Image Tables in Customer Facing BI Publisher Template

By: Jake Walsh

There are several scenarios which require a rigid layout in a BI Publisher template in regards to tables and lines. Most customer facing documents such as the Purchase Order, AP Invoice and checks need to have a consistent layout that is difficult to accomplish with Word tables and anchoring.

Business Case:
Our client wanted to replicate a payroll check. This check is printed on pre-printed check stock that contains the company's logo along with some boarders and shading. There were are number of table outlines/boxes that were not on the check stock which needed to be added to the rtf template.

Solution:
A background image can be used to draw lines, tables, boxes or anything you can create using MS Paint or any other image. This image can then be imported into the BI Publisher template and will be displayed as though it was drawn directly on the template.

The first step is to create an image. This can be a .png, .jpg, .jpeg, etc... You can use MS Paint, Snag It, or any other editor with which you feel comfortable.

Once you are done with the image, open the .rtf template and navigate to 'Page Layout->Page Color->Fill Effects->Picture->Select Picture' then select the image you created in the first step.

It's that easy.

The image below was drawn using Snag It.

image1.jpeg

Once imported into the BI Publisher template, it looks like the image below:

MYLOCALEG CHECK WRITER XMLVar1Var2Var3

	CHECK DATE	PAYMENT_DAT			
	PERIOD END DATE	END DATE		CHECK NUMBER	CHECK_NUM
FULL NAME	RATE/SALARY			EMPLOYEE NUMBER	EMPLOYEE

WAGES	HOURS	RATE	AMOUNT	YTD AMOUNT	DEDUCTIONS		AMOUNT YTD AMOUNT
G AC		C		0.00 G AC	DEDNSREPNAMESetV	9,999.99	9,999.99
EARNINGSIFREPORTING		9.00EC		EARNINGS			EFE
NAMESetV					OTHER DEDUCTIONS	9,999.99	9,999.99 EI
OTHER EARNINGS			9,999.99	9,999.99			

| | TOTALS | IF0.00EIF | IF0.00EIF |
| | TAXABLE GROSS | IF0.00EIF | IF0.00EIF |

DIRECT DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT NUMBER	AMOUNT
forSegment2	Segment3	end

HOURS TYPE	BALANCE	TAX INFO	MS/EX
Sick Hours		G	MS/0<?end
Vacation		<?if:STATUS!=No	if?>
		State Withholding	
	end	Tax"?>TT	

You can adjust and re-import the image at anytime.

If you inherit a template that has an embedded image but do not have access to the original image you will need to reverses engineer the template to gain access to the image. The embedded image can be found using the following steps:

- Save the file as a .docx
- Open up a file zip program (I used 7-Zip)
- Extract the files (in 7-Zip you can right click on the file > 7-Zip > Extract files)
- Choose the location where you want to unzip
- Once that is done, go to the unzipped file directory and under word\media\ you will find the background image

About the Author

Jake Walsh is an accomplished Oracle EBS, Oracle Custom Development and Business Intelligence architect, designer and developer with over nineteen years of experience in working with Oracle. Specialties include project management, requirements gathering, design and build of reports, conversions, interfaces and extensions. As a hands-on manager, Jake has led a number of technical teams on successful, large-scale implementations and upgrades of differing Oracle modules as well as managed budgets and timelines. As a technical architect he has designed and built custom extensions, conversions and user interfaces on several projects.

Mr. Walsh has experience in various industries with the Oracle development technology stack and with the Oracle Financials, Oracle Projects, Oracle Human Resources, Oracle Advanced Benefits, Order Management and Manufacturing and Planning/Forcasting modules including Oracle Process Manufacturing, Oracle Warehouse Management, Advanced Supply Chain Planning and Demantra. Jake can be reached at jwalsh@o2works.com.

About O2Works

O2 Works LLC was founded in 2001 as has its principal office in Dallas, Texas located on 1701 N Market Street, Suite 313 along with offices in Chicago, Denver and Virginia. We focus strictly on providing expert, hands-on consulting resources for the Oracle e-Business suite of applications. Our skilled consultants have more than 18 years of Oracle applications experience as well as strong business backgrounds.

We are a Certified Oracle Partner firm and are very active in the Oracle Application User Group, where we are a Level 3 partner. We invest a significant amount of time and effort in our Oracle Application User Group (OAUG) activities. In addition to being presenters at numerous events, we hold positions for various national and regional groups. This affords us the ability to build relationships with new leaders at Oracle and work with Oracle development on new features and programs.

We are 100% focused on the Oracle e-Business suite and have some of the most experienced and highly regarded hands-on consultants in the industry. "Putting Oracle to Work" means that we help our customers get the most out of their Oracle investment by providing our in-depth application knowledge and effectively communicating shared best practices. Our ability to add value to an organization is further enhanced by our years of practical business experience and excellent communication skills.

We understand the importance of combining business knowledge with functional Oracle application know-how. It is that blend that enables the innovative problem solving that O2Works is known for. Unfortunately, many organizations today may lack resources with the depth and breadth of knowledge to get the most out of their Oracle ERP investment. With our up-to-date knowledge of the latest release of the Oracle applications and Best Practice approaches as well as tricks-of-the-trade, we can help companies to bridge the gap.

O2Works, while focused strictly on the Oracle e-Business suite of applications offers a variety of value-added services including:

- ☑ **Upgrades and/or Re-implementations** – We provide the full range of capabilities from Upgrade planning to functional testing and training as well as DBA and Project Management support
- ☑ **Implementations** – We offer the full range of technical and functional EBS implementation services for the full suite or individual modules depending upon the customer's needs
- ☑ **Remote Support** - DBA / Sys. Admin and functional apps support – Our Experts on Call offerings (DBA/Sys Admin., Functional, and Developer/Analyst) supply organizations with personalized, high quality, rapid response support at a fraction of the cost of an FTE
- ☑ **Application Optimization & Performance Tuning** – We provide assessments as well as remediation services (including training) for all types of functional and technical issues in order to assist organizations to maximize their Oracle investment
- ☑ **Project Management** - full time or supplemental – Our experienced resources who have both application and business skills are capable of providing Project Management services on either a part-time of full time basis depending on the project needs
- ☑ **Development and design capabilities** – Our highly skilled developer analysts possess business know-how and communication skills that enable them to develop useful solutions to solve the client's problems. They participate in the requirements development and develop a useful solution as opposed to "just" coding
- ☑ **Quality Assurance** – Heavily experienced resources and proven, successful methodology enable us to deliver Quality Assurance to all types of Oracle EBS projects and issues
- ☑ **Client Advocate** - advisory and planning – Due to our deep Oracle application skills and business knowledge we provide advisory services to variety of clients and assist them to maximize their Oracle investment. The trusted advisor role is the foundation for many of our long standing client relationships
- ☑ **Training** - applications and system – Our experienced resources often provide personalized training to organizations looking to increase their knowledge and update their skills
- ☑ **Application Maintenance and Support** – This applies not only to maintaining patch levels (as well as the requisite testing) but also assisting with application and process changes to maintain the fit between the organization and their EBS applications
- ☑ **Testing: planning and support** – Whether is an implementation (full or partial), an upgrade, or just required patching, we provide test plan assessment and development services as well as testing support
- ☑ **Applications Restructuring Planning** – Many organizations have outgrown their original Oracle applications implementations because of changes to their business structure. With our intricate knowledge of the Oracle applications and our insight as to future Oracle direction, we frequently assist organizations in reviewing their Oracle application footprint and support them by providing knowledge about new features or functionality that can be incorporated
- ☑ **Divestitures and Acquisitions** - rapid re-implementations. These types of transactions generally cause major changes to the ERP landscape at a time when things must be done quickly. Our proven rapid re-implementation approach allows companies

to focus on those set-up issues that need to change and streamlines the planning process and implementation timeline

Our experienced, hands-on resources enable us to bring a strong breadth of services focused on the e-Business suite. There is no substitute for experience. We have a strong mix of functional consultants with business backgrounds and effective communications skills who know how to use the Oracle applications to solve business problems. All of our consultants are based in the United States.

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