Oracle Application Development Tools Statement of Direction: Oracle Forms, Oracle Reports and Oracle Designer

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Disclaimer

The following is intended to outline our general product direction. It is intended for information purposes only, and may not be incorporated into any contract. It is not a commitment to deliver any material, code, or functionality, and should not be relied upon in making purchasing decisions. The development, release, and timing of any features or functionality described for Oracle's products remains at the sole discretion of Oracle.

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Oracle's Support Policy

Oracle Forms, Oracle Reports, and Oracle Designer have a large and very active installed base, with applications developed with these tools being the cornerstone of many businesses including Oracle's own E-Business Suite. Oracle recognizes this considerable investment and remains committed to the long-term support of these products.

Oracle's Lifetime Support Policy

Oracle's Lifetime Support Policy defines the support levels and dates for Oracle products. The support timelines for the products referenced in this document are defined here:

http://www.oracle.com/support/library/brochure/lifetime-support-middleware.pdf

Specifically, for each of these development tools the plans and recommendations are as follows:

Oracle Forms

For complete details about Oracle Forms 12c and its Statement of Direction, please refer to MyOracleSupport Note 2009262.1

Oracle Reports

The last major changes to Oracle Reports were in the 10g release. Since then, there have been limited new features added to the product in Oracle Reports 11gR1 and 11gR2. Development efforts for Oracle Reports since 10g have been focused on stability and bug fixes. While we have released Oracle Reports 12c as part of Oracle Fusion Middleware 12c, as with its predecessor version (11gR2), no significant changes have been included.

Oracle's strategic reporting solution is now BI Publisher. While Oracle's support of Oracle Reports will extend well into the future (refer to the Lifetime Support Policy), customers should begin planning their migration to BI Publisher. Many Oracle applications and products, including E-Business Suite, Siebel CRM and JD Edwards, have already changed their reporting infrastructure to use BI Publisher as a replacement to earlier reporting tools. Oracle Forms 12c offers integration with BI-Publisher similar to the integration offered with Oracle Reports.

Customers needing to create or make major updates to reports should take advantage of BI Publisher, which offers interactive management reports in addition to the wide range of formats and output destinations that they are familiar with in Oracle Reports. BI Publisher can also pull in data from a variety of source, including SOA web services; database procedures, spreadsheets, ERP/HR/CRM applications, and BPEL workflows.

With BI Publisher, report creation and modification extends to end users who can design reports in a web browser, or use familiar desktop tools such as Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, or Adobe Acrobat. These reports can execute on the same application server as the Forms and Reports applications along with any applications built using JDeveloper.

Oracle Designer

Oracle Designer 10g was the last version of this product, released as a component of Oracle Developer Suite 10g. Oracle Designer was not released as a component of Oracle Fusion Middleware 11g, nor is it planned to be a component of future Oracle Fusion Middleware releases.   Oracle Support continues to offer sustaining level support for Oracle Designer 10g.

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