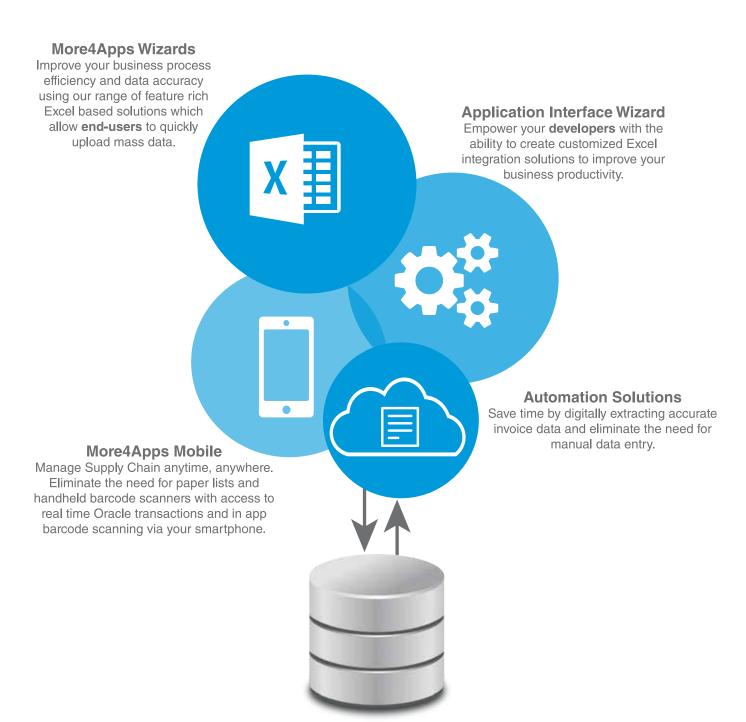




# Be Accurate. Be Efficient. Be Productive. Which solution do you need?



Specialists in providing easy to use integration solutions for mass data handling.





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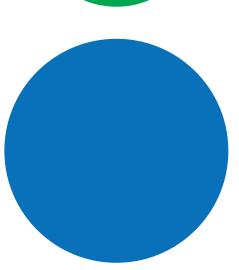
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The 2016 OAUG Buyer's Guide is a publication of the Oracle Applications Users Group (OAUG).



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is online, searchable and updated regularly with product announcements and news.

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#### Media Company Masks Oracle Limitations with Excel-based Reporting Tool

by: Jacques Blignaut, Solution Specialist, Excel4apps

Since 1999, The Halifax Herald Ltd. (The Herald) had struggled with reporting detailed business data from its Oracle E-Business Suite. The independently-owned publisher of The Chronicle Herald newspaper and other media products for Atlantic Canada found standard Oracle tools for reporting financial data time-consuming and cumbersome. Also, design limitations of The Herald's Oracle database general ledger (GL) structure presented additional reporting challenges that limited the visibility of business data.

To improve its financial reporting process, the company explored Oracle options, but these proved cost prohibitive and unfriendly for users. An online search revealed GL Wand – a Microsoft Excel-based reporting tool – from Excel4apps as a potential option that was both highly functional and cost-effective in terms of price and ongoing support.

#### Faster, More Accurate Reporting

In 2015, The Herald purchased licenses of GL Wand, which installed quickly and needed little to no IT support – or additional hardware or software. By the time The Herald completed its no-cost trial of the software in May 2015, Mark Salter, director of finance for The Herald, had already partially migrated the company's month-end reports to GL Wand.

Monthly closes – which had previously required manual input of data into Excel from multiple FSG reports – became faster and more accurate, with real-time data.

"For the previously time-consuming and error prone month-end reports, GL Wand now easily saves one day," said Salter. "If something changes, we simply push the journal entry to Oracle and hit refresh in GL Wand and it updates the entire linked workbook. There's no redo of data and no static unlinked reports that must all be manually changed. It saves a ton of time."

In addition to month-end reporting benefits, The Herald finance group reproduced department expense reports in GL Wand so that they provide the same data, but faster and in more detail.

"When something looks wrong in the expense report, it takes me two seconds to drill into the anomaly," explained Salter. "Previously, I'd have to run another Oracle report and search the payables section to locate invoices."

Another reporting benefit related to expenses has been a department-level variance spreadsheet.

"Using GL Wand to create a department-level expense variance sheet has allowed me to pull the monthly actuals expenses, as well as the budget, year-to-date actuals, year-to-date budget and the variances," Salter described. "I also wrote a section that lets me determine manual accruals, which are reflected in my modified actuals column. I can see where we will be at month end, and when I make the accruals, I just clean off the manual entry. GL Wand lets me quickly do the analysis first so I can determine what's missing."

#### **Alleviating Database Limitations**

The Herald's Oracle database general ledger (GL) structure was initially designed for only The Chronicle Herald, instead of the 25-30 existing publications. It did not allow reporting of revenue by type, product and bundle, or tracking of expenses by department and product, for example. However, restructuring the database to open a new set of books would have required too much time and cost.

"We needed a way to better segment data to get at the details," said Salter. "GL Wand allowed us to mask database limitations on a formula basis so we could better segment and drill into the data."

The Herald plans to continue to exploit GL Wand by transferring its P&L reports to the reporting tool in the future.

Jacques Blignaut, jacques.blignaut@excel4apps.com, is Solution Specialist at Excel4apps, a provider of Excel-based reporting, inquiry and budget uploading solutions for Oracle. Visit www. excel4apps.com/oracle to access a free trial.

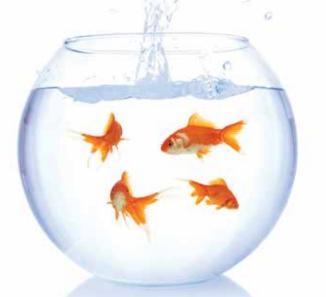


#### **ABOUT EXCEL4APPS**

Excel4apps is a best-in-class provider of Excel-based reporting and data-loading software for use with E-Business Suite and PeopleSoft. Trusted by users in 68 countries, our solutions include GL Wand for financial reporting and Reports Wand as an ideal Discoverer replacement. www. excel4apps.com.









#### More Than Just a Replacement for Discoverer

Take a fresh look at your data by integrating Excel directly with your Oracle E-Business Suite environment.



- \* Add-in to Excel allows you to easily and securely report on any EBS module
- ★ Effectively replaces reporting tools like Discoverer, Client / Web ADI, and FSGs
- ★ Quick, self-service reporting access a library of pre-built content
- ★ Create your own ad hoc reports no need for IT or complex SQL queries



### Top Seven Steps for Optimizing Cross-Validation Rules in General Ledger

by: Helene Abrams, CEO, eprentise, www.eprentise.com

Cross-validation rules (CVR) determine which segment values in your chart of accounts (COA) or other key flexfields can be used together. Upon data entry, the rule determines and controls the valid values that may be used in conjunction with other values.

A CVR applies only to a single COA structure or accounting flexfield. If you have more than one accounting flexfield, you will need to define CVR for each COA structure name (even if different COA use the same value sets). CVR only work on data entry and for the first time a combination is used. If users try to create a new combination that violates a rule, they will get an error message, and the combination will not be accepted. CVR have no impact on code combinations that are already in use, so it is important to design your CVR before entering transactions.



CVR are set up by describing valid combinations. In the Define Cross-Validation Rules form, you will define rule elements that specify low and high values for each segment; ideally, a range of individual values. Define each rule element as either an Include or Exclude type. Include contains all values in a specified range, and Exclude eliminates values. Include ranges list valid combinations, while Exclude ranges list invalid combinations.

#### Here are the top seven criteria for designing CVR:

- 1. Design your COA with CVR in mind.
  - a. Keep values in ranges.
  - b. Put similar data in only one segment.
  - c. Keep each segment for only one type of data.
  - d. Limit alphanumerics.
- 2. Start each rule with an Include statement that includes the entire range of values.
- 3. Limit each rule to only two segments.
- Make error messages descriptive so that when a user gets an error, he or she understands what changes need to be made.
- 5. Use several simple rules rather than one complex rule.
- 6. Start your cross-validation error messages with CV so that users know that the combination is failing because of a CVR as opposed to a security rule or end-dated value.
- 7. Use a single, well-designed COA for all operations. This greatly reduces the number of CVR necessary.

It is very easy to quickly get to thousands of CVR to manage; but if your COA follows the basic principles of good design, you will be able to simplify your cross-validation rules and significantly reduce maintenance as your business changes.



#### **ABOUT EPRENTISE**

eprentise® serves the Oracle® E-Business Suite (EBS) community with transformation software that improves business agility, supports changing requirements and eliminates the need for a reimplementation. With eprentise software, companies can receive access to complete, consistent and correct data. www.eprentise.com.



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#### **Top 10 Reasons to Trust Paymetric**

by: Paymetric

#### 1. Paymetric Solutions are used by 1 in 5 Fortune 100 Companies.

With a world-class retention rate, leading companies such as National Instruments, Toshiba, Lenovo and Under Armour trust Paymetric solutions that support over 190 countries and 40 currencies.

#### 2. Validated Integration Partner for the Oracle E-Business Suite.

Paymetric secures and streamlines payment acceptance with its industry-leading, integrated cloud solutions. Our solution secures all data and can reduce scope of PCI compliance, streamline order-to-cash and reduce costs of e-payment acceptance.

#### 3. Award-winning Solutions.

Since 1998, our solutions have been broadly recognized by Deloitte Technology Fast 500, Info Security, Red Herring, Inc.5000 and Gartner for Top Picks in Tokenization and Digital Payments Technology.

#### 4. Open Integration.

Paymetric offers one turnkey solution that is processor neutral and easily integrates with existing infrastructure to facilitate seamless payment processing and power global commerce.

#### 5. Unrivaled Security.

Paymetric's patented tokenization protects the enterprises from data breach by eliminating any payment and sensitive data from systems — reducing extensive, long-term financial and brand damage on your organization.

#### 6. Lowers Costs.

Paymetric solutions and cloud delivery lower interchange fees and PCI audit costs.

#### 7. Reduces Scope of PCI DSS Audit.

Paymetric helps navigate the complexities of PCI compliance and reduces the level of effort required for compliance.

#### 8. Scales with Growth, Geography, Systems and Data.

As one of the top gateways, Paymetric cloud solutions are designed to scale easily as businesses grow and evolve over time.

#### 9. Proven Methodology.

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#### 10. Dedicated World Class Service and Support.

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Secure Payment Acceptance – Reduces PCI audit scope

Oracle Validated Integration – Streamlines payment processing

Optimized – Reduces Interchange costs

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#### Maintaining Data Across Multiple Systems Using Excel

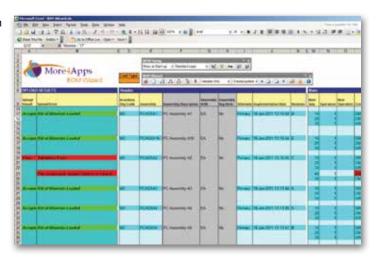
#### Reducing data entry time from 3-4 weeks to 3-4 days!

by: Tony Maschinot, Project Manager and Customer

As a global household name in the automotive industry with an international workforce, our engineering, sales and manufacturing landscape is a complex web of interactions where updates are constantly needed in an accurate and timely manner; especially when it comes to our bill of materials (BOM) information.

We have multiple systems to contain BOM information. Aside from the engineering system BOMs, we have manufacturing BOMs in both our ordering system and Oracle E-Business Suit (EBS).

The manual maintenance process of multiple manufacturing BOMs caused a significant amount of duplicated manual effort and introduced potential errors and risks for essential inventory data. We ran an analysis where we found differences in the maintenance of the Manufacturing BOMs in the multiple systems. Knowing that we could not eliminate any of the three systems, we undertook a project to make Oracle EBS our manufacturing BOM master database. Due to the complexity of the engineering system, we needed to manually update the BOM details before loading it into any system.



By making Oracle EBS the "master," we needed an interface to feed BOM data to our ordering system. Our investigations showed it took 3-4 weeks to get our Engineering BOMs into both our ordering system and Oracle EBS. We also found that most of our plants were maintaining an Excel BOM as well. If we could find a tool that would allow an extraction of the engineering BOM to be used as input into Oracle, we could greatly reduce the amount of manual effort required, as well as reduce the number of manufacturing and inventory issues. We searched for ways to help reduce the manual time required to create and maintain BOMs. Luckily we found the More4Apps BOM Wizard.

#### SUCCESSFUL RESULTS

With the introduction of the More4Apps BOM Wizard, our users estimated that we would reduce the amount of time required to enter these BOMs manually, from 3-4 weeks down to 3-4 days!

The BOM Wizard also means we can remove the need to maintain a separate Excel BOM as an Excel file, because now they can be pulled from the EBS master at any time. We are currently in production at our first plant using the BOM Wizard; it is proving to be well worth the small expense.

The success we are already seeing has led us to evaluating other Wizards from More4Apps, such as the Price List Wizard and the Purchase Order Wizard for its AutoCreate functionality! We have just started this process but expect to see similar time-saving benefits across our whole workforce.



#### **ABOUT MORE4APPS**

The leader in creating automation and integration solutions for users of EBS and Cloud. More4Apps specializes in providing end users and developers with easy-to-use Excel integration solutions for uploading and downloading data. Improve productivity, Empower end users, www.more4apps.com.



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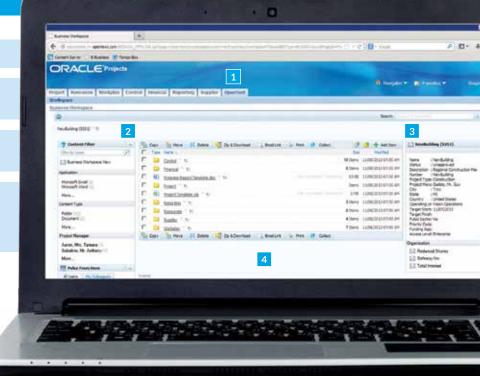
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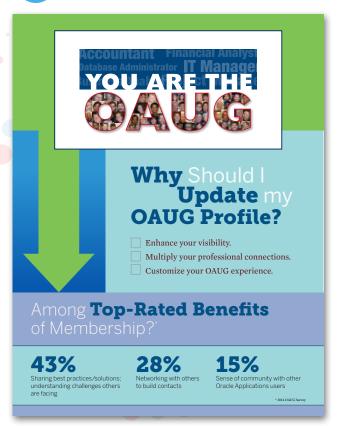
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One of the greatest benefits of OAUG membership is connecting with other members. According to member Matt Lechner of Centric Group, "Being able to talk to people who have gone through what you're facing is invaluable."

Connecting with others through the OAUG helps members save time and resources. And the best way to do that is to make sure your OAUG profile contains current and accurate information about you so that others can find you.

To update your OAUG profile, log in to oaug.org and click the blue My OAUG Profile button. Then click the Edit My Information link. Check to make sure your mailing address is correct, and also choose the types of information you'd like to receive from the OAUG.

Be sure to scroll down to the bottom of the page to update your role in your organization, the Oracle products you use or service, and your organization's primary industry. This is the information that other members will use to find you in the OAUG Membership Directory.

Once you've updated your profile, navigate to the OAUG Membership Directory under the Resources tab on oaug.org and start networking!

If you need any assistance in updating your profile, please contact the membership staff at membership@oaug.org or +1 404 240-0897.



Buyer's Guide





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The OAUG provides problem-solving information for users of E-Business Suite, Hyperion EPM, Cloud Applications, Primavera and many other applications. OAUG members have unlimited access to timely, focused education that saves their companies time and resources. Some of these include the annual



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COLLABORATE conference as well as live and recorded eLearning webinars and live online OAUG Connection Point® events.

OAUG members and prospective members will have the opportunity to learn from others' challenges and successes during the OAUG Connection Point -- Hyperion Online series in November. Get all the details online at oaug.org.



And, if you can't attend a live event, thousands of presentations, case studies and best practices prepared by users and experts are collected for you in the Conference Paper Database so that the answers you seek are available whenever you need them. Similarly, the OAUG eLearning archive includes hundreds of recorded sessions on a wide variety of topics so that you can

find solutions when it's convenient for you.

In addition, you can get quick tips and ideas in minutes by watching OAUG Pro Tips: Take 5 videos. These short videos feature OAUG members sharing practical tips and solutions.



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-Matt Youmans, Worthington Industries



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-Tammy Adler, Alliance Resource Partners, L.P. (ARLP)



"OAUG member organizations have a treasure chest of information and resources available to them. The help available, especially in the form of individual insights and experiences goes way beyond the black and white information manuals can offer."

-John Schmitz, University of Wisconsin, Madison



"I'd like to get more employees from my company involved now, as I think everyone can learn something from the OAUG and COLLABORATE."

-Jean Farmer, KCI Technologies, Inc.



"Find trusted industry partners and increase your confidence to proceed. Being able to talk to people who have gone through what you're facing is invaluable."



-Matt Lechner, Centric Group



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The Buyer's Guide
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snapshot of each
company's
service offerings.

For a complete list of services and additional information about each company, please visit the Company Listings section beginning on page 20.





# why belong to the {OAUG?}

Oracle Applications Users Group (OAUG) members are equipped to improve efficiency, enhance problem solving, and spark innovation through opportunities for education, networking and influence.

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sers of Oracle Applications should all participate in the organization due to the benefit in networking and education.







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#### **API Wizard**

**Sales Contact: Sarah Conzemius** 

1127 High Ridge Road, Number 238

Stamford, CT 06905 Phone: 310.430.0245

Toll Free Phone: 800.691.8714 sarah.conzemius@api-wizard.com

www.api-wizard.com

API Wizard combines the best of Oracle and Excel to speed up data entry, data updating, master data maintenance, reporting and development. API Wizard is one Excel-based tool that works across every Oracle EBS module for uploading and reporting.

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Sales Contact: Dominick Dipaolo

21300 Victory Blvd., 12th Floor Woodland Hills, CA 91367 Phone: 818.746.4737

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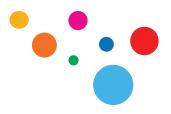
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#### **Chain-Sys Corporation**

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#### **CloudIO Inc**

Sales Contact: Naren Chelluri

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#### ConfigSnapshot - Rookery Software

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Hankerton, Wiltshire SN16 9JZ, United Kingdom

Phone: 646.652.6855

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#### Excel4apps

Sales Contact: Brian Grossweiler

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Excel4apps is a best-in-class provider of Excel-based reporting and data-loading software for use with E-Business Suite and PeopleSoft. By empowering business professionals with independent and secure access to real-time ERP data via Microsoft Excel, the company's products expedite accurate and timely business decisions. Excel4apps reporting solutions include GL Wand for financial reporting as well as Reports Wand as a Discoverer replacement solution. Founded in 2005, Excel4apps has offices around the world and supports users in 68 countries.

#### Global Software, Inc.

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#### **Hubble by Insightsoftware.com**

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#### O2Works, LLC

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#### **OpenText**

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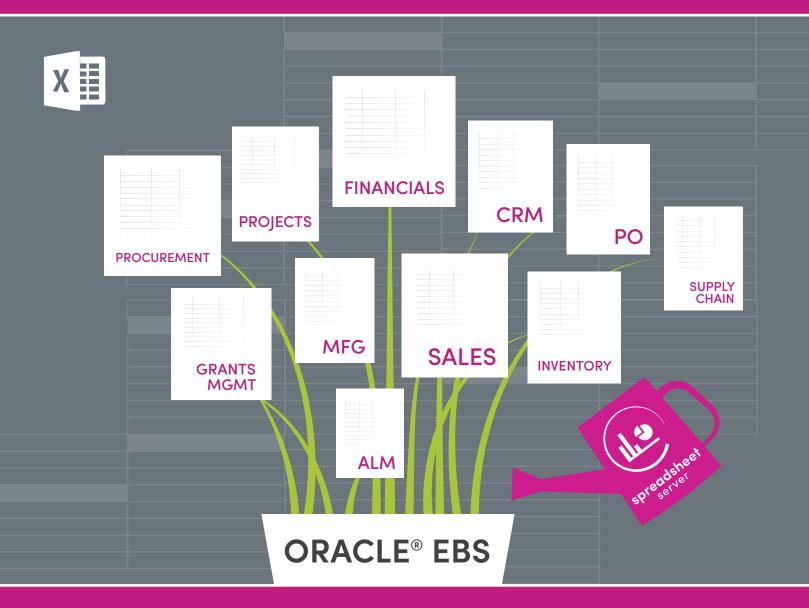
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