Case Study 11i.10

Using the New Forms 6i Personalization Capability to Enforce Business Rules in Oracle Assets

Goals of Presentation

- Overview of our Project
- Business case for "custom" logic
- Possible Approaches
- Capabilities of Forms 6i Personalization
- Step by Step Approach for our Requirements
- Other Personalizations in Scope
- Summary

Overview of Project

- Large 11i Installation PA, AP, GL, PO installed
- Retailer
- US and Canada
- 6000 + Locations
- 1.5 MM Asset Records in 2 Legacy systems

- FA and AR being implemented post 11.5.10 Upgrade
- Heavy integration with 3rd Party EAM solution
- Rapid growth in Asset base expected – better tracking ability
- Integration with
 Property Tax Solution

Business Case for Custom Logic

- Large number of potential end users geographically dispersed
- Several key extensions to support business requirements
- Turnover and training challenges
- Previous systems were home grown
- Other Oracle modules had been tailored through use of 3rd party applications
- Oracle Assets provided too much flexibility need to restrict and guide users

Business Case Con't

- During various CRP and training sessions too many holes identified
- Flexibility of Oracle Assets often viewed as not restrictive enough
- Different rules for property vs. equipment
- Different rules for tax vs. finance
- Did not want Asset / Books Security features

Our Options

- Customization
 - Forms
 - Triggers
 - Exception or Alert Based Reports
- Use Custom Library
- 3rd Party Tool Already licensed for other apps
- Forms 6i Personalization

Our Other Considerations

Customization

- Costly to Build, Test, Support
- Future patching and upgrades more difficult
- Customizations are extra cost if hosted
- 3rd Party Tool
 - Required additional expertise
 - Desire to limit use of bolt-on products
 - Stated direction to simplify
- Custom Library required scarce skilled development resources

The Choice – Forms 6i Personalization

- Recent 11.5.10 Upgrade allowed opportunity to experiment and consider as a choice
- Goal of organization to avoid customizations
- Goal of organization to avoid 3rd party solutions
- Ability to have real time feedback

- Goal of organization to move into areas supported by E-Business Suite
- Our Business Analysts had successes at previous customers with these approaches
- Did not require a developer

Quick Overview of Forms 6i Personalization – Some Background

- Core Modules Available in 11.5.10 as well as Release 12
- Located near "Examine" type utilities
- Allows for customers to create rules and decide how and when they are applied
- Not initially heavily documented required trial and error, bartering for Oracle internal documentation

Capabilities of Personalization

- Remove fields, buttons, tabs, etc. from the screen because they never use them
- Re-label fields and buttons to be more insightful or to use a terminology of the customer
- Change an attribute of a field update, required, etc
- Change the default value of fields
- Restrict or enable for a user or a responsibility or application – (Industry is Future Use)
- Have conditional logic for when the rule is invoked
- Have site specific dynamic messages for immediate feedback

Capabilities (Con't)

- Allows you to make declarative changes to a form.
- Changes get applied at runtime when the proper trigger event occurs.
- Changes can get applied based user, resp, etc
- You can:
 - Change object properties
 - Execute certain Forms builtins
 - Display helpful, warning or error messages
 - Activate menu entries
 - Prevent Actions

Rules-Conditions

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Determines when a personalization will apply If Evaluates to True, then something will happen.

Context – Site, Resp, User

Function Name Seq Description	FND_FNDSCAUS Form Name FNDSCAUS Show Debug Messages	Enabled
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* Note that Industry is reserved for Future Use

Actions

- Determine what the personalization will do
- Sequence determines Order (you can have multiple personalizations)
- Description is for debugging and for documentation purposes
- Language can apply to All or one Language
- Set Properties, Display Messages, Call Forms or Functions

Actions - Example

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Reminder – Our Goals

- Enforce Business Rules above and beyond standard functionality
- Remove some of the flexibility of the Applications
- Avoid Customizations of Forms
- Avoid use of 3rd Party Products
- Avoid use of Custom Library
- Use Forms 6i Personalization to accomplish all of the above

For our study- Business Rules

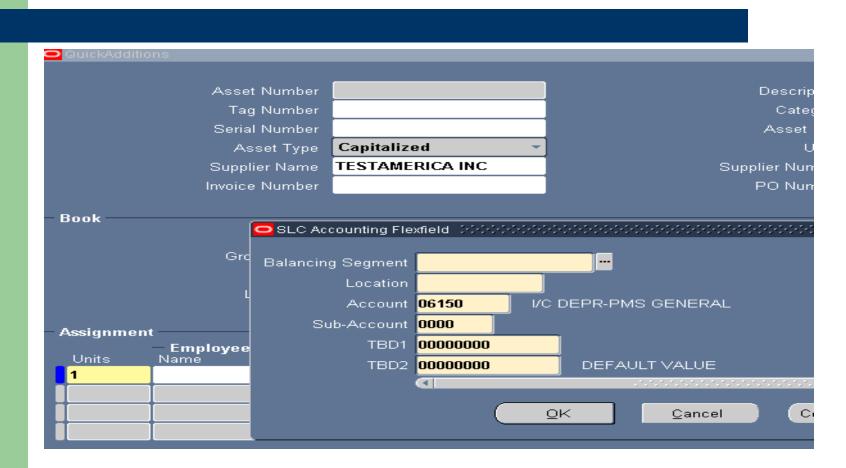
 Prevent Override of Depreciation Expense Segment as Defined on the Category
 Limit use of location combinations to those applicable to the corporate book – US, CA

3.Make Retirement
Type a mandatory field
for reporting and
accounting purposes
4.Enforce use of
uppercase when
entering or querying
descriptions

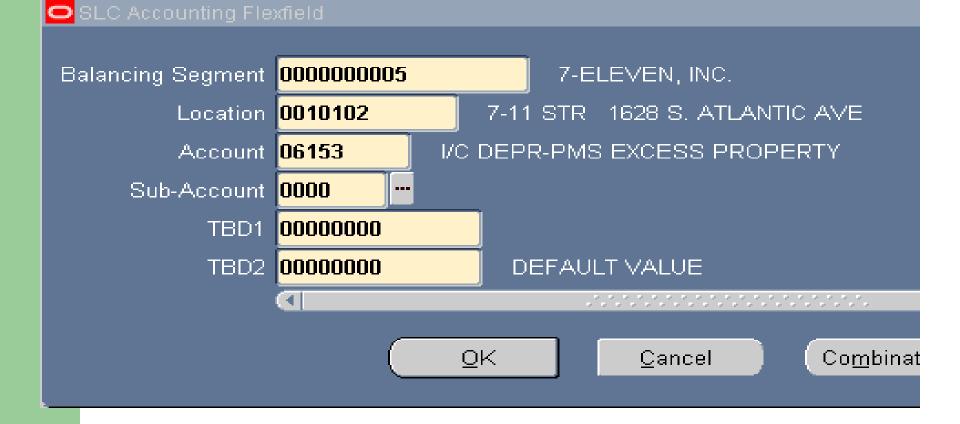
Prevent Override of Deprn Segment

- Categories suggest a default expense account
- User can override on the Quick Additions
 Form
- User can override on the Detailed Additions form
- We can end up with deprecation expense in wrong accounts

Standard Quick Additions Functionality – Default from Category



Quick Additions – Allows Override



Case One - Background Research

- Quick Additions and Detailed Additions Form are all part of the Asset Workbench – Form Name is FAXASSET – (From Help About Oracle Applications)
- Use Examine Utility to Determine Block Names QuickAdditions – ADDITION_DIST and Detailed Additions is the ASSIGNMENTS_DIST Block
- A Default Expense Account is associated with Each Category/Book Combination as part of the standard setup

Case One – Background (cont)

- Other Key Elements Needed-
 - :ASSIGNMENTS_HEADER.DEPRN_EXPENSE_ACCT
 - :ASSIGNMENTS_HEADER.BOOK_TYPE_CODE
 - :ASSIGNMENTS_HEADER.ASSET_CATEGORY_ID
- FA_CATEGORY_BOOKS.deprn_expense_a cct and book_type_code in the base table

How Did we Determine this Information?

- Use of basic tools available to support or business analysts
- Help -About this Record
- Examine Utility
- Past Experience
- E-TRM on Metalink

How to Determine a Form Name

About Oracle Applications

NLS_LANG : AMERICAN_AMERICA.US7ASCII NLS_NUMERIC_CHARACTERS : ., ORACLE_HOME : /d801/oracle/imm1ora/8.0.6 ORACLE_PATH : [Unset] ORA_NLS_CHARSET_CONVERSION : [Unset] TNS_ADMIN : /d801/oracle/imm1ora/8.0.6/network/admin/imm1_plslc051 TWO_TASK : imm1

Current Form

Form Application : Assets Form Name : FAXASSET Form Path : /d801/oracle/imm1appl/fa/11.5.0/forms/US/FAXASSET.fmx Form Version : 11.5.433 Form Last Modified : \$Date: 2006/01/30 07:48 \$

Forms



Examine Utility

- Help Diagnostics Examine
- Controlled by (Utilities:Diagnostics) Profile

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Block	ADDITION_DIST		
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Side Note - Control of Access to Personalization and other Utilities

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How to Invoke Form to Define Personalizations

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Invoke the Form to Setup the Personalization from the Form you wish to modify

Other Menu Items

- Core Code Only if you are having issues
- Show Custom Events Great for finding events to attach to
- Personalize Invokes the Personalization form
- Normal Run form with Personalizations

Need to do Several Things

- Name the Rule and supply a Condition
- Attached to some "Event" pre-existing logic in the form
- Supply a Context (who does this apply to?)
- Create an Action(s) What should result ?

Rule – Prevent Override - QuickAdds

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Trigger Event – When Validate Record

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Condition – (SQL Statement)

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SQL- If Field Segment Differs from Setup Definition

:ADDITION_BOOKS.EXPENSE_ACCT != (select deprn_expense_acct from fa_category_books where fa_category_books.book_type_code = :ADDITION_BOOKS.BOOK_TYPE_CODE and fa_category_books.category_id = :ADDITION_ADD.ASSET_CATEGORY_ID)

Use Validate Button

Trigger Event Trigger Object	
Condition	:ADDITION_BOOKS.EXPENSE_ACCT != (select deprn_expense_acct from fa_category_books where fa_category_books.book_type_code = :ADDITION_BOOKS.BOOK_TYPE_CODE
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Use Validate Button

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Action – Raise Error and Display Message

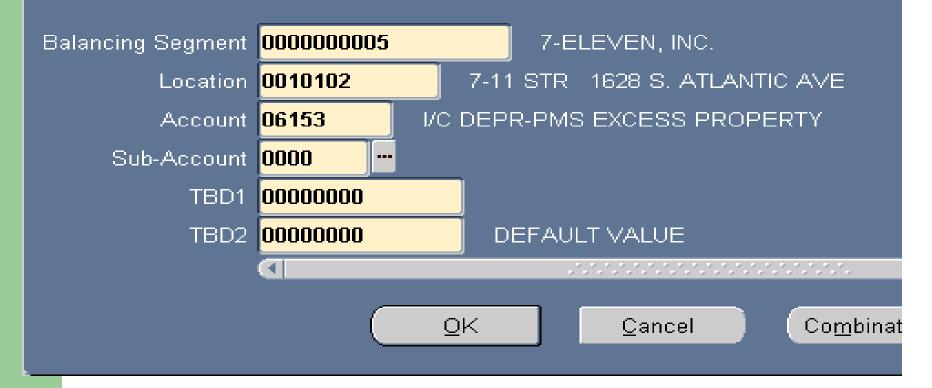
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Save your Work and Try it Out

- Navigate all the way out of the form
- Ensure Personalization Turned On
- Turn it off if you get fatal Errors
- Test it out while on queried records

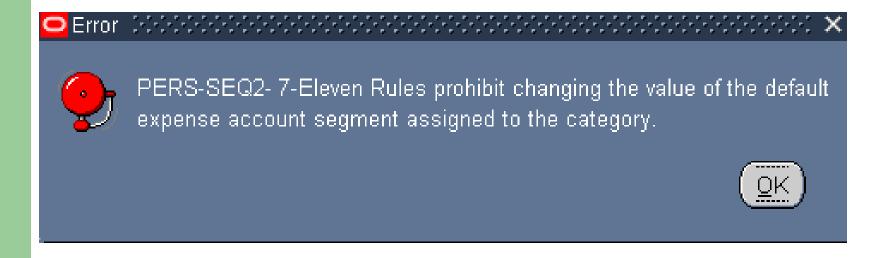
Test our Work

SLC Accounting Flexfield.

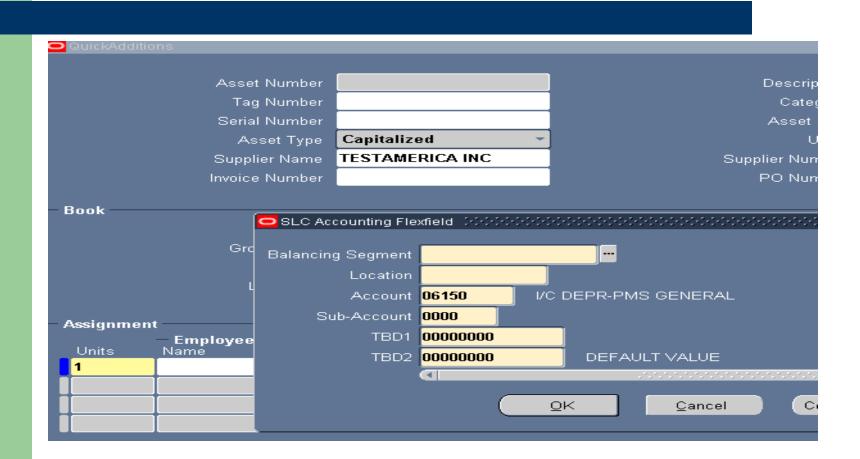


Exception Raised – Rule Enforced

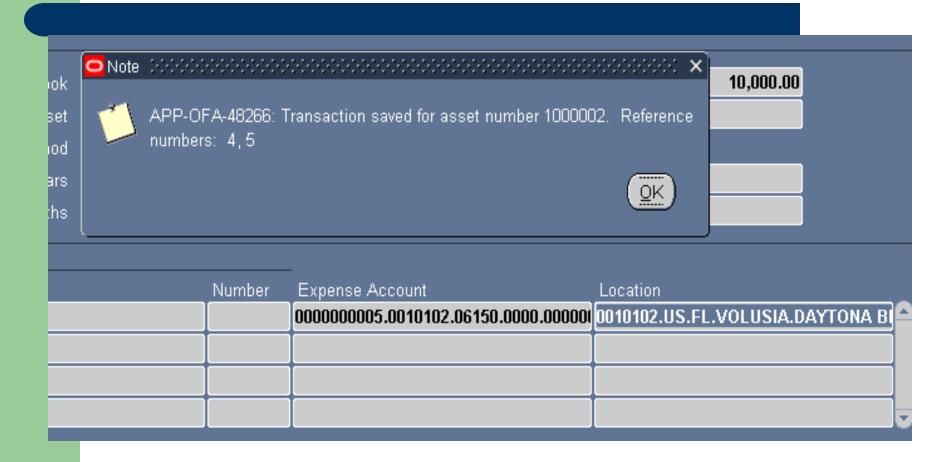
When attempting to save the Record – When Validate Record Event will Fire – Error Message Displayed As Below



Change Back to Default -



Positive Results!



Case Two

- We have two Sets of Corporate Books for Canada and the US
- We need to keep assets in locations associated with proper country
- We have thousands of Locations in both countries – Need to prevent transfer to locations that are not in the country associated with the book

Research

- Location Combination (Key Flex) had Country Embedded as one of the Segments
- Needed to Enforce from QuickAdditions and Additions Form
- Also Performed edits on Mass Transfers form, but not illustrated in our presentation
- Want to make sure US in our Location Segment if in US Book, CA if in Canadian Book

SQL Logic – Compare Book to Location Segment 2 (Country)

:ASSIGNMENTS_HEADER.BOOK_TYPE_CODE != (select decode(a.segment2,'CA','SLC CANADA','US','SLC US CORP') from fa_locations a where :ASSIGNMENTS_DIST.LOCATION_ID = a.location_id)

It will Fail if the Country does not match the Book Name coded above

Rule and Condition

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Results – Locations Controlled

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Case Three

- Make Retirement Type Mandatory
- Drives Reporting and Accounting for all disposals
- Out of the Box Retirement Type is Optional, and it is easy to forget to supply this value
 - Retirements Screen
 - Mass Retirements Screen

Research

- Retirements performed from Same Asset
 Workbench in previous Example FAXASSET
- Mass Retirements FAXMAMRT
- Retirements LOV
- Retirement Type Field on Mass Retirements
 - MASS_RETIREMENTS.RETIREMENT_TYPE_DISP

Mass Retirement Form

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Units	Cost of Removal	
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Comments	Task Number	
Retirement Criteria Additional Criteria		
Asset Type Capitalized	Fully Reserved Yes	
Expense Accounts	-	
Location		
Employee Name	Number	
Category	Asset Key	
Cost Range		
Dates in Service		
Create	Discard Retire Review	
Record: 1/1 List of Valu	<0SC>	

Retirements – Asset Workbench

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Asset Number	1000002	Reference Number		
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Step One – Rule and Condition (Always)

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Action – Set Property of Field

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MASS_RETIREMENTS.STATUS_DSP	Status (Mass Retirements)	Select By	Text	
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Set Property – LOV on Object

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Set Property – LOV on Property Name

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Property – Required = True

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Results – Yellow Field Indicates Mandatory

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REMINDER-

Be sure to leave and return to form while debugging to ensure your results are as expected!

Case Four

- Want to ensure Asset Description is Always Uppercase
- Ease of Inquiry
- Ease of Reporting
- Corporate Standard
- Quick Additions, Detailed Additions,

Research

- Quick Additions
- Additions
- Search
- All are FAXASSET form (Workbench)

Create Rule and Condition

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Form Personalizations (Asset Workbench) 000000000000000000000000000000000000	
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Seq Description 5 Do Not Allow Changes to Write Down Records on Books Screen 6 Retirement Type is Mandatory 7 Quick Addition Description Field All Uppercase 8 Detail Addition Description Field All Uppercase	Level Enabled Function Function Funct
Condition Actions Trigger Event WHEN-NEW-FORM-INSTANCE (You can enter additional event names.)	
Trigger Object Condition	
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Record: 7/? <osc></osc>	·

Create Action – CASE_RESTRICTION -Uppercase

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Repeat – Search from Workbench

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Action- Search from Workbench

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Results – Uppercase Entry

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Results – Uppercase Query -Find

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Level of Effort Required

- About one Day for these items
- Takes time to research field names and table relationships
- Take time to test
- Results aren't always positive first time

Personalizations very Powerful- Except

Runtime Changes Only

- Cannot create new items
- Cannot move items between canvases
- Cannot display an item which is not on a canvas
- Cannot set certain properties
- Cannot change frames, graphics, boilerplate
- Certain Events Only
 - WHEN-NEW-FORM-INSTANCE, WHEN-NEW-BLOCK-INSTANCE, WHEN-NEW-RECORD-INSTANCE, WHEN-NEW-ITEM-INSTANCE
 - WHEN-VALIDATE-RECORD (not in all forms)
 - Product-specific events

Additionally - Other Business Rules were implemented easily and quickly

- Tag Number Mandatory for Equipment
- Use of a Single Unit Only
- Tax Types Can't Update Corporate Books
- Mass Retire Warn if No location -

- Restriction on Update (who) can change a Tag Number
- Prevent Review of Values for Art Work
- Prevent certain
 Categories of Assets
 from being updated
 except by Key users

Other Tips -

- Have a Naming Convention for Error Messages "PERS-99 – Not Allowed" –
- FNDLOAD to move between instances (see Syntax in Appendix)
- Tools Menu Personalization Adminstration Allows search of Functions that have rules defined
- Check before calling support with Forms bugs, SRs
- Upgrades/Patches will require research and testing– Forms *can* change – (see "Validate All" from Tools Menu)

In Summary

- Powerful Tool
- These Examples just scratch the surface
- Be willing to Experiment and be flexible
- There isn't always a custom event to attach to in every form
- Custom Development or 3rd Party tools are not always required

For More Information on Personalization

If you are not familiar with the basic construct of an Oracle Developer form, including terms such as *block, record, item, trigger, property* and *builtin*, you should consider a course such as *Oracle Developer: Forms Fundamentals*, offered by Oracle University.

Resources -

- Metalink Note 279034.1
- Partner Training Materials
- Previously Developed documentation written for customers

About the Author

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 - Implementation and Upgrades
 - Medium through Fortune 500
 - Large number of Industries
- Implementations through the Globe
- Contact
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 - 972.466.2260

Appendix – Move Between Instances

Syntax to Move Between Instances:

Download:

- FNDLOAD <userid>/<password> 0 Y DOWNLOAD
 \$FND_TOP/patch/115/import/affrmcus.lct <filename.ldt>
 FND_FORM_CUSTOM_RULES function_name=<function
 name>
- Function_name is a required parameter; if it is not supplied then no personalizations are downloaded.

Upload:

FNDLOAD <userid>/<password> 0 Y UPLOAD
 \$FND_TOP/patch/115/import/affrmcus.lct <filename.ldt>

Appendix – Library v. Personalizations

- Related to Custom Library
- Library No need for Forms builder or Compile
- Custom Library supports more complex PL/SQL
- They both drive off same events
- Personalization First First, Then Custom Library processes
- Can use both at same time
- Use Custom Library when personalizations not powerful enough