What's Old is New Again:
Oracle Forms 11g R2 New Features

Presented to:

www.ukoug.org/ukoug2012

UK Oracle User Group
Conference 2012

ICC, Birmingham | 3rd-5th December | 2012

UK OUG
UK ORACLE USER GROUP

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Objectives

- Learn the latest features available in Oracle Forms 11gR2

- Become familiar with the monitoring and administration features of Forms 11g R2

- Know the many ways Forms has improved including: HTML interaction, and new window, menu, and image features

Who Am I?

- John King – Partner, King Training Resources
- Oracle Ace ♠ - member Oak Table Network
- Providing training to Oracle and IT community for over 20 years – http://www.kingtraining.com
- "Techie" who knows Oracle, SQL, Java, and PL/SQL pretty well (along with other topics)
- Leader in Service Oriented Architecture (SOA)
- Home is Scottsdale, Arizona USA
- Member of ODTUG (Oracle Development Tools User Group) Board of Directors

- Oracle Forms Developer
- How Long?
  - Oracle Forms 11g
  - Oracle Forms 10g / 9i (Web Forms)
  - Oracle Forms 6i (Client-Server / Web Forms)
  - Oracle Forms 4.5 – 6.0 Forms
  - Oracle Forms 4
  - Oracle Forms 3
  - Oracle Forms 2.0 – 2.3
  - IAF / IAG

IAF/IAG

SQL*Forms 2.0 & 2.3

SQL*Forms 3.0

Oracle Forms 4.0

Oracle Forms 4.5 & 5.0

Oracle iDS Forms 6i & 6i Web Forms

Oracle 9i Forms & 10g Forms

Oracle Forms 11g

Oracle Forms 11g R2

- NO, NO, NO, NO, NO

- Oracle is committed to supporting Oracle Forms for many years to come

- A new version of Oracle Forms (12c) is on the way!

- Oracle Forms 11g Release 2 provides a few new features

- I consider it a minor release designed to:
  - Improve integration with other tools
  - Improve developer productivity

- Docs:
  http://download.oracle.com/docs/cd/E24269_01/index.htm

Forms 11g R2 Documentation

ORACLE Fusion Middleware

11g Release 2 (11.1.2.0.0)

SEARCH OTN
ORACLE TECHNOLOGY NETWORK

secure search

Documentation ▾   GO

CONTACT
THE DOCUMENTATION TEAM   GO

ORACLE FORMS AND REPORTS

⊖ **INSTALLATION GUIDES**

Installation Guide for Oracle Forms and Reports

⊖ **UPGRADE GUIDES**

Upgrade Guide for Oracle Forms and Reports

Upgrading Guide for Oracle Forms 6i to Oracle Forms 11g

⊖ **RELEASE NOTES**

Release Notes

⊖ **OTHER GUIDES AND TUTORIAL**

Deployment Guide for Oracle Forms Services

Publishing Reports with Oracle Reports Services

User's Guide for Publishing Reports

Tutorial for Reports

Forms and Reports System Requirements and Specifications

Gartner Report on Forms

- Check out this link to see what Gartner has to say about Oracle Forms migration

  http://www.gartner.com/technology/reprints.do?id=1-198LN9P&ct=120208&st=sb

- Uses Oracle WebLogic Server 11gR1 (10.3.5)
- Uses Oracle Fusion MiddleWare 11gR2 tech-stack (11.1.1.5.0)
- Integration with Oracle Access Manager
- Smaller Footprint
- Performance Management & Monitoring
- Real User Experience
- Developer Features

- Oracle Access Manager provides centralized authentication:
  - Policy-based Authorization
  - Auditing

What is Oracle Access Manager?

- Oracle Access Manager combines identity management and access control services providing:
  - Centralized authentication
  - Policy-based authorization
  - Auditing
  - Identity administration
- Oracle Access Manager is part of Fusion Middleware and is based upon Oracle Enterprise Manager

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Reduced Installation Footprint

- Installation may be tailored to components needed reducing memory and processing requirements
- Reduced but still not small

Performance and Monitoring

- Several features allow for improved performance management and monitoring

- Pre-start Forms Runtime based upon time and number of users

- NetworkStats provides network performance monitoring

- Performance metrics may be logged to a database

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Platform Certification

- Oracle Forms 11g R2 includes new platform certifications including Windows 64 bit support

- The complete spreadsheet of certified browsers, JRE, databases, and operating systems is on the Oracle Technology Network www.oracle.com/technology
  at
  http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/middleware/ias/downloads/fusion-certification-100350.html

Need Help Installing ?

- Be forewarned:
  Windows 64-bit Forms can be difficult to install

- Grant Ronald (from Oracle) suggests on his blog that you refer to Mia Urman's (OraPlayer) documentation on installing Oracle Forms 11g R2 on Windows 64-bit machines:

- http://oracleformsinfo.wordpress.com/2012/03/07/tips-and-tricks-the-dummies-guide-to-installing-oracle-forms-11g-r2-on-64-bit/

  - Shopping List of software required
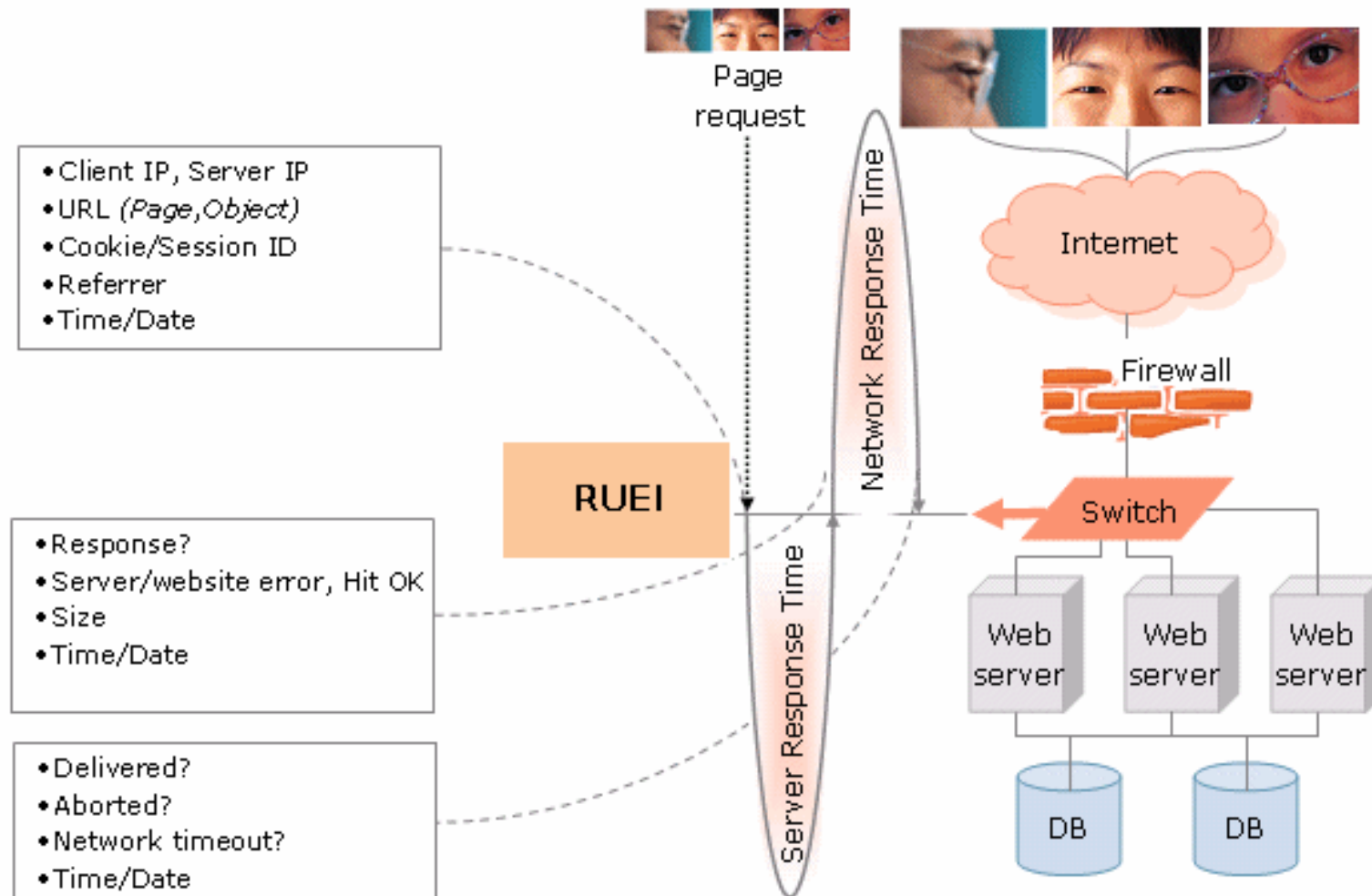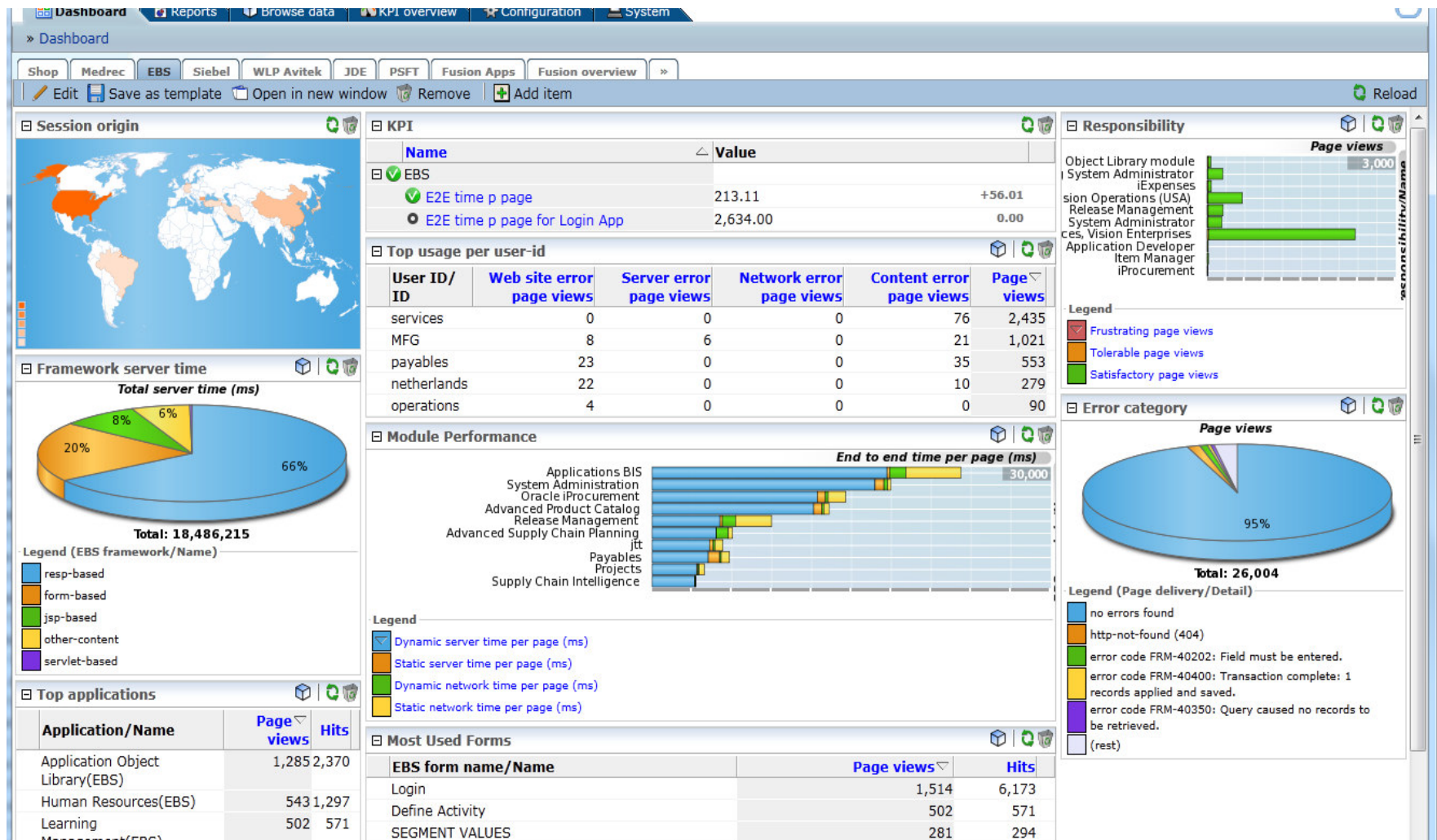 - Complete Install Notes

- Oracle Real User Experience Insight (RUEI) provides non-intrusive monitoring of user-application interactions allowing fine-grained collection of user experience data including:
  - User page visits
  - Length of time users spend on page
  - Task completion time

- Oracle Real User Experience Insight (RUEI) provides non-intrusive monitoring via Network Protocol Analysis (NPA) technology
  - No modification of applications required
  - No instrumentation added to application
  - Passive monitoring

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RUEI Management Screen

Other Features

- PL/SQL Editor Line numbers
- Maximizable Forms Window
- Dynamic URI for Read_Image_File and iconic buttons
- Optional Display of Menus and Decorations
- Improved NCHAR
- Font Anti-Aliasing

- Uses WebLogic like other FMW products
- Can be managed from Enterprise Manager (Enterprise Manager Fusion Middleware Control): configuration, session monitoring, session management, logging, security
- Integrated with Oracle Access Manager
- Supports database proxy users
- Adds new PJCs (Pluggable Java Components) client-side

- Integrated with DBMS AQ via when-event-raised trigger; can push event to client; forms calls PL/SQL to publish AQ events (Form2Form)

- Java Importer allows middle-tier Java

  - HTML page raiseEvent JavaScript method on Applet object passes event (plus payload) to Form (document.forms_applet.raiseEvent(event,payload)

  - Forms receives/processes when-custom-javascript-event trigger

  - Form can execute JavaScript in HTML page via Web.Javascript_Eval_Expr(expr,target) or Web.Javascript_Eval_Function(expr,target) return varchar2

- Embed forms in ADF, APEX, Java
- CSS to create Web 2.0 "look and feel"
- Forms Look and Feel community project
  http://fdtool.free.fr/LAF/doc/
  Oracle_Forms_Look_and_Feel_project.htm
- PJC tools to style forms via CSS
- Integration with external services/events (web services)

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- Wilfred van der Deijl has created a great tool for including Oracle Forms in ADF

http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/articles/wilfred-adf-forms-099635.html

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Grant Ronald's "Ten Years Younger"

- Oracle's Grant Ronald wrote an excellent paper showing what's possible with Oracle Forms available on OTN:

  http://www.oracle.com/ocom/groups/public/@otn/documents/webcontent/459564_en-gb.pdf

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"Future of Forms" Conference

- Lucas Jellema and AMIS (Netherlands) sponsored a "Future of Forms" conference in May 2012 where many papers were presented and demonstrations given showing what Oracle Forms can do

  Here's a description:
  http://www.amis.nl/theme/amis/uploadedFiles/PDF/Future%20of%20Forms%20EN%20DAG.pdf

- The "Oracle Forms Look and Feel Project" is a treasure-trove of examples for creating new and exciting applications with Forms
(thank you Francois DeGrelle!)

http://fdtool.free.fr/LAF/doc/
Oracle_Forms_Look_and_Feel_project.htm

- Oracle's home page for Forms has many interesting articles and links:

  http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/developer-tools/forms/overview/index.html

Blogs to Follow

- Here is a list of some blogs to follow if you are interested in "what's hot" in the Oracle Forms world:
  - [Frank Nimphius](#)
  - [Grant Ronald](#)
  - [Shay Shmeltzer](#)
  - [Lucas Jellema](#)
  - [François Degrelle](#)
  - [Mia Urman](#)
  - [Wilfred van der Deijl](#)
  - [Scott Tiger](#)

- Thanks to Mia Urman for the following list of Forms example URLs:
  - Forms Javascript with google maps demo
    http://iadviseblog.wordpress.com/2010/06/10/forms-11g-javascript-integration-call-others/
  - Live demos of the look and feel project
    http://fdtool.free.fr/LAF/doc/demos.htm
  - Some great slides of new features
    http://oracleformsinfo.files.wordpress.com/2012/02/reach_for_the_clouds_final_web.pdf
  - **Running Oracle Forms on the mobile - Demo**
    http://oracleformsinfo.files.wordpress.com/2012/02/reach_for_the_clouds_final_web.pdf

Wrapping It Up

- Oracle's support for Forms will continue for some time to come

- New development features in Forms are unlikely (product will be pretty static)

- Most new Forms features will provide integration with Fusion Middleware components or management/monitoring

- Oracle Forms is not going anywhere; it is not necessary to "convert" things to ADF or APEX (or anything else for that matter)

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Oracle Forms 11g R2

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Thanks for your attention!

Today's slides are on the web:

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