IBM InfoSphere Optim Test Data Management solution for Oracle E-Business Suite

Streamline test-data management and deliver reliable application upgrades and enhancements

Highlights

- Apply es -da a managemen bes prac ices o deploy Oracle E-Business Sui e enhancemen s
- Reduce s orage requiremen s and cu cos s by crea ing "righ -sized" es environmen s
- Mask da a consis en ly and accura ely o comply wi h privacy policies and regula ions
- Au oma e es -resul comparisons o iden ify differences and anomalies
- Lower cos s wi h shor er es ing cycles, improved es coverage and enhanced accuracy

How can you deliver reliable Oracle E-Business Suite enhancements at a lower cost?

Your business users depend on the accuracy, reliability and quality of your Oracle E-Business Suite applications. E-Business Suite sites are striving to speed the deployment of application upgrades, enhancements and new functionality, while staying within tight budgets. Your ultimate goal is to support operational best practices to retain a competitive advantage and generate revenue. So how can you support rapid E-Business Suite application deployment and reduce costs without sacrificing quality?

The IBM® InfoSphere™ Optim™ Test Data Management solution for Oracle E-Business Suite offers the technology to optimize and automate processes that create and manage data in nonproduction (testing, development and training) environments. Developers and quality assurance testers can create realistic, "right-sized" E-Business Suite test databases, mask sensitive data to protect privacy and compare "before" and "after" test results with speed and accuracy. Test-data management helps sites save valuable processing time, provide consistency and reduce costs throughout the application life cycle.

Create realistic Oracle E-Business Suite test environments

Creating realistic and consistent Oracle E-Business Suite development and testing environments is the first step in delivering reliable enhancements and upgrades. Most E-Business Suite environments are configured to support multiple application instances. For example, a site may operate one instance of Financials and Supply Chain supporting

its operations in North America; another supporting Europe, the Middle East and Africa; and a third for the Asia Pacific region. For each production instance, sites manage anywhere from three to 30 or more clones of the production environment for backup, Business Continuance Volume (BCV), development, testing, upgrade assessment, training, quality assurance and other activities.

With so much data to store and manage, costs can quickly escalate. Testing cycles are extended. Maintenance burdens increase. Rolling out new features requires much more time, effort and resources. A more effective alternative is to implement test-data management and subsetting capabilities that minimize storage requirements while expanding test coverage.

InfoSphere Optim offers test-data management capabilities that help you accurately capture the Oracle E-Business Suite data you need for testing. You can choose data from specific modules, such as General Ledger, Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable or Fixed Assets. Alternatively, you can capture related data across an entire solution, like Financials. You can apply selection criteria to identify and extract the precise set of records you want to use for testing and save the results in reusable files. And you can easily create referentially intact subsets of E-Business Suite data and accurately represent complex modules and underlying data models (see Figure 1).

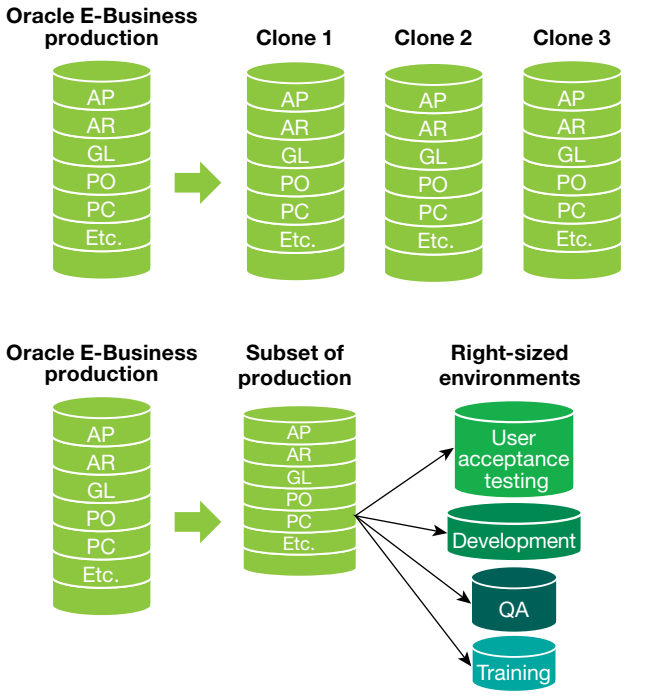

Figure 1: InfoSphere Optim provides a scalable and cost-effective alternative to standard cloning processes for managing Oracle E-Business Suite nonproduction database environments.

For example, it is easy to populate a test environment with Accounts Payable invoices for a given operating unit, vendor, invoice date or invoice status, or any combination of these criteria. You can also simulate a business process across modules by pulling invoice data together with data from related purchase orders. You can create consistent training environments by extracting a standard set of sample data, and reset the baseline after each session. To quickly refresh the test environment, you can reuse baseline data. Alternatively, you can extract new records from production to expand test coverage or obtain a unique test case.

Test-data management and subsetting capabilities help sites control the size of development and testing environments. Eliminating excess data volume reduces storage requirements and trims costs. Sites can create any number of "right-sized" E-Business Suite databases to satisfy specific testing requirements, helping to improve both test coverage and accuracy. Insert and load options allow you to populate or refresh test databases efficiently and accurately, with almost no impact on production. Streamlined test databases are easier to manage and maintain, so you can speed iterative testing cycles and shorten the time needed to deploy new E-Business Suite application functionality.

Protect data privacy

InfoSphere Optim also offers a variety of methods for masking test data to protect privacy and support regulatory compliance initiatives. Sites can leverage context-aware data-masking routines to de-identify key data elements across Oracle E-Business Suite applications: Human Capital Management, Financials, Supply Chain and others. InfoSphere Optim captures and accurately processes data elements so that the masked data does not violate application logic. Built-in lookup tables enable consistent masking for names and addresses. Prepackaged routines allow for accurate transformation of complex data elements, such as Social Security numbers, credit card numbers and email addresses. You can also incorporate site-specific data transformation routines, integrating the processing logic from multiple related applications and databases.

Force error conditions

Another way to optimize your testing environment is to create targeted test scenarios designed to trigger error conditions. A simplistic, one-dimensional view of your test data is insufficient. InfoSphere Optim provides comprehensive capabilities for editing test data from multiple tables. The ability to browse and edit data in its relational context enables a better understanding of the database structure and the associated data.

Practical, intuitive commands simplify editing and help preserve data integrity. A powerful undo capability allows you to reverse an unlimited number of changes. A sophisticated audit facility tracks changes and saves details for review by authorized users. InfoSphere Optim respects database-defined security and provides for additional restrictions as required. You can even use InfoSphere Optim to maintain the accuracy of your production data, while remaining in control of how it is used.

Automate data comparisons and analyze results

The ability to analyze and validate test results is critical for ensuring application quality. The database size and complexity significantly increase the effort required to examine test results. After a test run, InfoSphere Optim analyzes the "before" and "after" images of the test data, automatically detects any differences and presents the results in a concise report. You can browse comparison results in a highlighted display for easy, time-saving analysis.

InfoSphere Optim helps reduce the time, cost and effort required in all phases of application testing. An intuitive, online interface and full-function browse utility can eliminate time-consuming and error-prone table-by-table comparisons. InfoSphere Optim not only identifies the expected database changes, but also uncovers differences that might otherwise go undetected. Application issues that are hidden or difficult to trace can be identified and resolved quickly, thus reducing cost.

Manage site-specific customizations

The InfoSphere Optim Test Data Management solution for Oracle E-Business Suite includes prebuilt templates with application logic and validation rules, and understands the data relationships of standard Oracle E-Business Suite modules. However, it's important to understand the entire data model—including customizations—to support test-data management and other life-cycle activities. Used in combination with the InfoSphere Optim Test Data Management solution, IBM InfoSphere Optim Application Repository Analyzer can quickly analyze application metadata to identify relationships in the data models within your Oracle E-Business Suite environment. Together, these solutions can identify application customizations and compare differences in data models across application versions and releases, helping to improve the accuracy and streamline the management of Oracle E-Business Suite application data throughout its life cycle.

To further support site-specific customizations, InfoSphere Optim provides a convenient visual editing environment that you can leverage to define custom extension tables and relationships within your Oracle E-Business Suite implementation. Also, federated extract capabilities allow you to map test-data management to your unique business processes.

InfoSphere Optim is a central data management solution that scales to meet enterprise needs. It provides a consistent approach across the entire family of Oracle applications: Oracle E-Business Suite, PeopleSoft Enterprise, JD Edwards EnterpriseOne, Siebel and other applications operating on Oracle databases. InfoSphere Optim supports your custom and packaged applications. It also supports major enterprise databases and operating systems: IBM DB2®, Oracle, Sybase, Microsoft® SQL Server®, IBM Informix®, IBM IMS™, IBM Storage Access Method (VSAM), Microsoft Windows®, UNIX®, Linux® and IBM z/OS®.

Speed time to value

InfoSphere Optim is designed to promote a successful implementation, helping you quickly achieve measurable benefits. IBM has an experienced professional services staff that provides hands-on technical training, knowledge transfer and real-world examples to help you realize immediate benefits from implementing InfoSphere Optim. You can define your objectives related to testing Oracle E-Business Suite enhancements and upgrades and then quickly apply InfoSphere Optim test-data management processes and technology. You can take advantage of ongoing IBM training and the advanced capabilities InfoSphere Optim offers to help fine-tune your deployment.

About IBM InfoSphere

IBM InfoSphere Optim is a key piece of the IBM InfoSphere portfolio. IBM InfoSphere software is an integrated platform for defining, integrating, protecting and managing trusted information across your systems. The InfoSphere platform provides the foundational building blocks of trusted information, including data integration, data warehousing, master data management and information governance, all integrated around a core of shared metadata and models. The portfolio is modular, allowing you to start anywhere, and mix and match InfoSphere software building blocks with components from other vendors, or choose to deploy multiple building blocks together for increased acceleration and value. The InfoSphere platform offers an enterprise-class foundation for information-intensive projects, providing the performance, scalability, reliability and acceleration needed to help simplify complex challenges and deliver trusted information to your business faster.

For more information

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To learn more about the IBM InfoSphere Optim Test Data Management solution for Oracle E-Business Suite, contact your IBM sales representative or visit: **ibm.com**/sof ware/da a/op im/peoplesof

IBM Software Group
Route 100
Somers, NY 10589
U.S.A.

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