

DECEMBER 2000

Oracle Workflow[™] Release Notes

(Release 2.6)

Oracle is pleased to announce the release of Oracle Workflow Release 2.6.

These notes describe the installation or upgrade of Oracle Workflow and list the new features offered when you upgrade from Release 2.5 to Release 2.6 of Oracle Workflow.



Attention: Oracle E-Business Suite customers should **not** install Oracle Workflow in their Oracle E-Business Suite databases. Instead they should use the version of Oracle Workflow embedded in Oracle E-Business Suite.

Oracle Workflow Installation and Upgrade

Oracle Workflow Release 2.6 consists of two CDs: Oracle Workflow 2.6 Server CD and Oracle Workflow 2.6 Client CD.

The Oracle Workflow server installation instructions assume that you have already installed an Oracle[®]i Enterprise Edition database version 8.1.6 or higher, along with the Oracle Objects and JServer options, and Oracle Internet Application Server 1.0.1 or higher on a server machine.



Attention: Do not install the Oracle Workflow server in an Oracle E–Business Suite database. If you are licensing Oracle Workflow for the purpose of defining new workflow processes in Oracle E–Business Suite, you can continue to use the version of the Oracle Workflow server embedded in Oracle E–Business Suite.

The Oracle Workflow client installation instructions explain how to install and upgrade the Oracle Workflow components that reside on a client PC.



Attention: If you are licensing Oracle Workflow for the purpose of defining new workflow processes in Oracle E–Business Suite, you do not need to reinstall the client–side components of Oracle Workflow, because they are identical to the client–side components of Oracle Workflow embedded in Oracle E–Business Suite.

Audience

The Oracle Workflow installation notes are written for the person or persons responsible for installing or upgrading Oracle Workflow server or client components. The person(s) performing this installation may need assistance from the:

- Operating System Administrator
- Oracle System Administrator
- Oracle DBA
- Oracle Internet Application Server Administrator

Oracle Workflow Server Release 2.6 Installation Notes

Oracle Workflow Server contains several installation components that are installed using the Oracle Universal Installer from the Oracle Workflow Server CD:

- Oracle Workflow server objects
- Oracle Workflow server executables
- Oracle Workflow Monitor
- Oracle Workflow HTML help

The Oracle Universal Installer and the Oracle Workflow Server 2.6 installation instructions and components for all available server platforms are included on the Oracle Workflow Server CD. The CD contains the following directory structure and files when viewed from a PC with access to a CD-ROM drive:

- **Oracle Workflow Server**—\install*<platform>*
- **Release Notes**—\wfrelnotes.txt, \wfrelnotes.pdf
- **Installation Notes**—\wfinstsrv.txt, \wfinstsrv.pdf

To install the Oracle Workflow Server for your specific server platform, please refer to the Oracle Workflow Server Installation Notes located in the top-level directory of the CD. The installation instructions are available in both plain text and Portable Document Format (PDF).

Oracle Workflow Client Release 2.6 Installation Notes

Oracle Workflow Client contains several installation components that are installed using the Oracle Universal Installer from the Oracle Workflow Client CD:

- Oracle Workflow Builder for Windows NT, Windows 95, Windows 98, or Windows 2000
- MAPI-compliant Notification Mailer for Windows NT
- Oracle Workflow Common Files
- Oracle Workflow HTML Help

The Oracle Universal Installer and the Oracle Workflow Client 2.6 installation instructions and components are included on the Oracle Workflow Client CD. The CD contains the following directory structure and files when viewed from a PC with access to a CD-ROM drive:



- **Oracle Workflow Client Components**—\install\win32
- **Release Notes**—\wfrelnotes.txt, \wfrelnotes.pdf
- **Installation Notes**—\wfinstcl.txt, \wfinstcl.pdf

To install the Oracle Workflow Client components, please refer to the Oracle Workflow Client Installation Notes located in the top-level directory of the CD. The installation instructions are available in both plain text and Portable Document Format (PDF).



Attention: The Oracle Workflow HTML Help is available on both the Oracle Workflow Server and Client CDs, allowing you to install the HTML help on either a server or a PC.

New Features and Changes in Release 2.6

The following new features and changes are available in Oracle Workflow.

New Features

Business Event System

The Business Event System is an application service that uses the Oracle Advanced Queuing (AQ) infrastructure to communicate business events between systems. The Business Event System consists of the Event Manager, which lets you register subscriptions to events that are significant to your systems, and event activities, which let you model business events within workflow processes.

When a local event occurs, the subscribing code is executed in the same transaction as the code that raised the event. Subscription processing can include executing custom code on the event information, sending event information to a workflow process, and sending event information to other queues or systems.

Oracle Workflow Builder Enhancements

Event Activities

The Oracle Workflow Builder now supports a new type of activity, called an event activity. Event activities represent business events, enabling you to include events in your workflow processes.

External Java Function Activities

The Oracle Workflow Builder now supports a new type of function activity, called an external Java function activity. External Java function activities let you model workflow processes that include Java programs executed on the middle tier.

Workflow Engine and API Enhancements

New Datatypes

Oracle Workflow uses new abstract datatypes to model the structure and behavior of Business Event System data.

New WF_ENGINE APIs

New WF_ENGINE APIs are available to support event activities.

New WF_QUEUE API

A new WF_QUEUE API is available to place expired messages on the standard Business Event System error queue.

New Business Event System APIs

New WF_EVENT APIs are available to support events.

New WF_RULE APIs are available to provide standard rule functions for event subscriptions.

New WF_EVENT_FUNCTION_PKG APIs are available to provide utility functions for working with events.

New WF_EVENTS_PKG, WF_EVENT_GROUPS_PKG, WF_SYSTEMS_PKG, WF_AGENTS_PKG, and WF_EVENT_SUBSCRIPTIONS_PKG APIs are available to replicate business event system data.

Workflow Demonstration Enhancements

New Demonstration Workflow Definition

A new Event System Demonstration workflow definition is available. You can use this sample workflow to test your installation of Oracle Workflow or as a model for implementing specific types of features in a workflow process.

Miscellaneous Enhancements

New Standard Activities

Several new standard activities are now available. The Get Event Property activity lets you retrieve a property of an event message and store the property value in an item attribute. The Set Event Property activity lets you set the value of a property in an event message. The Compare Event Property activity lets you compare a property of an event message with a test value. The XML Get Tag Value activities let you retrieve data from an XML tag set within an event message. The XML Compare Tag Value activities let you compare data from an XML tag set within an event message to a test value. The XML Transform activity lets you apply an XML style sheet to the payload of an event message.

New Predefined Events

Several new predefined events are provided with the Business Event System.

New Administration Scripts

Several new administration scripts are available that allow you to stop the Java Function Activity Agent, enqueue an event message using an override agent, and run a Listen procedure to monitor an inbound agent for event messages.

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