



Enterprise Planning & Budgeting eSeminar - Overview

Session I Q&A

March 17, 2004

The following responses are intended to outline our general product direction and are intended for information purposes only. The development, release and timing of any features or functionality remains at the sole discretion of Oracle. These responses are not a commitment to deliver any material, code or functionality.

Q: What is Oracle Enterprise Planning and Budgeting (EPB)?

Oracle Enterprise Planning and Budgeting is a new application that delivers scalable planning and analysis, offering sophisticated data modeling and multi-dimensional analysis in a web environment, tailored for each customer's own business processes.

Q: What are the primary business benefits from implementing EPB?

Enterprise Planning and Budgeting enables you to understand the business better by providing analysis tools to increase visibility into your organization. A framework to manage the critical business processes of budgeting and forecasting allows you to define the rules, tasks, and schedules, ensuring that you control these planning processes and achieve consensus when looking forward. The application enforces consistency while supporting decentralized flexibility. With ongoing monitoring of the business included, you tune plans to improve results and hold individuals accountable. Enterprise Planning and Budgeting is part of the Oracle E-Business Suite, an integrated set of applications that are engineered to work together.

Q: What are some of the key features included in EPB?

- **Sophisticated multidimensional reporting and analysis**
- **Configuration of planning, budgeting, forecasting and monitoring processes.**
- **Powerful data processing including an allocation engine.**
- **Business calculation templates such as currency translation, time analysis, share calculations and analysis of variances**
- **Budget entry distribution and approval process**
- **Data-based exception alert notifications using responsibility hierarchies**

Q: Does EPB require running any of the Oracle ERP applications?

No. EPB can be implemented by Oracle e-Business Suite customers as well as organizations who are running other ERP applications: The latter can deploy EPB by extracting and loading required data into the open FEM interface tables. Non-Oracle ERP customers will derive all the business value from EPB as a specialized standalone product.

Q: We have implemented Oracle ERP applications. How do we deploy EPB?

EPB requires Oracle Applications version 11.5.9 or higher. You can choose to upgrade your entire application suite or deploy an independent instance of Oracle Applications release 11.5.9 or higher to implement EPB. In the first scenario, you will derive the full benefits of the pre-built integration between EPB and Oracle General Ledger.

Q: What technology components are required to run EPB?

EPB relies on the following components -

- **Oracle Applications Framework 5.10**
 - **Oracle Business Intelligence Beans 3.1**
 - **Oracle Application Server 9iAS R1**
- **Oracle 9i Database 9.2.0.5 plus OLAP option**
- **Oracle Workflow 2.6**
- **Oracle FEM Schema shipped with EPB**
- **Standard web browser clients**

Q: What is the FEM schema?

FEM schema is a database schema designed as a foundation for EPB and, in future, other Oracle planning and analytical applications. It provides a set of predefined and user defined dimensions. There are open interface tables available to load metadata and data into the FEM schema from multiple sources.

Q: We have implemented Oracle Financial and Sales Analyzer. How do we migrate to EPB?

Oracle will provide migration utilities that will help you convert existing dimensional metadata, fact data, documents, selection rules, calculations and user responsibilities to equivalent constructs in EPB.

Oracle Financial and Sales Analyzers will continue to have error correction support until end of 2006 with extended support until mid 2008.

For more details, please refer to the published [migration white paper](#).

Q: What are the functionality differences between EPB and Oracle Financial and Sales Analyzers (OFA/OSA)?

EPB builds on the proven functionality of OFA and OSA, but extends it to include automation and integration of the business processes, data-driven exception alerts targeted to accountable individuals, significant reporting enhancements (annotations, more flexible formatting, more graph types), a new multi-dimensional allocation engine, calculation templates in business terms and integration with Oracle Workflow.

There is an upcoming OFA-OSA and EPB functional mapping document that discusses this in more detail. Session II Recorded replay <http://ilearning.oracle.com>

Q: What is the user authentication mechanism employed by EPB?

EPB relies on the single sign on authentication provided by Oracle Applications. Users are provided one or more EPB responsibilities appropriate to their organizational role. Integration is provided to Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) services via Oracle Internet Directory.

Q: How does EPB manage user security and accountability?

EPB provides highly flexible mechanisms for setting read and write access by user. Access to input plan or budget data must be explicitly granted to responsible users.

EPB provides a built-in mechanism for business accountability by supporting ownership for every single data value for all business metrics tracked in EPB. This ownership construct allows automatic notification of actions and alerts initiated within EPB to appropriate users. This allows straightforward organizational hierarchical responsibilities as well as real life dotted-line management to be modeled.

Q: Does EPB require a pre-defined data model or business process?

No. EPB allows you to configure the dimensionality, business rules and business processes to best fit your specific requirements. EPB provides a comprehensive framework to define and maintain the appropriate data model and business processes. EPB is designed to provide you the deployment and cost-of-ownership benefits of a packaged solution along with the business benefits and flexibility of a configurable solution. EPB easily encompasses lifecycle changes in your business.

Q: What is a Business Process in EPB?

Users with the Business Process Administrator responsibility can create and maintain business processes for planning, budgeting, forecasting, and monitoring the business. Examples of a business process are Strategic plan, Annual budget, Quarterly rolling forecast, and Month end variance analysis. You define each business process by specifying its data model, solve, tasks, and schedule. Typical tasks are data loads, worksheet distribution, worksheet submissions, data processing and exception alerts. Business Process executions can be calendar or event driven.

Q: Does EPB provide workflow management capability?

Yes. EPB Business Processes and notifications are enabled by Oracle Workflow technology. Once the business processes have been defined, Enterprise Planning and Budgeting monitors their schedules and initiates a new process run of each business process appropriately. Task execution is controlled by Oracle Workflow and this automation reduces the administrative effort and cycle time.

Q: Can EPB run several Business Processes concurrently?

Yes. Many EPB business processes can be in active execution concurrently. This mirrors the business reality of today's continuous and dynamic planning and budgeting activities. You can choose to retain several past runs of business processes in EPB and report against them, such as historical versions of the budget. Older business process runs are then automatically deleted.

Q: Does EPB provide what-if analysis functionality?

Yes. EPB provides an extensive set of features to input values within a personal workspace and recalculate their incremental impact across the organization iteratively. This functionality is provided within the data collection worksheets. Users can also create personal dimension members or extend hierarchies to perform their analyses. Final inputted numbers can be submitted to the shared EPB workspace subject to validation against targets and approvals.

Q: Does EPB provide hooks to add customization code?

The initial release of EPB focuses on a comprehensive set of standard functionality rather than extension hooks. The configuration options and rich functionality included is expected to eliminate or minimize the need for customizations in your implementations. There are published hooks available in the underlying component, Oracle Workflow.

Q: Does EPB provide dashboard capability?

EPB is integrated with Oracle Portal by providing the ability to display EPB documents as portlets and as hyperlinks for detailed analysis. Personalized dashboards can be built using this portal integration.

Q: Does EPB support report publishing requirements?

EPB provides extensive document authoring, formatting and sharing functionality directly to the end user. Documents include crosstab and large collection of graph types. EPB also provides ability to export a document in the Oracle Reports 9i XML data source format. This export file can be used to develop or update high quality production reports in Oracle Reports 9i Developer to be published as briefing books.

Q: Does EPB provide integration with Microsoft Excel?

EPB documents can be exported to an Excel readable HTML file format. Document layout and formatting is preserved in the exported file.

An OLAP Excel Add-that will allow secure access to the EPB data stored within Analytic Workspaces is under development. This is planned for a future release of EPB.

The ability to upload budgets from Excel workbooks into EPB worksheets is planned for a future release.

Q: How is Enterprise Planning and Budgeting licensed?

EPB is a separately licensed product. It is also included within the e-Business Suite license bundle.

Q: Does EPB replace Oracle Demand Planning (ODP)?

No. ODP continues as a separate product within the Oracle APS suite. With Oracle Applications 11.5.10, the underlying architecture will shift from the Oracle Express Server platform to the Oracle 9i Database plus OLAP option. A direct integration link is planned between ODP and the FEM schema thus integrating demand planning data with EPB.

Q: Does EPB replace Oracle Public Sector Budgeting (PSB)?

No. The initial release of EPB is a generic product and does not include some of the Public Sector market specific features (i.e. Position Budgeting, Integration with HR Position Control, Posting Budget Journals and Budget Revision) available in PSB.

Q: Will a future version of EPB support PSB features?

The strategic direction of EPB is to provide industry templates and extensions on top of the generic functionality. For the Public Sector market the extensions will leverage Public Sector market specific features (i.e. Position Budgeting, Integration with HR Position Control, Posting Budget Journals and Budget Revision) available in PSB today. This will be achieved by tightly integrating EPB and PSB to provide a comprehensive Planning, Budgeting, Analysis and Reporting solution for the Public Sector market.

Q: We have bought PSB but not yet implemented. Should we implement?

PSB currently incorporates line item-based budgeting and position-based budgeting. If you are planning to incorporate PSB for position-based budgeting as part of your HR and GL implementation, and are going to leverage the two way integration between both (HR for position budgeting, and GL for budget journals and budget revisions), then you should continue with PSB.

If your requirements are more around line item based budgeting, long range planning, and complex analysis then you may want to evaluate EPB to see if there is a fit.

***Enterprise Planning & Budgeting eSeminar –
Functionality & Implementation Session II Q&A***

April 28, 2004

Q: Do we have rollout date for this and when can we get more information about this.

The Enterprise Planning and Budgeting application will be released in summer of 2004 as a patch to Oracle Applications 11.5.9 and as part of the Oracle Applications 11.5.10 rapid install. We are currently working on additional collateral for Enterprise Planning and Budgeting, which will be available at <http://www.oracle.com/applications/cpm>