ORACLE E-BUSINESS SUITE
RELEASE CONTENT DOCUMENT

Projects
Release 12.1 (through 12.1.3)

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Table of Contents

1. Disclaimer

This Release Content Document (RCD) describes product features that are proposed for the specified release of the Oracle E-Business Suite. This document describes new or changed functionality only. Existing functionality from prior releases is not described. It is intended solely to help you assess the business benefits of upgrading to the specified release of the Oracle E-Business Suite.

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This document is for informational purposes only and is intended solely to assist you in planning for the implementation and upgrade of the product features described. It is not a commitment to deliver any material, code, or functionality, and should not be relied upon in making purchasing decisions. The development, release, and timing of any features or functionality described in this document remains at the sole discretion of Oracle.

Due to the nature of the product architecture, it may not be possible to safely include all features described in this document without risking significant destabilization of the code.

2. Introduction

2.1. Purpose of Document

This Release Content Document (RCD) communicates information about new or changed functionality introduced in Oracle E-Business Suite Release 12.1 and subsequent 12.1.x Release Update Packs and off-cycle patches.

For your convenience, features are organized by product, and then by the release in which they first became available. Release 12.1.1 was the first generally-available release of Release 12.1. Features released in an off-cycle patch on Release 12.1.1, but before Release 12.1.2, are designated as Release 12.1.1+. Features released in RUP2 of Release 12.1 are designated as Release 12.1.2, and so on.

Existing functionality in Release 12.0, Release 12.0.x Release Update Packs (RUPs), or prior releases is not described in this document. For a complete overview of all functionality included in prior releases, this document should be read in conjunction with the Release 12 and Release 12.0.x RUP RCDs. These RCDs can be found in My Oracle Support Document 404152.1 *Release Content Documents for E-Business Suite Release 12 and 12.0.x Release Update Packs*.

3. New and Changed Features in Projects

3.1. Oracle Grants Accounting

3.1.1. Overview

Oracle Grants Accounting provides your organization with the ability to completely track grants and funded projects from inception to final reporting. Oracle Grants Accounting provides a fully integrated system that supports multi-funded projects and the required compliance terms and conditions by award. Oracle Grants Accounting supports validation of allowable costs as well as flexible budgetary controls to ensure fiscal responsibility.

3.1.2. Release 12.1.1

3.1.2.1. Award Budgeting Enhancements

3.1.2.1.1. Budget period validations

Budget periods will not be validated across award budgets when those awards fund a single project. This provides the flexibility to establish award budgets based on the actual duration of the award, while not being confined based on the existing budgets already established for the project.

3.1.2.1.2. Automatic summarization of project budgets

Now that you can establish award budgets with any entry method and period definitions, regardless of the previously created budgets for a project, the award budgets will still automatically summarize to a project budget viewable in Project Status Inquiry. Two profile options have been added to identify the budget entry methods that will be used to summarize the project budgets.

3.1.2.1.3. Budget Line Sorting Option

For a budget that is established with date range periods, a sorting option is available on the budget lines window. You can now choose to sort the lines by Resource name, or by effective dates. This provides the flexibility to view the budget lines by period or by budgeted resource.

3.1.2.2. Award Status Inquiry Enhancements

3.1.2.2.1. View by budget period

A new region has been added to the Find Award Status window that enables the view to be limited to a single period, range of periods, or inception to date for a particular award. The parameters will reflect the budget periods entered on the award budget.

3.1.2.2.2. GL and PA Date Parameters on Find Expenditure Items window

GL and PA date parameters have been added to the Find Expenditure Items window.

3.1.2.2.3. GL Date Parameters on Find Commitments window

GL Date parameters have been added to the Find Commitments window.

3.1.3. Release 12.1.2

3.1.3.1. Federal Financial Report (FFR)

Most federal grants require recipients to periodically submit reports on their grant's financial progress. In the United States, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) have consolidated the two most common financial reports, the Financial Status Report (FSR or SF–269/SF–269A) and the Federal Cash Transaction Report (FCTR or SF–272/SF–272A), into a single form. OMB is requiring that federal agencies transition to the FFR by September 30, 2009.

To comply with this change, Oracle Grants Accounting has introduced a new FFR report. To allow for easy transition, the Financial Status Report and the Federal Cash Transaction Report are still available for use or for data verification.

3.2. Oracle Project Billing

3.2.1. Overview

Oracle Project Billing helps improve cash flow and project profitability by streamlining and managing your billing process. You can easily review and manage invoices, revenue, and funding for all your projects.

This release focuses on key requirements of the U.S. Federal government, including tracking and handling of reimbursable agreements, advance payments, and revenue accounting. However, a majority of the features are available and will be beneficial to all industries.

3.2.2. Release 12.1.1

3.2.2.1. Cascading Billing Schedule Overrides

You can now streamline the process of updating billing schedules information either for all tasks in a project or for all subtasks of a task. To support this enhancement, two new Tools menu options are available in the Billing Schedules window. When you update bill rate or burden schedule information at a project level, you can choose to copy the updates to the project tasks. When you update the billing schedules information for a summary task, you can choose to copy the updates to all subtasks. In addition, when you choose a copy option, you can select whether to apply the updates to all tasks, or to exclude tasks.

THIS FEATURE WAS ORIGINALLY RELEASED IN 11.5.10 FP.M RUP3

3.2.2.2. Agreement Definition Enhancements

To better control billing against agreements and provide more information on agreements, the following new agreement fields are available:

- Start date: to more accurately control the duration of the agreement

- Customer order number and accounting reference: to track your customer's references for the agreement

- Billing sequence number: to control the order in which agreements are used for billing purposes

- Advance Required checkbox: to control if an advance payment is required before invoicing can occur

- 15 additional descriptive flexfield attributes (bringing the total to 25): to track any other information

3.2.2.3. Prepayment Receipt Applications

Prepayment (advance payment) receipts entered in Oracle Receivables can now be associated with Agreements. These receipts will then be automatically applied to the Project invoices when they are interfaced to Oracle Receivables. This provides the ability to earmark cash for a specific agreement up front, and draw down that cash balance automatically.

An Apply Receipt button is added that allows you to choose the receipts to associate with the Agreement. A new flag is added to the agreement to identify if an advance is required for the agreement. When an advance is required, the total funding cannot exceed the amount of prepayments that have been associated with the agreement. In conjunction with a hard limit, this ensures that you will not be able to bill the customer more than the amount received as an advance.

A client extension is available to determine which customers are required to provide an advance payment. Based on the outcome of the extension, the advance required flag will be enabled or disabled. A new security function allows you to grant users the ability to override the flag. The combination of the extension and security function allows you to ensure that the advance required flag is set appropriately.

3.2.2.4. Federal Budgetary Accounting for Project Revenue

Additional journal entry definitions are available in Oracle Subledger Accounting for the Federal Budgetary entries required for revenue accounting.

3.2.2.5. Date Effective Funds Consumption

A new attribute on the Project Type form allows customers to enable date effective funds consumption. When this option is enabled, cost and event transaction dates must fall within the agreement start and end dates to be billed against an agreement. In addition, transactions are only billed against the agreement if the full transaction amount can be funded. This applies to both revenue and invoice generation. When the option is not enabled, revenue generation supports partial billing for transactions.

3.2.2.6. MGT: Invoice Review Performance Improvements

Enhancements were made to the MGT: Invoice Review report to improve performance and support the following new runtime parameters:

- Project Status
- Project Closed After Date
- Project Range

3.2.2.7. MGT: Unbilled Receivables Aging

Enhancements were made to the MGT: Unbilled Receivables Aging report to improve performance and support the following new runtime parameters:

- Project Status
- Project Closed After Date
- Project Range

3.3. Oracle Project Costing

3.3.1. Overview

Oracle Project Costing helps you improve the bottom line of your projects by integrating and controlling all project costs. You can effectively manager project budgets, streamline processing, automate resource sharing administration and capitalize assets more efficiently.

3.3.2. Release 12.1.1

3.3.2.1. Federal Budgetary Accounting for Project Expenditures

Additional journal entry definitions are now available in Oracle Subledger Accounting for the Federal Budgetary entries required for cost accounting. Budgetary accounting entries can now be created for all expenditures imported, entered or adjusted in Oracle Projects.

3.3.2.2. Contingency Worker Clearing Projects

A new flag is available to identify a project as a contingency worker clearing project. When this project is referenced on a Purchase Order, Oracle Time and Labor allows contingency workers consuming that purchase order to charge time to any approved project. This new functionality provides improved support for contingent workers who are hired to work on multiple projects over the life of their engagement.

3.3.2.3. Additional Project Information in Oracle Time and Labor

The project views that control the display of project data in Oracle Time and Labor, PA_ONLINE_PROJECTS_V and PA_ONLINE_TASKS_V, have been enhanced to display the Project and Task Names as well as the Project and Task Numbers. Because new columns have been added to the views, any customer who has customized the views will need to ensure their customizations are updated to accommodate the new attributes.

3.4. Oracle Project Foundation

3.4.1. Overview

Oracle Project Foundation provides the common foundation (functionality) shared across the products in the Oracle Enterprise Project Management Solution. The purpose of Oracle Project Foundation is to package all the common elements of Oracle Projects into a single place.

Oracle Project Foundation accompanies all of the Oracle Projects applications providing you with a rich set of features, including:

- Period Definition
- Calendar Definition
- Organization Definition
- Resource Definition and Reporting
- Project and Organization Security
- Project and Task Definition
- Organization Forecasting
- Utilization
- Archive and Purge

Oracle Project Foundation also facilitates the integration of Oracle Projects suite with other Oracle Applications including Oracle HRMS, Oracle Financials, Oracle CRM, and Oracle Supply Chain applications.

3.4.2. Release 12.1.1

3.4.2.1. New Purge Process for Obsolete Project Data

This release includes a new concurrent process, *ADM: Purge Obsolete Projects Data*. You can use this new process to purge forecast items associated with requirements, assignments, and unassigned time. You can also purge obsolete project workflow information, and exception data generated for project resource exception reporting.

THIS FEATURE WAS ORIGINALLY RELEASED IN 11.5.10 FP.M RUP3

3.4.2.2. iSetup

This is the introduction of an API to enable migration of setup entities across instances are now available for all Oracle Project modules. iSetup also handles standard and comparison reporting of master entities in addition to data migration.

3.4.2.3. Improved Diagnostics

All R11i diagnostics scripts are now available for R12.1. In addition, some new scripts have been added to support new R12.1 functionality and architecture changes.

3.4.3. Release 12.1.2

3.4.3.1. Enhanced Project List Page

The Project List page is often the main hub that users interact with when accessing Oracle Projects. In an effort to make this page more informative and streamline access to common functions, several enhancements have been added to the Project List page.

3.4.3.1.1. Main Project List Region

The following enhancements apply to the main region of the project list page:

- To improve efficiencies and usability, the Action button available in the Project Home Page is now also available in the project list. Users are no longer required to drill down before they can execute an action against a selected project.

- To provide easier access to commonly used reporting values, Quarter to Date and Year to Date values are now available as attributes displayed in the list.

3.4.3.1.2. Worklist and Notification Regions

A new Worklist and Notification region is available on the Project List page. The new region displays worklist items and notifications assigned to the user across all projects for which the user has an active role. Productivity is increased as users are no longer required to drill down into individual projects to retrieve notifications and review items that need attention.

3.4.3.1.3. Report Views Region

A new Report Views region allows users to quickly access commonly used reports and queries. Users first create and save the reports using the Alternative Search page. All saved reports are then available for reuse and can be retrieved directly from the project list page. This feature not only provides quicker access to data but also saves time by allowing users to save queries rather than redefining them each time they need to view the results.

3.4.3.1.4. Bookmarks Region

A new Bookmark region allows users to streamline retrieval of project-related items they commonly need to access. Once users select an item to bookmark, the item appears in the bookmark list until the user removes it. The list of bookmarks is specific to each user based on the items they choose to bookmark. The bookmark region is not available on all pages.

3.4.3.2. Streamlined Searches

The following enhancements were designed to streamline project searches:

- Simple and Advanced Search results are now displayed in the main region of the project list page. This allows users to view the results of their queries and still have access to other information and links provided on the page.
- New criteria values such as ‘Contains’ and ‘Greater Than’, ‘Less Than’ along with new filter attributes enhance the user’s ability to create personalized views.

3.4.3.3. New Hover Pop Up Windows

An exciting new feature, called hover pop up windows, allow users to obtain additional information simply by hovering their cursor over selected fields on the Project List, Edit Budget and Edit Forecast pages. A small window will pop up on the screen providing additional information that was previously only available via drill downs.

3.4.4. Release 12.1.3

3.4.4.1. Enhanced Project List Page

In this release we continue to build on past enhancements to the Project List page by making the page more informative, streamline access to common functions and make the page configurable. The enhancements are:

- The project list page includes a report region which was introduced in 12.1.2. With this release we are further improving the usability of this feature by allowing users to delete report views that they have created and to know the criteria and format that went into the creation of a report. The benefits of these enhancements will allow users to have better visibility into their reports and be able to manage the volume of reports over time.

- In ‘Alternate Search page’, the user can select and save the combination of ‘search criteria’ and ‘report format’ as a report and then run the report from Project List page.
- Easily navigate between project list, simple search, advanced search and alternate search.

3.4.4.2. Enhanced Diagnostics

We have improved our diagnostics collection scripts in this release around Project Management, Project Performance Reporting, Project Billing and Project Resource Management.

3.5. Oracle Project Management

3.5.1. Overview

Oracle Project Management provides project managers the visibility and control they need to deliver their projects successfully. With Oracle Project Management, all elements of the project lifecycle are integrated and stored in one repository, enabling project managers to operate more efficiently.

Oracle Project Management is an integrated part of Oracle Projects, a comprehensive set of solutions that can help you predictably and successfully deliver global projects by integrating, managing and providing insight into enterprise project information.

3.5.2. Release 12.1.1

3.5.2.1. New Audit Process for Project Performance Reporting Setup

Oracle Projects now includes a new concurrent audit process, *AUD: Project Performance Reporting Setup*. You can run this process to generate a report that enables you to review setup information for Oracle Projects project performance reporting features. This capability enables you to quickly determine if all mandatory and optional setup parameters are defined correctly. The increased visibility that this report provides helps you to ensure that your project performance reporting summarization processes function correctly and do not generate reporting errors because of improper or incomplete setup.

3.5.2.2. New Parameters for Refresh Project Performance Data Process

The process *PRC: Refresh Project Performance Data* enables you to refresh all actual and plan amount data for a group of projects. Depending on factors such as the number of projects that you specify and the number of workplan and financial plan versions that exist on each project, the refresh process can take substantial time to complete. To help minimize processing time and provide you with greater flexibility in selecting the actual and plan amount data you want to refresh, this process now includes additional selection parameters. You can now choose whether to refresh only actual amounts or all amounts (plan and actual). In addition, you can optionally select the workplan and financial plan versions that you want to refresh.

3.5.2.3. Workplan Enhancements

This release provides several enhancements for Oracle Projects workplan functionality.

3.5.2.3.1. Ability to Delete Published Workplan Versions

You can now delete published workplan versions. You can delete all published workplan versions except the latest published version, baseline version, and workplan versions included in a program hierarchy.

3.5.2.3.2. Usability Enhancements

The following enhancements streamline the flows for accessing and maintaining workplans:

- With this release, you can now view, maintain, and update a workplan structure from the Update Tasks page. The Update Work Breakdown Structure page is now obsolete.
- During setup and maintenance of workplan tasks, Oracle Projects now enables you to indent or outdent multiple workplan tasks in a single step.
- In the absence of a latest published workplan version, Oracle Projects now displays the current working version on the Update Tasks page when you navigate to the Workplan Tasks subtab.
- Oracle Projects now displays additional confirmation, information, and warning messages on user interface pages during system processing for the *Apply Latest Progress* action as well as the *Submit* (progress) action. These messages provide you with status information during processing and advise you about the availability of the latest progress information.

3.5.2.3.3. New Public API for Creating, Maintaining, and Deleting Programs

With this release, Oracle Projects is introducing a new set of public API procedures that perform the following tasks:

- Designate a project as a program and indicate whether projects linked to the program can belong to multiple programs.
- Create links from a program to one or more projects
- Update links from a program to one or more projects
- Delete links from a program to one or more projects

THIS FEATURE WAS ORIGINALLY RELEASED IN 11.5.10 FP.M RUP3

3.5.2.4. Budgeting and Forecasting Enhancements

This release provides several enhancements for Oracle Projects budgeting and forecasting functionality.

3.5.2.4.1. Enhanced Automatic Calculation and Derivation Logic

In Family Pack M, Oracle Projects introduced new features that enabled you to automatically calculate and derive quantities and amounts for budgets and forecasts. The new features included predefined logic that controlled the calculation and derivation of budget and forecast quantities, rates, and amounts. This release includes the following enhancements to the predefined calculation and derivation logic:

- You can now track cost and revenue amounts only, or revenue amounts only (without quantities and rates) in your budgets and forecasts. When you enter an amount for a plan line and do not specify a quantity, Oracle Projects no longer automatically copies the amount to the quantity field and sets the rate value to 1.

- Rate now has a lower precedence than quantity and amount in calculations. For example, if you enter quantity, rate, and amount for a plan line at the same time, then Oracle Projects holds the quantity and amount constant and re-derives the rate.

- If you indirectly override the burden multiplier for a plan line by updating one of the plan line component amounts that are used to derive burdened cost (for example, the raw cost or burden cost rate), then Oracle Projects uses the override burden multiplier in subsequent calculations of burdened cost that are caused by changes to the raw cost. Similarly, if you indirectly override a markup percent by updating a plan line component amount that is used to derive the revenue amount, then Oracle Projects uses the override markup percent in subsequent revenue calculations.

3.5.2.4.2. Enhanced Handling of Override Rates on Budget / Forecast Lines

With this release, you can directly enter override rates for a planning transaction on Edit Budget and Edit Forecast pages. In addition, the average rates fields on these pages are now disabled for entry and are used for display only.

A planning transaction is a budget or forecast line that is identified by a combination of project and task, planning resource, and transaction currency. The override rates that you enter on Edit Budget and Edit Forecast pages are retained with the planning transaction for as long as the planning transaction is retained.

You can enter override rates for raw cost rate, burdened cost rate, and bill rate. When you enter override rates for a planning transaction, Oracle Projects automatically applies the override rates to all existing periodic lines and to any new periodic lines that you subsequently add.

3.5.2.4.3. Simplified Addition of Planning Elements and Resources

You can now add all new, but unbudgeted tasks and resources to a budget or forecast version. New options are available on the Planning Elements: Select Tasks page to add either all new tasks and planning resources or new tasks only to the current plan version.

THIS FEATURE WAS ORIGINALLY RELEASED IN 11.5.10 FP.M RUP3

3.5.2.5. Self Service Expenditure Inquiry

Customers have had the ability in the Forms application to inquire on their expenditures but did not have the same access in the self service application. With this release we now offer the ability to drill into expenditure details from the Financials tab.

3.5.2.6. Reporting Pack for Generation and Distribution of XML Publisher Reports

The ability to monitor project performance without accessing the application and archive the reports you receive for future reference is the key business driver for the reporting pack.

A reporting pack consists of a set of report templates and named recipients by project role. The Generate Reporting Pack concurrent program uses the report templates to generate reports and distribute these reports to the recipients via e-mail. Your system administrator defines the intervals for the generation and distribution of the reports.

The report template controls the content and layout of each report. Using XML Publisher tools, your system administrator can create new report templates to configure the content and output to meet your business needs. Any new or modified report can be added to an existing reporting pack or used to create an entirely new report set.

Oracle Projects provides a predefined data definition file that contains XML tags for performance measures and project data. In addition, Oracle Projects provides the following predefined reports:

- **Project Change Document Report -** displays all change orders for a project that are not in cancelled or closed status. The change orders are grouped by type such as customer initiated or internal. The report displays the impact of the change orders on budget amounts for the period, quarter, year, and since project inception.

- **Project Committed Cost Report -** displays purchase orders, purchase requisitions, and supplier invoices by vendors since inception of the project. Commitments can be grouped by vendor, commitment status, or vendor and commitment status.

- **Project Cost Detail Report -** displays cost transactions by expenditure type, expenditure type class, and tasks for a specified range of dates.

- **Project Cost Labor Report -** displays labor information for employees and contingent workers. Data includes planned and actual hours as well as cost and cost per hour for a range of periods. Cost can be grouped by task and person type, or task and project roles/employees, or by job and expenditure type.

- **Project Cost Summary Report -** displays information on budgets, actual costs, cost to complete, and forecasted cost at completion, as well as variances between budget and actual cost amounts. Cost can be grouped by period, top tasks, expenditure categories, or by top tasks and expenditure categories. The report displays period-to-date and inception-to-date information which can be used to analyze cost trends.

- **Project Earned Value Report -** displays data and trends for key earned value metrics by tasks, and also aggregated for the project as a whole. The metrics are based on ANSI 748 standards and earned value calculation is performed on data that is available since the inception of the project.

- **Project Financial Summary Report -** displays budgets, receivables, open commitments, collections and earned value data.

- **Project Forecast Summary Report -** displays detailed time-phased actual and forecast amounts for revenue and cost grouped by tasks. You can use this report to analyze forecasted, budgeted, and actual cost, revenue and margin trends.

- **Project Revenue At Risk Report** - displays revenue that is at risk because of insufficient funding. Insufficient funding may occur as a result of delay in securing contracts or due to a continuation of work beyond the expiration of the contract or beyond the contract billing limits.

3.5.2.7. Budget Integration with Federal Budget Execution and/or 3rd Party Budget

The budget integration workflow now supports integration with the Federal Budget Execution module also known as "FedAdmin". In addition the workflow can be customized to interface budget lines to external budgeting applications.

3.5.2.8. Microsoft Project 2007 Certification

Many of our customers are upgrading their copies of Microsoft Project now that the 2007 version is available. Others plan to upgrade in the coming year.

Oracle Project Management now supports integration with Microsoft Project 2007. This will allow our customers to continue using the convenient, out-of-the-box integration with Microsoft Project to handle all of their scheduling needs.

3.5.2.9. Project Performance Reporting: Additional Measures

Year to Date, Quarter to Date and At Completion calculated measures, previously available within Project Status Inquiry are now available on the following pages:

Performance Overview	Period-to-Date Summary/Analysis
Task Summary/Analysis	Resource Summary/Analysis

YTD, QTD and At Completion figures are sometimes used by customers who fund projects on an annual basis. Project managers leverage this metric to determine the performance of their actuals against plans. The YTD metric also highlights a projects burn rate and can be an early indicator which if monitored and acted upon reduces downstream budgeting issues. Lastly, this metric is also widely used within government agencies and is expected to be visible on many standard government reports.

3.5.2.10. Project Performance Reporting: Inter-Project Revenue / Billing Amounts

Inter project revenue / billing amounts previously available within Project Status Inquiry are now available on the following pages:

Project List	View Workplan Cost
Exception Reporting	Performance Overview

Task Summary/Analysis	Resource Summary/Analysis
Period-to-Date Summary/Analysis	

3.5.2.11. Supplier Cost Dashboard

Release 12.1.1 provides a new dashboard for viewing and monitoring the status of supplier invoices for a given project. Seeded views allow the user to view all invoices for a project or all outstanding invoices for the project. Search options are also available to allow the user to select invoices of interest.

3.5.2.12. Subcontractor Payment Controls

Release 12.1.1 provides new capabilities to support the management and control of subcontractor payments in Engineering & Construction companies. New capabilities within Oracle Projects, Oracle Procurement and Oracle Financials allow the end-to-end management of the following common construction industry scenarios:

3.5.2.12.1. Support for Pay when Paid Scenarios

Many construction firms adhere to a 'Pay when Paid' policy for subcontract agreements, in order to manage cash flow for a project. Specifically, construction companies will hold the payment of subcontractor bills until the construction firm has been paid by the owner.

With Release 12.1.1 a new Pay when Paid payment term may be specified for a subcontract to automatically result in the placing of holds on all subcontractor invoices under that subcontract, until the corresponding customer payment is received.

A new Subcontract Payment Controls workbench allows the project manager to manage these holds, with visibility into both the customer invoices and the associated subcontractor invoices. Alerted by workflow notifications once the customer payment is received, the project manager can then choose to automatically or manually release the corresponding subcontractor invoices. The associations between the customer invoices and the subcontractor invoices may be automatically maintained based on the billing of project expenditures in the case of a cost-plus contract, or may be manually maintained for fixed price contract scenarios.

3.5.2.12.2. Payment Controls for Subcontract Deliverables

Release 12.1.1 also provides support for the tracking and monitoring of subcontract deliverables that place automatic holds on subcontractor invoices in the case of non-compliance. Enhancements to Oracle Procurement Contracts allow a subcontract administrator for a construction project to optionally specify payment impact controls that will take effect when a particular subcontract deliverable is not met. For example, if a subcontractor fails to provide their insurance certificate in a timely fashion per the subcontract terms, holds will be automatically placed on their incoming invoices based on the contractual dates of the deliverable. These holds will also be automatically released once the subcontract deliverable compliance is reinstated.

From the Subcontractor Payment Controls workbench, the project manager can view a checklist of the all the current subcontract deliverables, to assist in evaluating the subcontractor status prior to releasing monthly progress payments.

3.5.3. Release 12.1.2

3.5.3.1. Reporting Performance Improvements

With Release 12.1.2, project users will greatly benefit from a dedicated effort to improve the overall performance of the Project Performance Reporting feature.

Enhancements include:

- New configuration options allow users to control the data volume generated by the summarization processes. The options provide the ability to turn off summarization for unused currencies and calendars.
- A new concurrent process allows users to purge old financial and workplan versions that are no longer needed. This again reduces the volume of data to be summarized.
- To help improve the performance of the PRC: Update Project Performance Data (UPPD) process, a new concurrent program, PRC: Launch Update Project Performance has been introduced. This new concurrent program divides and groups the projects into manageable batches. It sends the batch name as a parameter to the UPPD process and launches the process automatically for each batch. The UPPD process will process the project performance data for only those projects that are part of the batch. The UPPD process can still be run as before, but when launched by the new program, UPPD processes the daily load of projects more efficiently.
- A new client extension works in conjunction with the new launch process described able to allow customers to select projects for processing. This gives system administrators more control to schedule project updates in accordance with business needs and priorities.
- Technical changes were made to improve load balancing and increase the degree of parallelism.

3.5.3.2. MSP Integration Enhancements

In Release 12.1.2 there are several enhancements to improve the stability and extend the coverage of integration with Microsoft Projects.

3.5.3.2.1. Download Baseline Cost

The original baseline cost for a project and the latest published cost can now be sent to MSP in separate fields. This will give users insight into how planned costs are changing over the life of the project and provide greater visibility into performance.

3.5.3.2.2. Download Period to Date/Year to Date Cost

Government entities and other companies require that Period to Date and Year to Date cost values be shown in MSP. Therefore this data has been added to the interface. Both raw cost and burdened cost amounts are supported.

3.5.3.3. Enhanced Change Management

With this release, significant work has been done to improve the usability and enhance change control features specifically targeted for the Engineering and Construction industry.

3.5.3.3.1. Streamlined Control Item Definition

Various control item types can be created to track different types of issues and changes. For each control item type users select regions of data to be included on future issue and change documents. With this release, new regions are available to streamline data entry. By combining the right regions, organizations can ensure that pertinent data is captured for each document created.

3.5.3.3.2. New Supplier Impact Region

A new supplier region provides improved planning and control for changes that impact subcontracted work. New cost fields (estimated, quoted, negotiated and final) are available in the supplier region to track negotiations with the subcontractors. An audit log maintained as the cost fields are updated can be used to track how negotiations are progressing and to identify problems that could lead to cost overruns or schedule delays.

3.5.3.3.3. Document Versioning

Change documents, particularly ones with high impact, can go through many iterations of review before final estimates are accepted and approved. In order to track this review process, all change documents now support versioning. At any given point in time, users can take a snapshot of the entire document. When a snapshot is taken, a new document version is created to track future updates.

3.5.3.3.4. Potential Change Order Report for Customer Approval

When a change request requires external approval, a new XML Publisher report can be generated and faxed or emailed to the reviewing parties. A new feature allows users to lock the change document in order to prevent updates while the document is in a pending approval state. To support review and approval history tracking, a potential change order report can be generated and attached to each version of the change request document. An automatic numbering feature can be used to track the number of change documents presented to the customer.

3.5.3.3.5. Task Creation to Track Change Order Work and Costs

Frequently organizations wish to track work and costs related to a change order separately from work performed under the original contract. Work for the change order may be subject to different billing terms and conditions or the organization may have internal reasons for segregating the costs. If the work for example is the result of on-site damages caused by subcontractor negligence, the organization may wish to recoup the costs from the subcontractor (*see below: 3.3.2.5. Deductions to Subcontractor Invoices*).

To better support this business practice, users can now create or initiate the creation of new tasks directly from the change order document. If the person creating the change document also has authority to create new tasks, both operations can be completed at the same time. If the person creating the change document does not have authority to create new tasks, then the new task is submitted for approval. While the task is pending approval, it can be used in impact regions of the change document but the change document cannot be approved until the task has been approved.

3.5.3.3.6. New Search Capabilities

Large projects can have a high number of change documents. In order to support quick retrieval for review, edit or approval, new search criteria is provided to query by supplier or document status.

3.5.3.4. Project Manager Dashboard for Maintenance of Procurement Deliverables

A new feature in Release 12.1.1 provided support for the tracking and monitoring of subcontract deliverables that place automatic holds on subcontractor invoices in the case of non-compliance. For example, if a subcontractor fails to provide their insurance certificate in a timely fashion per the subcontract terms, holds are automatically placed on incoming invoices based on the contractual dates of the deliverable. The holds are automatically released once the subcontract deliverable compliance is reinstated.

Also in 12.1.1, a new Payment Controls workbench in Oracle Projects allows the project manager to view a checklist of all subcontract deliverables to assist in evaluating the subcontractor status prior to releasing monthly progress payments.

As project managers are frequently responsible for subcontractor management, in 12.1.2, the Payment Controls workbench has been enhanced to allow project managers to directly update subcontract deliverables. A project manager with proper security privileges can update existing deliverables or define new deliverables to track future subcontractor obligations.

3.5.3.5. Improved Supplier Invoice Payment Controls

The Payment Controls workbench introduced in Release 12.1.1 also gave project managers the ability to review supplier invoices and manually release pay when paid and deliverable payment holds at their discretion regardless of whether the deliverable has been fulfilled or whether the customer has paid for the subcontracted work.

The workbench has now been enhanced to give project managers the ability to place any invoice on hold at their discretion. This gives project managers more control over when and how much each subcontractor is being paid each period. This helps project managers ensure the quality of subcontractor work and also helps them manage cash flow.

3.5.3.6. Deductions to Subcontractor Invoices

Frequently, general contractors need to recoup costs from subcontractors. The general contractor may have provided fuel to the subcontractor at the work site or the general contractor may have paid for the subcontractor's license to operate in a new state. With less frequency, the general contractor may need to recoup costs for damages caused by the subcontractor.

To automate the recoupment process, Oracle Projects has introduced deduction functionality. A deduction can be manually entered, uploaded via an application programming interface (API) or created by selecting expenditure items for the expenditure item inquiry window. When a deduction is approved, it is interfaced to Oracle Payables as a debit memo. To recoup payment, the debit memo is applied to future invoices submitted by the subcontractor.

3.5.3.7. Project Security within Oracle Purchasing

It is common in project-centric industries like Engineering and Construction for buyers to be assigned to projects rather than to commodities or item categories. Buyers only have authority to transact on behalf of the projects to which they are assigned. To help enforce this business rule, project level security is being introduced in Oracle Purchasing. When the new security option is enabled, procurement users will only be allowed to view and update procurement documents that are related to a project on which the user has an active role.

3.5.3.8. Planning by Fiscal Calendars

Many government contractors and entities use fiscal GL calendars that recognize the standard 5-4-4 calendar which consists of 5 weeks, 4 weeks and 4 weeks per quarter. Prior to this enhancement the Even spread curve option recognized each month as the first to the last day and therefore did not accommodate the 5-4-4 fiscal calendar. As a result, the forecasted hours for a resource were not properly distributed across the time phased plan.

To alleviate this problem, a new option, Fiscal Calendar, has been added in addition to Curve for spreading amounts across planning periods. This will allow users to more accurately represent time phased plans without requiring manual entry of override amounts.

3.5.3.9. Planning by Manual Entry

Government contractors are required to forecast remaining work as accurately as possible to aid comparisons and adherence to submitted plans. Frequently manual entry of time phased planning amounts is the only way to accurately reflect the intended work patterns of resources. This is why PMBOK notes non-derived, i.e. manual, entry of estimate to complete (ETC) values as a standard requirement.

Prior to this enhancement, forecasting required the use of a spread curve and during forecast generation manually entered planning amounts were overridden. With this release, a new "Copy ETC from Plan" checkbox allows users to bypass the use of spread curves when forecasting cost. When the new option is enabled, all time phased values entered on the workplan are honored.

3.5.3.10. Spread Curve Updates via Task Assignment API

Users frequently need to change the Spread Curve associated with a resource assignment. Prior to this enhancement the user was required to navigate to each task and manually update each assignment. To aid automation, the Update Task Assignment API has been enhanced to support updates to the Spread Curve value. This provides users with the flexibility to develop mass update capabilities and eliminate time consuming manual entry.

3.5.3.11. Default Option to Allow "Assignment Same As Task Duration"

To simplify the interface of project assignments, the "Assignment Same as Task Duration" flag can now be enabled at the project level. When most resource assignments share the same duration as the task, users can now enable the project flag rather than being required to update the flag for each individual task.

3.5.4. Release 12.1.3

3.5.4.1. Reporting Performance Improvements

With Release 12.1.3, project users will greatly benefit from improved performance of the Project Performance Reporting feature.

The enhancements include a new parameter that has been added to the Launch Update Project Performance Data and the Update Project Performance Data concurrent programs to filter on project status. Customers will be able to choose a specific project status from an LOV before running the program. This will improve the performance of the programs by allowing customers to streamline the processing.

3.5.4.2. MSP Integration Enhancements

In Release 12.1.3 there was a couple of significant enhancement sto fully extend the coverage of integration with Microsoft Projects.

3.5.4.2.1. Support for Non-Shared Task Based Mapping structures

The Non-Shared Task Based Mapping option enables you to map individual workplan structure tasks to individual financial structure tasks. This gives you the greatest flexibility in sharing information between your structures.

Prior to release 12.1.3 customers on our R12 version could not fully integrate with Microsoft Projects if they had chosen to use the Non-Shared Task Based mapping between the workplan and the financial plan.

3.5.4.2.2. Support for Partially Shared structure

Partially Shared structure mapping enables you to map workplan and financial structures up to a particular point for your projects, which is useful for example when you don’t want all of your workplan details in your financial plans.

Prior to release 12.1.3 customers on our R12 version could not fully integrate with Microsoft Projects if they chose to use the Partially Shared structure option. All structure options are now fully supported in Release 12.1.3 and 11i.

3.5.4.3. Enhanced Change Management

With this release, the change control features in Oracle Projects have been enhanced to meet specific business needs for the industries that typically use this functionality.

3.5.4.3.1. Enhanced Cost & Revenue Planning for Change Documents

You can use a project change document to plan for estimated changes in your direct costs or supplier costs, providing enhanced support for the cost issue planning process. This feature provides project managers improved control over project costs resulting from changes.

Revenue impacts for the cost issue are automatically calculated based on estimated cost changes for cost-based revenue plans, or may be entered manually for projects with separate cost and revenue plans. Users can then view the impact to the project budget, which is automatically generated from the estimated cost and revenue changes. You can then consolidate the planned changes in cost and revenue from multiple change requests into a single change order, to view, approve and implement the budget impacts.

3.5.4.4. Enhanced Retention Invoice Processing for Outstanding Project Deductions

With this release, the handling of retention invoices has been enhanced to take into consideration any outstanding project deductions. When validating retention invoices in Oracle Payables, a check will be made to verify that all project deductions have been processed. Outstanding project deductions may indicate that there are pending back charges or other miscellaneous costs that need to be recovered from your suppliers, and which need to be taken into account before the retention is released. If there are any unprocessed or unapproved deductions in Oracle Projects, the retention invoice will be placed on hold, until the deductions are processed. This payment hold may also be manually released from the supplier payment control workbench.

3.6. Oracle Project Resource Management

3.6.1. Overview

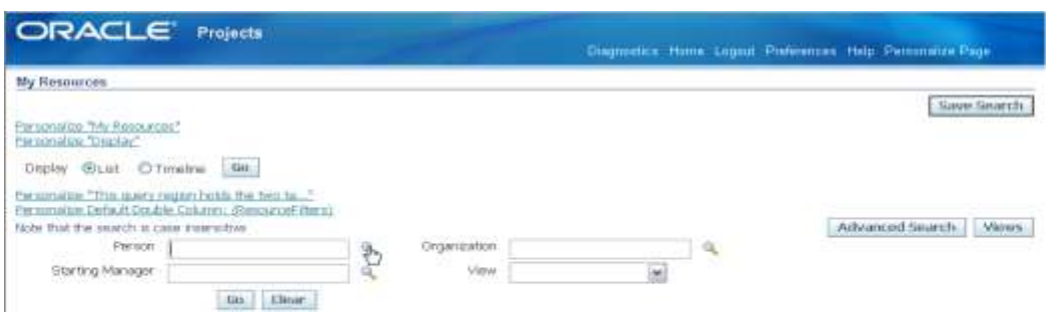
Oracle Project Resource Management enables companies to manage human resource deployment and capacity for project work. Built using Oracle's proven self-service model, Oracle Project Resource Management empowers key project stakeholders, such as project managers, resource managers, and staffing managers, to make better use of their single most critical asset: their people.

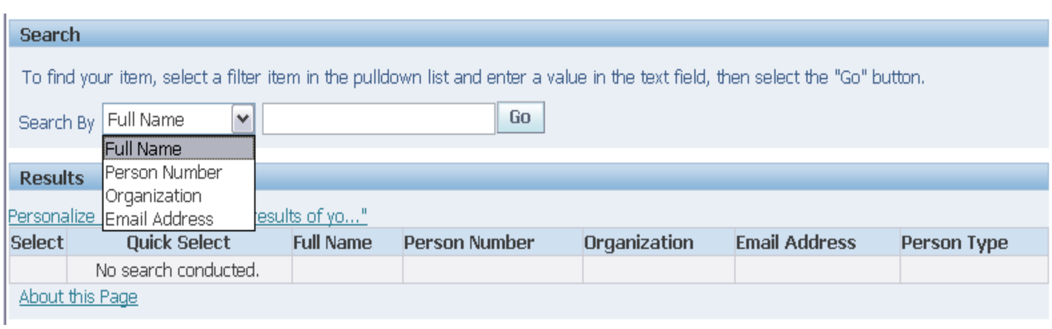
With this application, you can manage project resource needs; profitability and organization utilization by locating and deploying qualified people to your projects across your enterprise. As a result, you can improve customer and employee satisfaction, maximize resource utilization and profitability, and increase your competitive advantage.

3.6.2. Release 12.1.1

3.6.2.1. Resource Search by Email Address

The "My Resources" screen (Projects: Resources > Resources) now enables users to search through the resource pool by name, person number, email address, or organization:





This enhancement makes searching easier for global users accessing people in countries such as Taiwan, China, Japan, etc. who do not maintain person information in the English language but do record email addresses in English.

3.6.2.2. Resource Search by Person Type

For some customers, much of their resource pool includes partners and contingent workers (subcontractors). When searching for resources to assign to requirements, these customers may wish to first limit the search scope to their employee population and then if no suitable match is found, to search amongst partners and contingent workers.

By providing the ability to search for resources by person type, users can quickly narrow their search to their desired population. This provides the added benefit of maximizing revenue by first assigning employees before resorting to outside workers.

3.6.2.3. Streamlined Navigation on Staffing Home

To allow for quick navigation to commonly accessed pages, a new link is added to Project List on the Staffing Home for My Projects.

3.6.2.4. Cross Validation of Project and Assignment Dates

Insufficient validation of start and end dates for requirements and assignments against respective dates for the project results in poor record keeping and inaccurate resource availability information.

Enhancements to validate dates populated by users for requirements, assignments, and project team roles at the time of entry will help to ensure precision and accuracy in all associated analytics and reporting subsequently used by staffing, resource, and project managers.

The following new validations are added in this release:

- Project Resource Management now ensures that requirement start dates are equal to or greater than the project start date and less than the project end date and that finish dates are equal to or less than the project end date but greater than the project start date.

- Assignments cannot be added beyond the project end date.

- A project team role end date cannot be beyond the project end date. If the roles are created before the project end dates are entered, users will receive an error if they later try to enter an end date that is earlier than the end date for existing roles.

- When project transaction dates are moved corresponding assignment dates are validated against the new project dates. If the new project transaction dates fall outside the dates for existing assignments, users are given an option to shift the assignment dates or cancel the date adjustment.

3.6.2.5. Defaulting of Work Patterns' From and To Dates

Some users at customer sites may enter up to 100-200 requirements per day across all geographies and operating units. To increase productivity, work pattern from and to dates will default from the requirement start and end dates.

3.6.2.6. Improved Exception Handling of Maintain Project Resources Process

PRC: Maintain Project Resources has been enhanced to deliver improved exception handling and notification when it encounters errors while processing employee records.

3.6.2.7. New Public APIs for Resource Management

With this release, Oracle Projects is introducing a new set of public APIs for Oracle Project Resource Management. These new APIs enable you to create and maintain requirements, assignments, and candidates from an external or legacy system. The new APIs fall into the following four categories:

- Requirement Public APIs: These APIs enable you to add, update, or delete a requirement, and to partially or fully staff an open requirement.
- Assignment Public APIs: These APIs enable you to add, update, or delete an assignment, and to submit an assignment for approval.
- Candidate Public APIs: These APIs enable you to add, update, or delete a candidate, and to add a review comment for a candidate.
- Competence Public APIs: These APIs enable you to add, update, or delete competence elements for a project role or open assignment.

THIS FEATURE WAS ORIGINALLY RELEASED IN 11.5.10 FP.M RUP3

3.6.2.8. Organization Authority: Obsolete Forecast Authority

This feature removes the forecast authority functionality from the organization authority form and also removes existing security data relating to forecast authority.

Forecast Authority was introduced to support the PJR forecasting functionality. In Projects 11i Family Pack M the PJR forecast functionality became obsolete and was replaced by the new HTML based forecasting functionality. The new forecasting functionality has its own security mechanism and does not honor the old forecast authority model.

Additionally, this change will improve the performance of security calls to organization authority because the existing security data is being removed.

3.6.3. Release 12.1.2

3.6.3.1. Update of Start and End Dates for Multiple Requirements

Resource Managers are often required to make updates to the requirements they manage. Commonly updated attributes include team role, staffing priority and requirement start and end dates. The Update Requirements page provides users with a single page to update multiple assignments. However, prior to this release, the requirement start and end dates could not be updated from this page. Users were required to navigate to the Update Duration page for each requirement to update the dates. As Resource Managers frequently manage a large number of requirements, this process was very inefficient. Therefore, the Update Requirement page has been enhanced to support the update of requirement dates.

3.6.3.2. Select Multiple Roll Ups in a Personalized View

Searching for resources and projects is a very common task for Resource Managers. Therefore, a streamlined search process makes their job much easier. In the past, personalized views could be pointed to an organization but the search results returned not only the selected organization but also all subordinate organizations that roll up in the hierarchy they selected.

This release of Oracle Projects has added a new search interface which allows the user to specify which organization hierarchy they wish to search and at which level of the hierarchy they start their search. This enhanced approach to searching for projects and resources will greatly streamline searches and allow users to find needed information much more quickly by only returning relevant results.

3.6.3.3. Support for Schedule Shifts while Maintaining Work Patterns

Oracle Project Resource Management offers the ability to specify particular work patterns for resources that can change over the life of a task. For example a resource might be assigned to a task for 5 hours the first week and then 10 hours the following week, and finally the standard 40 hours per week for the third week. However, project schedules often change due to unforeseen circumstances and frequently tasks are delayed.

Prior to this enhancement if shift duration is used to delay the start of a task, for example by one week, then the work pattern was not being properly retained. In the above example, a shift of one week due to a project delay would change the work pattern to 10 weeks, 40 weeks and 40 weeks. The planned 5 hours for the first week of the task is dropped and 40 hours for the third week is derived from the default calendar.

With this enhancement, the work pattern is retained. In our example, regardless of when the task starts, the resource will work 5 hours the first week, 10 hours the second week and 40 hours the third.

3.6.3.4. Updateable Fields on Scheduled People Page

To improve productivity, the Scheduled People page has been transformed from a read only page to an updateable page. Certain fields, including the Start Date, End Date, City, Region and Location ID, can now be directly updated without requiring drill down to the resource requirement or assignment. The Scheduled People page was also enhanced to enable viewing and updating multiple project team roles and assigned resources from a single page.