



Oracle Fusion Middleware 11g 10 Reasons to Upgrade

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Who Am I?

- Hans Forbrich
 - Independent Consultant since 2003
 - Oracle ACE Director
 - Oracle user, developer, trainer, administrator since 1984
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 - Oracle DBA since 1984
 - Related products since 1996

Non-technical discusson

- Over the past year I've been asked by DBAs and MTAs (Middle Tier Administrators) to help management understand the reasons to move forward from Oracle Application Server 10g to Fusion Middleware 11g
- This presentation provides my top 10 reasons, as presented to management

On the nature of Mathematical Proofs

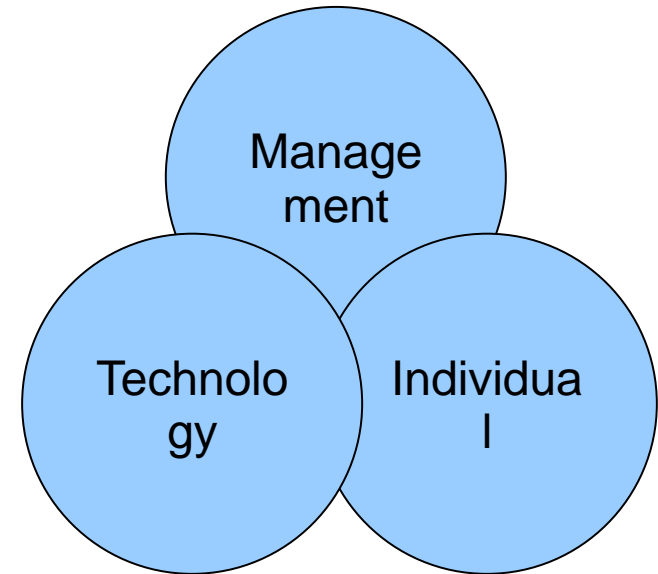
- Based on a scientific short story written in the 1950s:

There are many way of 'proving' things. Don't be afraid to question anything. Be suspicious of

- Proof by Intimidation
 - Proof by Blatant Assertion
- My reasons may not be your reasons!

Selecting Reasons

- Balance between
 - Management needs
 - Technical
 - Personal needs



- Find that balance for a Win-Win discussion

10: RCU



- Many of the middle tier products need a database repository for metadata and data
 - Different products used different repositories
- In 10g, the repositories were included by default, but very little control over which can be selected, where it is deployed or DBA/corporate requirements
- It was presented originally as something the Middle Tier Admin needed to do
 - Conflict of responsibility

- Downloading, installing and administering

RCU

- Oracle FMW 11g includes a separate Repository Configuration Utility
 - Available from a central location
 - Dependancies checked
- Easier, faster, more consistent deployment
- Lower costs to the organization
 - Only deploy what is needed
- Responsibility and access at the correct level
 - DBA vs MTA



9: WebLogic Server Admin

- Oracle Application Server administration and configuration was a mixture of OEM, OPMN, DCM and manual editing of configuration files
- Different approach for
 - J2EE single instance
 - J2EE clustered applications
 - Supporting environment (WebCache, OHS, etc)
- Assumed 'Middle Tier Admin' for any deployment



WebLogic Server Administration

- Much more consistent administration
 - WLS Console for Domain and JEE admin
 - OEM Fusion Middleware Console
- Scripting using WLST
- Better support from OEM GC
 - Lower training costs
 - Faster configuration
 - Faster troubleshooting
 - Better understanding of interactions



8: Supports mature technology (Forms, Reports)

- Many organizations have heavily invested in Oracle Forms and Reports
- Fusion Middleware 11g supports most Forms and Reports applications unchanged, with only a simple recompile
 - Minimal cost to staying current and supported
 - Current skills sets are still valid



7: WebLogic Server Basic 'Edition'

- The J2EE core to OAS was Oracle Containers for J2EE (OC4J)
- A special install of WebLogic Server, called 'WebLogic Server Basic' replaces the OC4J core, leaving most of the functional deployment in place
- Architecture remains largely unchanged
 - Protects operations investment
 - Retains most of the skill set





6: Component Selectivity

- Oracle Application Server 10g R2 required
 - Infrastructure install almost always required
 - Farm
 - Deployment Metadata and Security
 - 'Edition-based' Application install
 - Large footprint, little choice about components
- OAS 10g Release 3 & 4 provided defined bundles (SOA, BI, OAM, etc.) but did not cover all products
 - resulted in mixing configurations



Component Installs

- WebLogic Server uses a consistent approach
 - DBA pre-installs and maintains appropriate repositories
 - WebLogic Server on each deployment node
 - Download and install only the components needed on a node
- Dedicated and 'right-sized' servers, more consistent with modern virtualization techniques
- Less technical interactions
- Supports maintenance skills specialization
- Easier to get configuration to Support groups



5: Security

- Oracle Application Server used basic JAAS (JAZN) for J2EE applications
- Each core application (Forms, Reports, BI, Discoverer, Portal, etc.) supported it's own security
- Inconsistent security increased administration and left some potential gaps



OPSS



- Fusion Middleware still supports the JAZN method, but with a consistent internal LDAP server
- OPSS (Oracle Platform Security Services) is a merge of JAZN and several other 'products' (OES, OAM, OID, etc.) that concentrates on providing a consistent API for security
- Supported by ADF, WebLogic Server, BI, IDM, SOA Suite
- Consistent API means lower deployment costs, less retraining, less troubleshooting time

4: Compliance and Separation of Duties



- Oracle Application Server 10g R2 installed multiple products
 - Web Cache, OHS, OC4J, Database, Portal, Forms, Reports, etc.
- Difficult to separate duties and monitor compliance
 - Little direct auditing
 - Many scattered log files



Separation of Install

- With FMW, it is easier to separate installs to different environments
 - Separate log, audit
 - Separate skill sets
 - Separate individuals
 - Easier auditing
- Better understanding of Compliance and documentation / ITIL costs



3: Supports Current Operating Systems

- Oracle Application Server was built in the Windows NT, Red Hat 3 days.
- Operating systems have evolved a lot and the APIs used for OAS are no longer fully supported
- Upgrading OS, required for OS-based security, needs increasingly resource-consuming regression tests, often skipped



Current OSs

- Migrating to FMW means current OS can be maintained with bug-fixes and security updates
- Lower regression test requirements for OS-related issues
- Lower costs for old OS maintenance
- Keep skill sets current
- More likely to be able to use Virtualization



2: Supported version of Java

- Oracle containers for J2EE (OC4J) was based on J2EE 1.3 & 1.4 and stopped at 1.4.2
- Java 1.4 is no longer supported in the community and fewer developers are willing to stay at that version



Supported Java

- WebLogic Server, as a container, is basically a 'drop in replacement' for OC4J, but supports current versions of Java and JEE
- Better community support
 - Organization more likely to find skills
- Current skill set
 - Better for Individuals
- Many language and productivity improvements



1. Future Product Support

- Oracle Application Server is in 'End-of-Life' support
- <http://www.oracle.com> ® Support ® LifeTime Support Policies

<http://www.oracle.com/us/support/lifetime-support/index.html>

- Documents provide support-end dates and details of what Support organization provides at each level



Support Lifetime Information

http://www.oracle.com/us/support/lifetime-support/lifetime-support-software-342730.html



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ORACLE LIFETIME SUPPORT BROCHURES

- Lifetime Support Policy: Oracle Technology Products (PDF)
- Lifetime Support Policy: Oracle Fusion Middleware Products (PDF)

Oracle Fusion Middleware Releases

Release	GA Date	Premier Support Ends	Extended Support Ends	Sustaining Support Ends
9iAS R2 9.0.2	Apr 2002	Jul 2005	Not Available	Jul 2008
9iAS R2 9.0.3	Oct 2002	Jul 2005	Not Available	Jul 2008
10g 9.0.4	Dec 2003	Dec 2006	Dec 2008	Dec 2009
10gR2 10.1.2.x *	Jan - Oct 2005	Dec 2011	Not Available	Indefinite
Content Management SDK 10gR2	Jan - Oct 2005	Dec 2013	Not Available	Indefinite
Content Database 10gR2	Jan - Oct 2005	Dec 2013	Not Available	Indefinite
10gR3 10.1.3x**	See below	See below	See below	See below
11gR1 (11.1.1.x) ***	See below	See below	See below	See below
Portal 11gR1, Forms 11gR1, Reports 11gR1 and Discoverer 11gR1 (11.1.1.x) ****	Jun 2009	Jun 2014	Jun 2017	Indefinite

Migrating means

- Potentially lower annual support costs
- Faster Support Request resolution



MY 10 Reasons to Upgrade

- RCU
- WebLogic Administration
- Forms 11g
- WebLogic Basic
- Component Administration
- Security
- Compliance / Separation of Duties
- Current Operating Systems



Conclusion

- There is often resistance to change
- Management is often hardest to convince, as it means scheduling and resource costs to perform the upgrade
- Upgrading to FMW 11g can provide benefits to
 - The Organization
 - The Management
 - The Team
 - The Individual





Thank You

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