

2009 Global Fusion Council Update Call



Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2009
Time: 9 a.m. PDT / 12 p.m. EDT / 16:00 UTC
Action: OAUG Fusion Council - Global Community Launch Call
Moderator: Floyd Teter, Chair, OAUG Fusion Council
Audience: All OAUG members, Fusion Council listserver

Call Minutes:

- Fusion Middleware (available now) is distinct from Fusion Applications. Example: middleware products are SOA Suite, Application Server, BPEL and so on.
- Fusion Applications is being built on Fusion Middleware (including Applications Integration Architecture).
- Fusion Applications is committed to support standards based integration.
- Design to leverage some Web 2.0/Social Networking concepts, e.g., "Social Mesh" within HRMS functionality to allow flexible and user controlled grouping of staff by more than formal organization hierarchy.
- Flexible interactive user interface that is process and task focused, which will also be more flexible deployment. This has been demonstrated as nearly finished software to select audiences and at Oracle OpenWorld 08 (but deliberately not well publicized), and will be demonstrated again at COLLABORATE 09: Technology and Applications Forum for the Oracle Community, on Wednesday, May 6, 2009, at 8:30 a.m. (Sessions 2792/2793, room 300).
- Concern: lack of perceived tangible evidence of progress. But, by evidence of demonstrations and limited communication to date, Oracle appears to be at late alpha/early beta test for initial delivery of Fusion covering some core/common functions.
- Floyd Teter's view: Release "1.0" of Fusion will probably **NOT** be shipped in 2009, likely 2010.
- Floyd Teter's view: Release "1.0" contents:
 - Will **NOT** be a full functionality replacement for ANY of the current "Apps Unlimited" applications (E-Business Suite, PeopleSoft, JD Edwards), (and probably won't have coverage of any industry verticals).
 - CRM (but probably not CRM for Services), Financials, Purchasing (& sales ordering?), HRMS (to a basic level), Payroll, Projects (to a basic level).
 - Not in: Public Sector, Manu, distributed order processing, Property.
 - Highlights from previews: very rich API.
 - Leveraging Applications Integration Architecture especially to allow Fusion to work with existing applications to fill in gaps. (Pillar Upgrade).
 - Early Adopter program open to all but must be ready and willing to spend time/internal resources to engage via David Bowin of Oracle.
- No need to upgrade to R12/9.0 to upgrade to leverage Fusion; R11.5.10.2/8.9 is an ok starting point. However, there may be issues with maintaining premier support for the

parts of existing applications that aren't initially replaced by Fusion functionality.

- Deployment of Fusion in parallel to existing apps is likely to have additional license requirements.
- Deployment of latest version of middleware to support Fusion deployment may require additional license for BEA Weblogic within SOA Suite.
- Oracle will need to support users/implementers with guidance to like for like functionality/licensing replacements and also to constrain users to commonly used combinations.
- The accounting engine will be "R12" like; there will be upgrades from 11.5.10 but this will affect integrations especially when deploying Fusion in parallel to existing applications, some concern how practical (from an accounting point of view) on how this will work.
- Platforms: Linux first, Solaris, HP-UX probably "early", AIX later? (dependent on middleware/tech stack availability).
- Early modules released as "hosted/on demand" only (e. g. Social Mesh) with integrations to on-premise, this may represent a pattern for whole deployment of Fusion.
- Impact on Database deployment and Pillars in Peoplesoft, database pillars and other database configurations are maintained through upgrade (nothing new will be introduced). In E-Business Suite there is only one database (Fusion will not introduce pillars).
- Sunsetting Technologies: Oracle Workflow, mod_plsql, Forms/Reports, OC4J. Some of these will still be available for use as separately licensed components. This may hamper carrying forward of customizations, and support of Fusion with these technologies is unclear.
- Steps to take:
 - Know why you are considering an upgrade to Fusion; what is the value proposition to your business.
 - Catalog your customizations and have a plan for how to take it forward or retirement.
 - Start to use Fusion Middleware for low risk/low cost functionality now in your business to gain skills and make more durable software for the future: especially XML Publisher, BPEL, AIA/PIP.
 - Build skill sets: SOA suite, Java, Ajax, Fusion Middleware, XML etc.
- Education at COLLABORATE 09 and OAUG Webinars:
 - Fusion Middleware roadmap.
 - Service enabling the E-Business Suite.
 - Future Fusion Webinars.

The only published statement about Fusion from Thomas Kurian can be found here <http://www.google.co.uk/search?hl=en&q=thomas+kurien+infoweek&start=10&sa=N> (Information Week magazine)

If you have questions or require additional information, please contact the OAUG Fusion Council at fusion@oaug.com.