

ORACLE APPROVALS MANAGEMENT (AME)

KEY FEATURES

- Administrator Dashboard for ease of maintenance of AME run-time
- Business Analyst Dashboard providing an easy to use, non technical, launch point for approval rule definition
- Test Workbench helping to ensure validity of approval policies
- Little or no coding required when defining approval policies
- Flexible framework allowing for the handling of custom hierarchies or approver determination
- Tightly integrated with Workflow Directory Services
- Extensive APIs provided for own product integrations
- Many approval patterns provided out of the box

Oracle® Approvals Management is a highly extensible approvals rule engine which allows organizations to simply and effectively define business rules that determine who must approve a transaction originating within an Oracle Application. Oracle Approvals Management is part of the Oracle E-Business Suite, an integrated set of applications that are engineered to work together.

Main Features of Oracle Approvals Management (AME)

It is important that an organization provides accountability throughout its business processes, approval of business transactions via a pre-defined process forms one part of this. AME enables you to simply define the approval rules for your organization so that any business transaction requiring an approval can be completed with the appropriate authority. These business transactions can be diverse; from expenses requiring varying level of approvals depending upon expense amount through to business quotes that need to be signed off on the basis of promises made or agreed discounts. You can devise simple or complex rules, to suit your organization's requirements, which form part of your overall business flow. These rules are held in a central repository to facilitate management and sharing between business processes. The rules engine has been designed with flexibility and performance as the key cornerstones of its architecture.

Design Approval Rules Without Resorting to Writing Code

One of the prime features of AME is to enable the business analyst to define simple or complex approval rules without resorting to writing programming code. You can define these rules by deciding what conditions should be met before approvals are required. The ability to ascend certain hierarchies such as supervisor or job has been provided enabling you to state how far up the hierarchy approvals should be sought for any given condition. Rules can work at transaction header or detail line level allowing a fine level of granularity on the approval process. For example a purchase order approval may be based on its overall value or individual order lines, which may be approved by different approvers depending upon the product code or type.

Oracle E-Business Suite Integration

A number of applications within the Oracle E-Business Suite are integrated with AME. The integration of AME by application modules such as iExpenses and Self Service HR provide a consistent method of defining business rules for approvals management across the enterprise. Components of the business rules such as approval groups can be defined and shared between business functional areas as required helping to ensure correct application of approval policy.

KEY BENEFITS

BUSINESS ANALYST'S DASHBOARD:

- Definition of approval rules is and should be the domain of the business analyst.
- This new dashboard makes it even easier for the non-technical user to define and maintain an organization's approval policy

FLEXIBLE APPROVAL PATTERNS:

- The flexibility of AME's approval rules allow for a wide variety of approval patterns and determination of approvers either generated from hierarchies or determined dynamically via approver groups

CONTINUED APPROVER VALIDATION:

- Throughout each stage of the approval cycle the list of approvers is checked and recalculated in case of new approval policy coming into effect or organizational changes occurring

RELATED PRODUCTS

Some of the EBS product modules integrated with AME include: -

- HRMS Self Service
- iRecruitment
- Internet Expenses
- iProcurement
- Accounts Receivable
- Accounts Payable
- Partner Management
- Quoting
- Internal Controls Manager

RELATED SERVICES

The following services are available from Oracle Support Services:

- Oracle E-Business Suite Accelerators
- Oracle Application Solution Centers
- Oracle University
- Oracle Consulting

Extensibility

Oracle Approvals Management has been designed so that it is very easy to create new approver types and their relevant action handlers. Approver types allow you to define how approvers are derived and how they should be implemented into the final list of approvers. The action handlers, depending on the type, enable custom hierarchies to be navigated so that the appropriate approvers can be selected depending on the evaluation of the approval rules.

Run Time Engine

Approval rules are evaluated by an efficient and scaleable run time engine. At every stage of the approval process AME ensures that the approval lists reflect the current organization structures even for part approved business processes. You no longer have to be concerned with changes in personal and/or their approval authorities; the approval list will always be correct and up to date no matter how far the transaction is through the approval cycle.

East to Use Test Facilities

It is important that you test any rules you have created to ensure that your organization's approval processes have been correctly defined. AME provides an extensive Test Workbench allowing you to manage this important task. You can create a library of test cases, in effect dummy transactions, which can be applied against your rule setup. Real transactions may be selected and tested against your rules giving you further confidence as to their validity.

Audit Trail

Each transaction's approval history log may be reviewed in order to track down the cause of any problems that might have been associated with incorrect rule setup or some other failure such as attribute derived SQL errors that may arise during rule evaluation.

Ease of Administration

The Administrator Dashboard provides a number of functions to ensure smooth running of Oracle Approvals Management. Log files are easily viewed in order to determine errors in the approval process. Transaction logs may be viewed by specific business process further helping to refine the approval flow. The Administrator can easily configure AME by maintenance of the engine configuration parameters.

Oracle E-Business Suite—The Complete Solution

Oracle E-Business Suite enables companies to efficiently manage customer processes, manufacture products, ship orders, collect payments, and more—all from applications that are built on unified information architecture. This information architecture provides a single definition of your customers, suppliers, employees, and products—all important aspects of your business. Whether you implement one module or the entire Suite, Oracle E-Business Suite enables you to share unified information across the enterprise so you can make smarter decisions with better information.

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Release 12 includes Approvals Management Mini-Pack A (11i.AME.A), (11i.AME.B) and (11i.AME_RUP1)

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