oracle Support in order to discover new patches that are applicable to your environment. Alternatively, if your goal is to determine whether two or more of your environments have the same set of patches, use Application Management Suite for Oracle E-Business Suite's configuration analysis tool to compare the patches of the environments. Once you have identified the patches that you need, use Application Management Suite's Patch Manager to download and deploy them. Finally, use Application Management Suite for Oracle E-Business Suite's configuration reporting tool to view the current list of patches, and access patch history.

Besides comparing patches, you may use Application Management Suite for Oracle E-Business Suite's configuration management tool to automate configuration management activities for other Oracle system configurations. The tool provides a view of configuration items and their dependencies within and across each other. Manage configuration drift through scheduled comparison with "gold configuration" baselines. Administrators can track, analyze and report on configurations while capturing and storing configuration data that is used for the automation of the entire change management process.

Application Management Suite for Oracle E-Business Suite's configuration management support is the foundation to all Service Support processes, enabling effective incident management, problem management, change management,

release management, service level management and availability management. It enables faster mean-time-to-repair through root cause analysis by isolating and correlating problems to the exact infrastructure or application component that is causing failure and by auditing change history for all targets and parameters. Reduces the risks involved in rolling out changes to production environments by identifying the impact of changes on deployed applications and users.

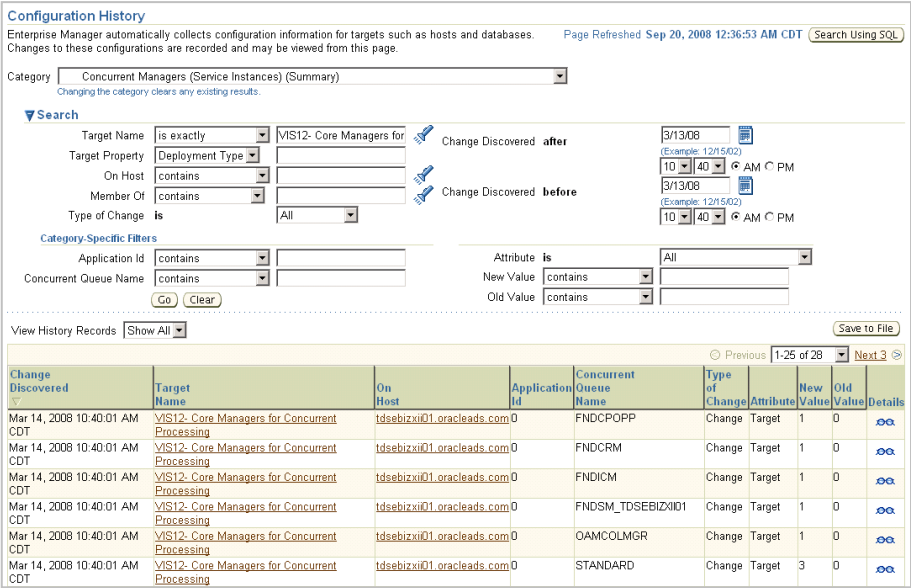


Figure 14 – Configuration Change History

Here are some of the key features of configuration management capabilities:

- Automated discovery of Oracle E-Business Suite servers such as Concurrent Manager and Workflow Manager, and their association with the underlying host and operating system
- View and analyze Oracle E-Business Suite component configurations
- Out-of-box and customizable configuration searches
- Compare configurations
- Historical change tracking
- Configuration reports

SUMMARY

Through Oracle Application Management Suite for Oracle E-Business Suite and other Oracle management and testing products, you can start centralizing the management of your Oracle E-Business Suite applications on Oracle Enterprise Manager. These products complement bundled application tools, such as Oracle Applications Manager, which provide various tactical administrative functions.

The management packs leverage Oracle Enterprise Manager's business-driven application management capabilities to facilitate proactive management and ITIL best practices implementation that cover the complete application lifecycle. You can use Oracle Enterprise Manager as the unified console to manage your entire application infrastructure, including all your application instances, the SOA-based fabric that you use to connect your applications, both Oracle and non-Oracle databases and middleware, as well as your servers, storage and network devices, all of which impact your application's performance and availability. Through these tools, you can achieve a Superior Ownership Experience in manageability and quality for your applications, and deliver the application service level required to meet your business needs.



Achieving a Superior Ownership Experience in Manageability and Quality for Oracle E-Business Suite
April 2011

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