	ORACLE FUSION MIDDLEWARE
Statement of Direction	**Oracle Portal** **Statement of Direction** **March 2009**

Please note all dates are subject to change.

INTRODUCTION

The middleware market continues to evolve at a breakneck pace. With a comprehensive portfolio of best-of-breed, standards-based, hot-pluggable, and pre-integrated products in the stack, Oracle's middleware revenues surpassed the $1 billion mark in 2006. Portal technologies constitute a key layer in Oracle's middleware stack. While the types of portal applications have evolved from simple Web content portals to today's portals, which surface business processes and composite applications, the basic need has remained the same: organize disparate content, services, and processes into meaningful, productive tools for business users. At the same time, the Internet is introducing new forms of communication that are fundamentally changing the way people interact with information. With a significant worldwide customer base, Oracle has demonstrated an outstanding track record of innovation in this space and will continue to be a leader in these markets.

The BEA acquisition has provided us with complementary products and technology, an innovative team with middleware expertise, strengthened presence in strategic markets, and an expanded partner and channel ecosystem. In light of these cornerstone changes, the purpose of this document is to (1) describe the future plans for Oracle Portal and (2) provide guidance to customers currently using or planning to use Oracle Portal technology. To accomplish this objective, the document is divided into the following sections:

- Oracle Portal Product Strategy
- Summary of Oracle WebCenter Suite Product Strategy
- Recommendations for Oracle Portal Customers

ORACLE PORTAL PRODUCT STRATEGY

Oracle Portal has significantly evolved over four major release cycles to its current form as the highly tuned, mission-critical application depended upon by millions of users to access their content and data. Since its inception, Oracle Portal has provided a unique blend of productivity and power. Oracle Portal's wizard-based approach to portal development makes it easy to quickly build and evolve a portal by minimizing costly programming and maintenance.

Development priorities for Oracle Portal continue to focus on the needs of business developers who depend on browser-based tools to build and extend the portal. As a whole, the improvements are focused on new levels of flexibility, extensibility, and performance. Oracle's goal is to continue to offer unmatched productivity and ease of use while providing more options to extend the product programmatically in order to address unique customer requirements and integrate more easily with business applications.

Oracle Portal 10*g* Release 2 (10.1.4) was a major feature-bearing release that accomplished the targeted development priorities described above. Features planned for Oracle Portal 11*g* will build on and extend capabilities introduced in Oracle Portal 10*g* Release 2 (10.1.4).

Oracle Portal 10*g* Release 2 (10.1.4)

Oracle Portal 10*g* Release 2 (10.1.4) added significant new capabilities and functionality in support of four major release themes:

- Enable Comprehensive Fusion Capabilities for Better Business Agility: Deeper, out-of-the-box integration with Oracle's middleware components and services, such Oracle Business Intelligence, Oracle BPEL Process Manager, and Oracle Identity Management, coupled with improved tools for integrating with heterogeneous environments and services, such as support for portlet standards (WSRP/JSR 168) and Oracle Portlet Factory, enable you to better integrate enterprise-wide data, content, and applications.
- Unleash the Power of Portal Content Management and Publishing: Enhancements in the declarative page design, portlet design, and content wizards, and in the underlying content management repository, significantly broaden publishing capabilities, making the management of portal content more efficient and supporting a wide range of customer-specific extensions.
- Enable Sophisticated, Flexible, and Highly Performant Architectures: Improvements in the underlying portal architecture, portlet execution and rendering, and caching make it easier to configure advanced topologies and improve overall performance.
- Share Information Instantly with Out-of-the Box Portal Solutions: Oracle Instant Portal, a new bundled application, provides a ready-to-use portal solution specifically designed for companies and departments that require cost-effective, easy-to-build, easy-to-maintain content portals. Editing features include point-and-click portal branding and styling, page management, content management, user management, and access control.

For additional details on this release, please see the Oracle Portal 10*g* Release 2 (10.1.4) New Features white paper on the Oracle Technology Network.

Plans for Oracle Portal 11*g*

Oracle Portal 11*g* will be released as a component of Oracle Fusion Middleware Release 11*g* Standard Edition (SE) and Enterprise Edition (EE). The development priorities for Oracle Portal 11*g* are focused on the following major release themes:

- Consume new Oracle WebCenter Web 2.0 services, decoupling portal services from the portal framework
- Extend support of open industry standards
- Eliminate boundaries between portlet and application development
- Extend core portal functionality by refining and augmenting the existing feature set within Oracle Portal
- Streamline management and administration
- Simplify and extend security
- Provide deeper integration with Oracle Fusion Middleware
- Provide deeper integration with Oracle Applications

Reflecting the themes above, new features planned for Oracle Portal 11*g* include:

Consume New Oracle WebCenter Web 2.0 Services

- Key Web 2.0 technologies such as wiki, RSS, and blogs have changed the landscape of the Internet by empowering individuals across the globe. The challenge for today's enterprises is to weave Web 2.0 technology and services into the basic fabric of their users' work environment. Oracle WebCenter Services provides a set of horizontal Web 2.0 services to enable you to extend the functionality of your applications and enrich the end-user experience when working with enterprise portals. These Web 2.0 services include Discussions, Wikis, Search, Presence, Instant Messaging, Email, and Document Library. These exciting new Web 2.0 services along with additional social networking services will be made available as Oracle WebCenter Web 2.0 services.
- The portlet producer included in Oracle WebCenter Services is implemented as a standard JSR 168/WSRP producer. We provide a prepackaged WebCenter application that serves as the WSRP producer and makes use of WebCenter Services task flows. The producer exposes additional parameters to facilitate integration with Oracle Portal. This will be certified as an out-of-the-box feature of the product.

Oracle WebCenter Services is available as a standalone product as well as a component of Oracle WebCenter Suite 11*g*.

Extend Support of Industry Standards

- WSRP 2.0 support: Oracle Portal 11*g* will support WSRP 2.0, including rich Ajax-enabled portlets built with ADF rich client technology.
- JSR 301 support: Refer to the section below on Oracle JavaServer Faces Portlet Bridge.

Eliminate Boundaries Between Portlet and Application Development

Content Integration:
- Expose content from third-party document management systems in Oracle Portal via portlets.
- Build portlets in JDeveloper that utilize JCR 1.0 adapters to connect to content management systems. Available adapters include Oracle Universal Content Management, Content DB, third-party content management JCR adapters, and file system.

Available with Oracle WebCenter Suite

Oracle JavaServer Faces Portlet Bridge (JSR 301)
- Build new portlets with JSF
- Turn JSF pages and task flows into standards-based portlets
- Bring existing JSF applications into Oracle Portal 11*g*

Oracle is the specification lead on the JSR 301 initiative, which defines the standard for the bridge being released in Portal 11*g*. The Oracle JSF Portlet Bridge is packaged with Oracle WebCenter Services.

Extend Core Portal Functionality

- OmniPortlet Enhancements: Oracle Portal Release 11 will provide an advanced parameter form that allows you to populate a list of values dynamically based on a data source, such as a SQL query or

database column. In addition, the Web service data source of OmniPortlet has been improved greatly, allowing you to consume complex Web services, including BPEL and PL/SQL-based Web services.

- BPEL-based Process Content Routing and Approval: A new portal configuration setting allows a portal administrator to choose whether to use Oracle Portal's native capability or to leverage an Oracle BPEL Workflow for routing and approval of content managed within Oracle Portal.
- Support for New HTML Document Type Declarations (Doctypes): A new portal configuration setting allows a portal administrator to specify the HTML output type generated by Oracle Portal. In addition to HTML 4.01 Transitional, three new doctypes will be supported: HTML 4.01 Strict, XHTML 1.0 Transitional, and XHTML 1.0 Strict.

Streamline Management and Administration

- Oracle Enterprise Manager Release 11 will offer the capability of viewing performance metrics for portal pages, portlets, and providers in real time using the Oracle Enterprise Manager interface.
- Improved Life Cycle Support (export/import): Features planned for export/import will support new use cases and improved reliability. A new two-step portal export/import model will support Webmasters who wish to perform frequent, content-oriented exports. Based on database links configured between source and target portal instances, this simplified export/import model eliminates the former need to manually transfer export files via the command line from source to target instances, thereby allowing export/import operations to be performed entirely from within the Web browser. Formatting improvements in generated export log files will assist portal administrators in understanding export results and troubleshooting issues. A new direct-access user interface will make it easier to manage and monitor export/import transport sets.

Simplify and Extend Security

- Integration with Oracle Application Server 11*g* Identity Management and Security: Significant new identity management and security capabilities have been added in Oracle Identity Management 10.1.4, and additional features are planned for Release 11. Oracle Portal will be updated to incorporate this new security framework. In addition, the PDK framework will be updated to support Web service security for secured identity propagation to WSRP-based portlets.

Provide Deeper Integration with Oracle Fusion Middleware

- New portlets that integrate Oracle Secure Enterprise Search (search submission and search results), Oracle BPEL (notifications, task analysis, reporting), Oracle Business Intelligence Enterprise Edition (Siebel BI Tools), and Hyperion System 9 BPM (Business Performance Management) will provide improved, out-of-the-box integration with Oracle Portal.
- Improved Access to Oracle Portal Managed Content: A new JCR-based (JSR-170) adapter will allow portal developers to integrate content stored and managed within the Portal Repository in a custom J2EE application.

Provide Deeper Integration with Oracle Applications

- Oracle Applications based on Oracle Applications Framework, such as Oracle Self-Service Applications, can now expose application pages based on Oracle Applications Framework as portlets within Oracle Portal.
- Oracle Portal Release 11 will also support incorporation of portlets from PeopleSoft applications, including PeopleSoft Version 9, which is based upon the PeopleTools release 8.48 technology layer.
- As with the certification of Oracle E-Business Suite releases 11 and 12 today with Oracle Portal 10.1.4, portlets from specific releases of Oracle E-Business Suite are expected to be certified with Oracle Portal Release 11.

As a whole, these features build on and extend the capabilities introduced in Oracle Portal 10*g* Release 2 (10.1.4) and incorporate suggestions and feedback received from Oracle Portal customers.

SUMMARY OF ORACLE WEBCENTER SUITE PRODUCT STRATEGY

Oracle WebCenter Suite is an integrated suite of technology designed to deliver a unified, context-aware user experience specifically targeted at needs of information workers. Oracle WebCenter Suite combines the standards-based, declarative development of JavaServer Faces (JSF), the flexibility and power of portal technology, and a set of horizontal, Web 2.0 services. Oracle WebCenter Suite 11*g* packaging includes WebCenter Services, WebCenter Interaction, WebCenter SharePoint Console, WebCenter .NET Application Accelerator, and restricted use of Oracle Content Server, Oracle Secure Enterprise Search, Oracle Presence, and Oracle BPEL Process Manager. The WebCenter Services component bundles WebCenter Framework, BPEL Worklist, Universal Content Management adapter, Oracle JavaServer Faces Portlet Bridge and JSR-168 container, customizable components, and social networking elements such as discussions, wikis, search, presence, instant messaging, and email. Together, these tools and services converge towards Enterprise 2.0, incorporating unique abilities to build applications that eliminate context shifts and maximize productivity. WebCenter applications allow users to interact directly with services such as instant messaging, documents and content, voice over IP, discussion forums, and wiki directly within the context of the application. Users don't merely pass through the application to get to the service; services are integrated as a native part of the task flow.

From a portal technology point of view, Oracle WebCenter Suite eliminates barriers between what is traditionally thought of as the portal and the application(s) it exposes. With WebCenter Suite, portal capabilities are injected into the basic DNA of the development architecture–JavaServer Faces–and as a result, make applications with a seamless, customizable, and context-rich user experience much easier to build and manage. Unifying the technology stack for developing user interaction of all types is critical for building state-of-the-art, SOA-based composite applications, and JavaServer Faces is the natural technology choice for the J2EE community.

For a complete overview of Oracle WebCenter Suite and its components, please refer to the collateral in the "Learn more" section on the Oracle Technology Network accessible at http://webcenter.oracle.com.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ORACLE PORTAL CUSTOMERS

With the release of Oracle WebCenter Suite, Oracle Portal customers have the ability to extend their existing portal by rolling out new applications that are built on top of a new J2EE-based application framework and architecture. In consideration on how to best adopt this new technology, we offer the following suggestions:

- Oracle WebCenter Suite provides a comprehensive set of open, standards-based, best-of-breed and pre-integrated products that provide a launch pad for Enterprise 2.0, bringing together four distinct themes–content management, community and social collaboration, composite applications encompassing SOA and workflow, and Internet and intranet Web presence. Carefully evaluate Oracle WebCenter Suite and Oracle WebCenter Services features and functionality for use in new projects–particularly those that require rich collaborative features. Install test environments and build prototype applications. Oracle WebCenter Suite will be most attractive to enterprises developing J2EE-based Fusion Middleware applications with a view to incorporating portal capabilities into these applications along with integration of social networking. Consider using Oracle WebCenter Suite for extending your existing portal and running it in conjunction with Oracle Portal. For example, a new, presence-aware transactional application could be built using Oracle WebCenter Suite and integrated back into an existing Oracle Portal deployment. This application could utilize a common look and feel and include common portlets.
- Leverage your existing identity management infrastructure used by Oracle Portal for new Oracle WebCenter Suite applications. This will enable single sign-on for a seamless user experience and allow you to take advantage of user profile information stored in the directory.
- Leverage all existing portlets, whether they are based on WSRP standards or PDK-Java. Both portlet types can be consumed within custom Oracle WebCenter Suite applications as well as Oracle Portal. Build new portlets using open standards (WSRP and JSR 168).
- Configure the JCR-based adapter and use Oracle WebCenter's content integration capabilities if you wish to access and publish content that resides in the Oracle Portal Repository within an Oracle WebCenter-based application. New content-centric applications should use Oracle Universal Content Management.

CONCLUSION

Oracle's strategy for portal technology is clear: Provide compelling technology, tools, and applications that allow our customers to build and deploy all types of portals (enterprise portal, LOB-specific portal, a stand-alone portal application, portal capabilities embedded within an application) that are agile and support changing business requirements.

Oracle's plans for portal technologies are consistent with the needs of the portal market and business developers who require browser-based tools to build and extend their portal. Oracle Portal will continue to serve this market and eventually converge into our strategic product set in this space – Oracle WebCenter Suite. In other words, Oracle Portal belongs to the "Continue and Converge" category of products, as announced in the Webcast titled [BEA Welcome and Oracle's Middleware Strategy Briefing](). Oracle WebCenter Suite addresses user interaction as a whole, bringing a compelling feature set to J2EE developers that is fine-tuned for use within a SOA and fusion architecture, and that eliminates barriers between the development of portals and the development of J2EE applications.

Customers can choose to have both Oracle Portal and Oracle WebCenter Suite co-exist, to begin with, and thus leverage their existing Oracle Portal investment and at the same time embrace new Enterprise 2.0-centric innovations that Oracle WebCenter Suite brings to the table, spanning the above mentioned four distinct themes--content management, community/social collaboration, composite applications encompassing SOA & workflow, Internet & Intranet Web presence. Both products put the users in charge by providing them with an environment in which they can access critical information quickly and easily, act on that information in the context of day-to-day business processes, and work together effectively to produce key deliverables. The solution can be developed, evolved, and managed productively and at the lowest cost possible.

These goals are directly in line with Oracle's key competencies. Many of the concepts that make a portal or application truly compelling, such as structure, dynamic access to information, and centralized deployment, have always been a core part of Oracle's technology and vision. By building on these strengths as outlined above, Oracle expects to continue its leadership position into the next generation products.

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