

E-Business Suite | E-Business Solution for
Financial Management

General Overview

*Any Business That Hopes to Survive, and Thrive,
Must Become an E-Business*

In challenging economic times, companies must manage costs while increasing profitability and make decisions based on timely analysis of accurate data.

Oracle E-Business Suite is a complete set of business applications that run entirely on the internet, enabling you to cut costs and increase revenues across your front- and back-office functions.

The applications in Oracle E-Business Suite are built on a unified information architecture. The Suite's *single and complete data model* ensures that you have only one customer definition shared by all applications. You get better information out of your system and also benefit from consistent, accurate, and enterprisewide data. With data stored in one place, it's now possible to run all your applications on fewer instances—even a single instance. And by eliminating the need for software interfacing, data translation, and integration, you can significantly reduce your IT expenses.

Whether you implement one module or the entire Suite, Oracle E-Business Suite can help you make smarter decisions with better information, share unified information across the enterprise, reduce IT expenses, and run your business more efficiently.

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Financial Management in the Internet Economy

“
*Uniting Millipore’s offices
around the world under a
single Oracle system was a
necessity, not an option.
With Oracle E-Business
Suite applications, not only
are we closing our books in
four days but we’re also
servicing our customers in
the way they want to be
serviced.*”

Fran Lunger, CEO, Millipore Corporation

In the internet economy, new ways of doing business present vast opportunities, but also create new levels of competition. Organizations that hope to succeed must transform themselves into e-businesses. With e-business, the impact of the internet moves beyond buying and selling to touch all areas of operations, including finance. As an entire company transforms itself into an e-business, the finance organization plays a critical role. Oracle’s e-business solutions for strategic planning, accounting, treasury, project management, and travel management provide the tools your company needs to thrive and succeed in the internet economy and uniquely enable you to:

- Capitalize on global opportunities
- Drive enterprise profitability
- Build a smarter business

Capitalize on Global Opportunities

Consolidate to Reduce Complexity

With the increased market reach created by the internet and the elimination of trading borders represented by the euro, now more than ever, it is possible to conduct business anywhere. To capitalize on global opportunities, businesses must leverage the internet to consolidate IT and business operations, create shared service centers, and implement innovative business practices on a worldwide basis. They must also understand and be flexible enough to support a myriad of regulations and statutory requirements.

Support Global Expansion by Shifting from Local to Global Systems

As a business expands, its finance organization faces the challenge of supporting financial operations for a multinational enterprise. Today, most global companies operate with local systems scattered all over the world. Successful businesses, however, shift to global systems. Global systems leverage internet technology, enabling you to consolidate your IT and business operations, saving you time and money. By consolidating multiple data centers, you save IT administrative costs and conserve scarce IT resources. By also consolidating business operations, you can increase the efficiency of your global financial operations.

Streamline Operations and Reduce Costs with Shared Service Centers

Once the enterprise shifts to global systems, the finance organization can operate shared service centers in key functional areas such as procurement, disbursement, order management, collections, project management, treasury, budgeting, and reporting. Shared service centers enable the enterprise to reduce finance administrative costs by exploiting economies of scale. Complexity is reduced by integrating information and processes to eliminate redundancies. Shared services also make it easier to enforce consistent business practices on a worldwide basis, ensuring that all facets of the global organization conform to practices that are consistent with corporate objectives.

Review Project Performance from a Global Perspective

Successful execution of project-based work—whether large and complex or numerous and repetitive—requires an optimum combination of team members and resources, regardless of location. When an enterprise operates projects across regions and countries, it is critical to have some way of managing global project performance. At the same time, you need to provide local project management with enough flexibility to operate according to regional and local conditions. Oracle provides a single information and transaction source that gives you the ability to incur, bill, and report cost in any currency, or in multiple currencies. With Oracle's multinational project management solution, you can manage, plan, and allocate resources from a global perspective.

Optimize Global Treasury Operations and Manage Global Cash Cycles

Multinational operations, complex financial instruments, heightened regulations for financial reporting, and the need for more accurate global cash assessments require a powerful treasury solution. Oracle offers a comprehensive treasury solution that enables you to optimize currency exposures and minimize risk, and manage a diversified global portfolio of debt, investment, and derivative instruments. You can also effectively manage and control your global cash cycle through enterprise cash forecasting combined with comprehensive bank reconciliation capabilities.

Speed the Close Cycle and Quickly Understand Financial Results

Organizations frequently need to consolidate global financial information across various entities, in multiple currencies. In addition, the finance organization is often challenged to shorten the close cycle without adding headcount. Oracle Financials allows you to consolidate information from any chart of accounts, any calendar, any currency, and any source, at any level of

“***Our old system was very fragmented. We had separate financial centers in 84 locations. With Oracle, we've streamlined our financial processing, eliminated a lot of redundancies and pulled in as much cost as we could.***”

Jack Busche, Vice President of Procurement, United Parcel Service (UPS)

These powerful capabilities include localizations for 43 countries and support for 29 languages.

Financials also leverages Oracle's parallel server capabilities. The shift to global systems means fewer, larger databases. With parallel server, you can meet the demands of larger global databases by adding processing power as needed. This provides an unprecedented level of scalability and reliability for your Oracle Financials implementation.

detail—providing all the flexibility you need to handle global consolidations. This powerful, integrated solution also enables you to streamline the close process and rapidly distribute vital financial information throughout your enterprise.

Industry Leading Capabilities Enable True Global Operations

To help companies operate globally, Oracle Financials supports all localizations, all currencies, all languages, and all character sets within a single product.

Drive Enterprise Profitability

Reduce Costs with Self-Service

The internet challenges finance organizations to operate leaner by finding efficiencies and cost savings where previously they did not exist. Self-service operations enable an enterprise to achieve dramatic costs and time savings by replacing expensive, time-consuming procedures with automated self-service applications. By shifting to internet-based, self-service applications, corporations can streamline traditional administrative functions and position staff for more value-added roles, such as performing strategic analysis and identifying profitable opportunities.

Drive Costs Out of Transactions with Self-Service

By connecting employees, customers, and suppliers via the internet, many of the traditional administrative functions performed by finance can operate as self-service activities. With self-service operations, originators, such as employees creating purchase orders, can use internet-based applications to enter their own transactions. All approvals and business rules are enforced automatically, using workflow-driven processes. The result is faster operations, more-accurate information, lower costs, and a greatly improved level of service.

Oracle provides a comprehensive suite of self-service solutions for procurement, travel reservations, expense reporting,

time entry, collections, performance reviews, and more.

Acquire Goods and Services at the Lowest Total Cost

Most companies spend more than 40 to 50 percent of their revenues acquiring goods and services needed to run their business. Oracle provides an industry-leading, internet-based solutions that allows companies to dramatically streamline the procurement process and purchase goods and services at the lowest total cost. Using this solutions, you can save as much as 20 percent on procurement costs.

Streamline the procurement process with 100 percent process automation—from analysis to request, to contracting, administration, and payment. Extend process efficiencies across the entire supply chain

by providing suppliers self-service access to delivery schedules and performance, and payment status. To reduce total spending, procurement professionals leverage internet sourcing and bid management to expand sourcing options and increase negotiation effectiveness. You can also leverage market efficiencies by purchasing through internet-based marketplaces.

Reduce and Control Travel Costs with Self-Service Travel Management

Travel and entertainment costs are significant for most companies. Oracle provides a comprehensive internet-based application that enables your company to lower and control travel costs and also increase service levels for corporate travelers. Using self-service reservations, you can reduce agency booking costs by as much as 50 percent. You can empower corporate travelers by putting them in complete control over travel plans, allowing them to optimize their itineraries to maximize job productivity and limit the impact on their personal lives. This application also dramatically reduces the effort required to book travel and obtain reimbursement.

Identify Profitable Opportunities with Activity-Based Management

As self-service eliminates administrative processing, the finance organization can focus on higher value-added activities, such as setting the course of corporate strategy. The first step in determining strategy is to identify profitable opportunities. Activity-based management techniques go beyond traditional general ledger-based cost allocation and enable executives to understand the true costs of doing business. Oracle's solutions for activity-based management provides the finance organization with the tools for identifying profit zones within the enterprise, including specific customers, products, and projects.

Drive Strategic Planning with Powerful Analytic Tools

Once you have identified the areas of value within your business, the next step is to develop a strategy that optimizes these opportunities. Powerful analysis tools enable you to stimulate various alternatives and forecast their impacts. After implementing a specific strategy, it becomes critical to link the strategy to a comprehensive set of key performance indicators so that you can continuously measure progress against the plan and determine whether adjustments are necessary. Oracle supports all elements of the strategic process, from planning and forecasting to measurement and compensation.

Build a Smarter Business

Respond Quickly to Changing Market Conditions

While businesses scramble to take advantage of the vast opportunities presented by the internet and the euro, it is unclear exactly how these opportunities will unfold. Successful businesses, now more than ever, require integrated business intelligence to respond quickly to changing market conditions and continuously monitor enterprise performance.

Improve Day-to-Day Decision Making Using Integrated Business Intelligence

Managing the daily operations of a multinational enterprise requires business intelligence across all functional areas. Employees review business intelligence through a Web portal that can be easily tailored to their needs. Quickly review reports, graphs, and charts, plus seamlessly drill down to supporting detail.

Configurable performance indicators allow employees to easily monitor operations and automatically receive notifications based on user-defined exceptions. Oracle publishes all reports in a database, providing a central, secure repository that delivers information to thousands of subscribers simultaneously.

Speed Project Execution with Global Resource Management

To optimize project execution, you must quickly identify and assign the best people available to your global projects. Oracle's resource-management solution enables

your company to maintain a global skills repository. As you define project requirements, leverage the skills repository to quickly locate qualified and available people within your organization, regardless of location. You can also identify additional training and hiring needs in order to fully staff project teams. Once you have located qualified resources, you can then effectively track project assignments and utilization rates.

Identify Savings Opportunities with Purchasing Intelligence

By analyzing your global procurement spending, you can identify savings opportunities and the sourcing partners to help realize them. Oracle provides powerful analytical tools for making sense of an enterprise's often fragmented procurement information. You can create and monitor key performance indicators across your organization, examine supplier and commodity spending, and assess the impact of supplier consolidations.

Improve Financial Insight with Multidimensional Analysis

Multidimensional capabilities—including simulation, modeling, and forecasting—take the guesswork out of interpreting and predicting financial performance. Leveraging sophisticated analysis methods, you can also identify trends that require action, trends you would not have discovered using traditional reporting methods. With Oracle, you get multidimensional analysis that integrates seamlessly with core financial systems. Oracle provides solutions for you to analyze information stored directly in the general ledger, project management, purchasing, and sales information systems.

Link Operational Execution to Strategic Plans

Once corporate strategy is set, it is critical to link objectives to operational indicators. Using Oracle, you can define a comprehensive set of performance indicators, including customer acquisition rate, customer satisfaction, sales growth, cost of capital, return on equity, new product launches, and employee retention. Measuring progress against these performance indicators enables you to continuously identify whether you need to adjust operations.

“**Oracle E-Business Suite applications are flexible enough to meet day-to-day business challenges and forward looking enough to see what’s coming down the path for the future.**”

Carl Eberling, Director of Enterprise Resource Planning, AirTouch Communications

The Internet Transforms Your Business Operations

The internet not only improves the management of your workforce and global projects but also fundamentally changes the way you run your entire business. To succeed in today's competitive environment, you need to transform your business into an e-business, harnessing the internet to pave the way.

Manage Operations with Global Business Practices

Oracle E-Business Suite combines the global reach of the internet with fully globalized products that enable you to consolidate your business operations. You can achieve this consolidation by moving to shared service centers that allow organizations to exploit economies of scale and enforce consistent business practices. With consolidated information, you can have global sales forecasts, perform global supply-chain management, and run your entire business globally. Only Oracle offers truly global products—allowing you to operate without borders by providing systems that meet local as well as regional requirements and let you manage your business on a global basis.

Improve Customer Relationships with Internet Business Practices

Yesterday's best business practices are obsolete because they are based on the limitations of client/server computing. Oracle E-Business Suite is changing the way companies compete by enabling new e-business practices that encourage collaboration with customers and expedite information sharing.

Customers can buy products through electronic storefronts where targeted marketing and service campaigns personalize their experience. E-businesses put their entire supply-and-demand chains online, to establish business operations that are more profitable and more efficient.

Eliminate Administrative Tasks with Self-Service

Powered by the internet, self-service changes the way companies conduct transactions and distribute information. By controlling their own transactions and using rules-based workflow, employees can spend less time on administrative tasks. Self-service eliminates intermediaries and delays and produces more-accurate information. It also streamlines internal processes by driving out non-value-added activities, enabling more time for strategic analysis.

Make Faster, More-Informed Decisions with Integrated Intelligence

Oracle is the only company that offers a simple, complete, integrated E-Business Suite of applications for customer operations, supply chains, and internal operations. Oracle E-Business Suite provides integrated enterprise information, so you get a full 360-degree view of your customers and your business. With Oracle software's integrated business intelligence, everyone in your organization receives complete and timely information critical to their success—all from a configurable home page. By automatically comparing activity with key indicators, you can monitor performance and make more-informed business decisions.

The Internet Transforms Your IT Infrastructure

In addition to transforming your business operations, the internet allows you to streamline your IT organization. By requiring only a standard browser on the desktop, Oracle E-Business Suite allows you to centralize complexity on professionally managed servers and exploit the internet to reach more users, significantly reducing your IT cost infrastructure.

Remove Complexity and Increase Access Via a Standard Browser

Simplify support requirements by eliminating desktop complexity. You need only a standard internet browser to securely access Oracle E-Business Suite—anytime, anywhere. Workers in regional offices, mobile personnel, international executives—these users need access regardless of location. To further extend your worldwide reach, Oracle has incorporated efficient networking characteristics that enable excellent performance over existing networks as well as global wide-area networks. The internet-enabled Oracle E-Business Suite of applications makes universal access a reality.

Simplify IT Infrastructure with Centralized Management

By adopting internet computing, you move complexity from the desktop to centrally managed servers, meaning that you require fewer IT professionals for deploying and maintaining applications. All data, programs, and systems are located in one place, enabling you to leverage scarce IT resources. Software distribution on the desktop is eliminated, and users always have access to the latest release, enabling rapid deployment of new software and updates—even to the largest user populations.

Manage Operations with Global Business Systems

Typically, companies have local systems with multiple data centers, resulting in costly maintenance and fragmented data. Because Oracle E-Business Suite is accessible via a global network, you can have a global system with a single global data center—resulting in reduced IT costs and improved, consolidated information. By consolidating servers, you can maintain your systems efficiently with fewer IT professionals. And you can more easily safeguard mission-critical data. As you eliminate the abundance of servers deployed regionally or globally, you also eliminate the duplication of effort required for maintaining them. Furthermore, system reliability and scalability improve.

About Oracle E-Business Suite

The Complete Solution

Transform the way you conduct business, with the 100-percent-internet Oracle E-Business Suite of applications. Put your customer management, supply chain, and internal operations online with Oracle's simple, complete, fully integrated solution. Combine the wide reach of the internet with Oracle's fully globalized products to run your business consistently and accurately worldwide. Reduce costs and complexity by running on corporate internets or the World Wide Web. It's no wonder that so many customers rely on Oracle E-Business Suite!

ORACLE E-BUSINESS SUITE

Advanced Planning and Scheduling	Business Intelligence	Contracts
E-Commerce	Exchanges	Financials
Human Resources	Interaction Center	Internet Procurement
Manufacturing	Marketing	Order Fulfillment
Professional Services Automation	Projects	Sales
Service	Treasury	Tutor
	Small Business Suite	

The Next Step

For more information on becoming an e-business with Oracle E-Business Suite, visit our Web site <http://www.oracle.com/applications>. You can also call your local Oracle sales representative or visit the Oracle Store, at <http://store.oracle.com>.