

Oracle® Fusion Middleware

Interoperability and Compatibility Guide for Oracle Forms and Reports

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Oracle Fusion Middleware Interoperability and Compatibility Guide for Oracle Forms and Reports, 11g Release 2 (11.1.2.2)

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Preface

This guide describes interoperability and compatibility considerations you should review when installing, upgrading, or patching Oracle Fusion Middleware 11g.

This preface contains these topics:

- [Audience](#)
- [Documentation Accessibility](#)
- [Related Documents](#)
- [Conventions](#)

Audience

This document is intended for system administrators responsible for installations, upgrade planning, and patch set application.

Documentation Accessibility

For information about Oracle's commitment to accessibility, visit the Oracle Accessibility Program website at <http://www.oracle.com/pls/topic/lookup?ctx=acc&id=docacc>.

Access to Oracle Support

Oracle customers have access to electronic support through My Oracle Support. For information, visit

<http://www.oracle.com/pls/topic/lookup?ctx=acc&id=info> or visit <http://www.oracle.com/pls/topic/lookup?ctx=acc&id=trs> if you are hearing impaired.

Related Documents

For more information, see the following related documentation available in the Oracle Fusion Middleware 11g documentation library:

- *Oracle Fusion Middleware Upgrade Planning Guide*
- *Oracle Fusion Middleware Installation Planning Guide*
- *Oracle Fusion Middleware Patching Guide*

Conventions

The following text conventions are used in this document:

Convention	Meaning
boldface	Boldface type indicates graphical user interface elements associated with an action, or terms defined in text or the glossary.
<i>italic</i>	Italic type indicates book titles, emphasis, or placeholder variables for which you supply particular values.
monospace	Monospace type indicates commands within a paragraph, URLs, code in examples, text that appears on the screen, or text that you enter.

Understanding Compatibility and Interoperability

This chapter provides an introduction to compatibility and interoperability and describes how to identify areas where compatibility and interoperability considerations may arise when you are upgrading Oracle Fusion Middleware 11g components, applying patch sets, or installing new Oracle Fusion Middleware components.

- [Section 1.1, "What is Compatibility?"](#)
- [Section 1.2, "What is Interoperability?"](#)
- [Section 1.3, "Understanding Interoperability and Compatibility with Supported Databases"](#)
- [Section 1.4, "Identifying Potential Compatibility and Interoperability Issues"](#)

1.1 What is Compatibility?

For the purposes of this guide, **compatibility** is defined as the ability of two Oracle Fusion Middleware components of different versions (or releases) to interoperate. It is possible that you will have compatibility considerations when upgrading Oracle Fusion Middleware 11g or when applying Oracle Fusion Middleware 11g patch sets.

When upgrading, for example, you may need to know which components must be updated so that your existing integration points continue to work. When applying a patch set you may want to know if the new products will work with other products of the same release or if they will continue to work with previous versions.

Note: Compatibility applies to the interaction of components that are installed as part of different Oracle Fusion Middleware patch sets, such as the compatibility of 11g Release 1 (11.1.1.3.0) components with 11g Release 1 (11.1.1.6.0) components. Compatibility issues can arise when at least 1 of the first 4 digits in the release number is different (11.1.1.6.0 and 11.1.1.7.0).

Compatibility can be further broken down into the following:

- [Compatibility Between Oracle Fusion Middleware Software Suites](#)
- [Compatibility Within Oracle Fusion Middleware Software Suites](#)

1.1.1 Compatibility Between Oracle Fusion Middleware Software Suites

When you are upgrading your Oracle Application Server 10g environment to Oracle Fusion Middleware 11g, you will likely update one area of your environment at a time.

For example, you might upgrade the middle tiers in one department to Oracle Fusion Middleware 11g in order to support new Oracle SOA Suite features. At the same time, you might leave your company-wide Oracle Identity Management components at Oracle Application Server 10g.

1.1.2 Compatibility Within Oracle Fusion Middleware Software Suites

While you are upgrading your Oracle Application Server environment to Oracle Fusion Middleware 11g, you should also consider potential compatibility issues within a specific software suite.

In most cases, issues are temporary and occur only during the upgrade process. After you finish the complete procedure for upgrading the software suite, the issues are typically resolved. However, you should still be aware of these potential concerns, because they can influence your upgrade planning.

1.2 What is Interoperability?

For the purposes of this guide, **interoperability** is defined as the ability of two Oracle Fusion Middleware components of the same version (or release) to work together (interoperate) in a supported Oracle Fusion Middleware configuration. Specifically, interoperability applies when the first 4 digits of the release or version number are the same. For example, Oracle Fusion Middleware 11g (11.1.1.2.0) components are generally interoperable with other 11g (11.1.1.2.0) components.

In some cases there may be interoperability issues between Oracle Fusion Middleware software suites. For example, you may experience issues with the co-existence of domains between Oracle Fusion Middleware 11gR1 products such as SOA and WebCenter.

1.3 Understanding Interoperability and Compatibility with Supported Databases

Each release of Oracle Fusion Middleware 11g is certified against specific database versions. Specifically, you can use these certified databases to host the Oracle Fusion Middleware 11g components schemas.

In some cases, you might have to upgrade your database to a supported version before upgrading to a specific Oracle Fusion Middleware 11g release. For more information on upgrading your Oracle Fusion Middleware components, see *Oracle Fusion Middleware Upgrade Planning Guide*.

For the latest information about the databases supported by each Oracle Fusion Middleware 11g release, refer to *Oracle Fusion Middleware Supported System Configurations* on the Oracle Technology Network.

From the Supported Configurations page, you can locate the specific Oracle Application Server or Oracle Fusion Middleware release you are using, as well as the target Oracle Fusion Middleware release to which you want to upgrade. For each Oracle Application Server and Oracle Fusion Middleware release, there is a corresponding spreadsheet that lists the certified configurations, including the supported databases.

1.4 Identifying Potential Compatibility and Interoperability Issues

The following sections describe how to identify and answer common compatibility and interoperability issues using information from this guide, Oracle Technology Network (OTN) and other Oracle documents:

- [Before You Begin](#)
- [Using Oracle Certification Matrices](#)
- [Understanding the Compatibility Matrices in this Guide](#)
- [Collecting Your Component and Infrastructure Information](#)
- [Using Release Notes](#)

1.4.1 Before You Begin

If you are installing a new product or updating an existing one (either to a new major version or a patch set), interoperability and compatibility issues may arise. During a new product component installation, interoperability considerations relate to the capability of the new product to integrate with other Oracle Fusion Middleware components of the same release.

Compatibility considerations relate to the capability of the new product to integrate with previous versions of Oracle Fusion Middleware products which may have already been installed. During product updates, the question is mainly one of compatibility and you may need to consider the other components that need to be updated so that existing integration points continue to work.

[Table 1–1](#) provides a list of tasks that will help you collect the information necessary to plan your Oracle Fusion Middleware upgrade and installation strategy.

Table 1–1 Tasks for Preparing to Identify and Solve Interoperability Considerations

Task	Description	Documentation
Task 1 - Gather release and version information for your installed components and supporting infrastructure.	In order for you to identify potential interoperability and compatibility issues with your Oracle Fusion Middleware components, you must first collect the release and version information for each component or suite of components you have installed or plan to install or upgrade. In addition, you should also have version and release information for your operating system, database, JDKs and other third-party products.	See Section 1.4.4, "Collecting Your Component and Infrastructure Information"
Task 2 - If you are planning an upgrade, you should develop an upgrade strategy and understand the supported starting points for upgrading to Oracle Fusion Middleware 11g.	An upgrade starting point is a specific version of Oracle Application Server that you must be running in order to upgrade to Oracle Fusion Middleware 11g. If you are not running a version of Oracle Application Server that is a supported upgrade starting point, then you must first upgrade to a supported starting point using documentation from a previous release.	The <i>Oracle Fusion Middleware Upgrade Planning Guide</i> provides detailed information for developing and implementing an Oracle Fusion Middleware upgrade plan. In addition, each of the Oracle Fusion Middleware products has an upgrade guide that details the upgrade process and identifies any post-upgrade configuration tasks that must be completed.

Table 1–1 (Cont.) Tasks for Preparing to Identify and Solve Interoperability Considerations

Task	Description	Documentation
<p>Task 3 - If you are applying a patch set, you should understand the patching requirements for your components and supporting infrastructure.</p>	<p>Patching involves copying a small collection of files over an existing installation. A patch is normally associated with a particular version of an Oracle product and involves updating from one minor version of the product to a newer minor version of the same product (for example, from version 11.1.1.2.0 to version 11.1.1.3.0).</p>	<p>The <i>Oracle Fusion Middleware Patching Guide</i> describes the tools available for you to patch your existing Oracle Fusion Middleware or upgrade your existing Oracle Application Server environment. The guide also describes product-specific prerequisites that must be met before patching.</p> <p>Information about the latest patches and patch sets is located in the Oracle Fusion Middleware System Requirements and Specifications Document at http://www.oracle.com/technology/software/products/ias/files/fusion_requirements.htm</p>
<p>Task 4 - If you are installing new Oracle Fusion Middleware components, you should understand the installation requirements and the supported starting points.</p>	<p>Each Fusion Middleware product suite has an installation guide that describes prerequisites, supported starting points and post-installation configuration procedures. It is important to read and follow the installation procedures to avoid potential interoperability and compatibility issues.</p>	<p>To download free installation documentation, release notes, white papers, or other collateral, go to Oracle Technology Network (OTN). You must register online before using OTN; registration is free and can be done at: http://www.oracle.com/technology/membership</p> <p>If you already have a user name and password for OTN, then you can go directly to the documentation section of the OTN Web site at: http://www.oracle.com/technology/documentation</p>

1.4.2 Using Oracle Certification Matrices

The Oracle Fusion Middleware Certification matrices provide important compatibility and interoperability information such as supported system configurations, database versions, and third-party products. Refer to these documents to ensure that your current environment can support an upgrade or patch set.

Note: The information in this guide is meant to complement the information contained in the Oracle Fusion Middleware certification matrices. If there is a conflict of information between this guide and the certification matrices, then the information in the certification matrices should be considered the correct version as they are frequently updated.

Table 1–2 Oracle Fusion Middleware Certification Matrices

Document Name	Description
Oracle Fusion Middleware Supported System Configurations	Each product area within Oracle Fusion Middleware maintains certification documentation that covers supported installation types, platforms, operating systems, databases, JDKs, and third-party products. From the Oracle Fusion Middleware Supported System Configurations page, scroll to locate the product area to review and select the appropriate certification document.
Oracle Fusion Middleware System Requirements and Specifications Document	The Oracle Fusion Middleware System Requirements and Specifications document covers information such as hardware and software requirements, minimum disk space and memory requirements, and required system libraries, packages, or patches.

1.4.3 Understanding the Compatibility Matrices in this Guide

Interoperability and compatibility matrices are used throughout the book to identify potential issues and to provide links to additional information. When you use the interoperability and compatibility matrices in this guide, the level of support can be defined in one of the following ways:

Table 1–3 How To Use the Matrices in This Guide

Status	Description	Example
Compatible or Interoperable	Integration between the components involved is expected to work with appropriate configuration. It is important to note, however, that compatibility is not a statement of certification. Certification information is located in the certification matrices described in Table 1–2 .	For example, the Oracle HTTP Standalone Server 10.1.3 is compatible with Forms, Portal, Reports, Discoverer 10.1.2, but you may have some restrictions depending on your configuration.
Not Compatible or Interoperable	Integration between the components involved is not expected to work.	For example, Oracle HTTP Server 11gR1 is not compatible with Forms, Portal, Reports, Discoverer 10.1.2 and Oracle highly discourages their being used together.
A reference to a specific guide or section	This reference is provided when an individual guide provides more detailed information about the compatibility requirements and considerations that you should review when upgrading, patching or installing Oracle Fusion Middleware 11g.	For example, refer to the <i>Oracle Fusion Middleware Upgrade Guide for Oracle Identity Management</i> for specific information about the interoperability of Oracle Application Server 10g Identity Management components with the Identity Management 11g components.
N/A	Not Applicable.	For example, there is normally no communication or interaction between custom Java EE Applications and Oracle Portal, Forms, Reports, and Discoverer installations.

1.4.4 Collecting Your Component and Infrastructure Information

Oracle Fusion Middleware release and version information is available for each installed component on your system. This information is required before you can effectively identify and solve interoperability or compatibility issues. The certification

matrices described in [Section 1.4.2](#) provide certification and system requirements information for Oracle Fusion Middleware components.

This section provides information for the following:

- [Locating Oracle Fusion Middleware Product Release Information](#)
- Locating your database-specific version and release information:
 - [Locating Your Oracle Database Release Information](#)
 - [Locating your Microsoft SQL Server Version Information](#)
 - [Locating your DB2 Version Information](#)
- [Locating Java SE Version Information](#)

1.4.4.1 Locating Oracle Fusion Middleware Product Release Information

When you are investigating potential interoperability or compatibility issues, it can be helpful to identify the version numbers for all the components in your Oracle home.

To find specific release and version information for any Oracle Fusion Middleware product, see the installed product information using the Oracle Universal Installer (OUI).

For more information, see the following:

- "Viewing Release Numbers" in the *Oracle Fusion Middleware Administrator's Guide*
- "Verifying the Installed Products and Product Versions" in the *Oracle Fusion Middleware Installation Guide for Oracle Forms and Reports*

You can also find version and release information in the installation log files located in the `oraInventory/logs` directory of your Oracle Home.

1.4.4.2 Locating Your Oracle Database Release Information

To determine the release information of your Oracle database:

Start SQL*Plus from the Oracle home directory:

```
sqlplus /nolog
SQL> CONNECT / AS SYSDBA
SQL> select * from v$version;
```

The command returns the release information, such as the following:

```
Oracle9i Enterprise Edition Release 9.2.0.8.0 - Production
PL/SQL Release 9.2.0.8.0 - Production
CORE 9.2.0.8.0 Production
TNA for 32-bit Windows: Version 9.2.0.8.0 - Production
NLSRTL Version 9.2.0.8.0 - Production
```

1.4.4.3 Locating your Microsoft SQL Server Version Information

To determine the release information of your Microsoft SQL database:

From the command line, enter the following:

```
exec xp_msver ProductVersion
```

The command returns the product version information, such as the following:

```
ProductVersion 589824 9.00.1399.06
```

1.4.4.4 Locating your DB2 Version Information

To determine the release information of DB2, do the following:

- From the **Windows** operating system command line, navigate to the following:

```
\Program Files\IBM\SQLLIB\BIN>db2level
```

The command returns the database version and applicable fix pack information such as the following:

```
DB21085I Instance "DB2?" uses "32?" bits and DB2 code release "SQL09011?" with
level identifier "01020107?".
Informational tokens are "DB2 v9.1.100.129?", "s061104?", "WR21374?", and Fix Pack
"1?".
Product is installed at "D:\PROGRA~1\IBM\SQLLIB" with DB2 Copy Name "DB2COPY1?".
```

- From **UNIX** operating system command line, type the following:

```
db2ls
```

This command shows the installation path, version level, fix pack information and installation date of the installed DB2 product. Output from this command goes to the console by default.

Install Path	Level	Fix Pack	Install Number	Install Date
/opt/ibm/db2/V9.1	9.1.0.0	0	1	Fri Sep 3 10:26:33 2010 EDT

1.4.4.5 Locating Java SE Version Information

Many Fusion Middleware Components are dependent on having supported Java SE software installed and configured. The currently supported Java SE version information is documented in the Oracle Fusion Middleware Supported System Configurations matrix as described in [Section 1.4.2](#).

Note that there can be multiple versions of Java SE on your system:

- Operating System installed Java SE
- Customer Java SE
- Java SE installed with Oracle WebLogic Server
- Java SE installed with Oracle Fusion Middleware 11g products

When troubleshooting interoperability or compatibility issues, it can help to know which versions of Java SE are installed on the system, which versions are being used by the Oracle Fusion Middleware software, where the Java SE software is installed.

The following are some common ways to learn more about the Java software installed on your system:

- Check your system environment for any JAVA_HOME environment variables or inclusion in the PATH environment variable.
- On Linux systems, you can use the following commands to check for a default Java SE on the system or navigate to specific directories where the java executable exists:

```
java -version
which java
```

- Check the JAVA_HOME value within the following files to determine where the Java SE location configured:

```
MW_HOME/wlserver_10.3/common/bin/commEnv.sh
DOMAIN_HOME/bin/setDomainEnv.sh
MW_HOME/wlserver_10.3/common/nodemanager/nodemanager.properties
```

Note that typical Oracle WebLogic Server installations include either an Oracle JRockit SDK or Sun SDK installed Oracle common home. The Oracle common home contains the binary and library files required for Fusion Middleware Control and Java Required Files (JRF). The Java SE files installed in the Oracle common home are usually in the following location:

```
ORACLE_COMMON_HOME/jrockit_160_17_R28.0.0-679
```

Or:

```
ORACLE_COMMON_HOME/jdk160_20
```

Oracle JRockit JDK 6 R28.0.0 indicates the 28.0.0 release of JRockit JVM used with Java SE 6; similarly, Oracle JRockit JDK 5.0 R28.0.0 indicates the 28.0.0 release of the JRockit JVM used with J2SE 5.0.

The following is an example of a complete release number:

```
R28.0.0-637-126675-1.6.0_17-20100111-2121-windows-ia32
```

In this example, R28.0.0 is the JRockit JVM release, 1.6.0_17 is the Java version, and windows-ia32 is the platform on which the release runs.

1.4.5 Using Release Notes

Refer to the Oracle Fusion Middleware Release Notes for specific information about required patch sets that address specific interoperability and compatibility issues which may surface during upgrade or patching process. The release notes for each release are available on the Oracle Technology Network (OTN):

<http://docs.oracle.com/>

Interoperability and Compatibility for Oracle Forms and Reports

This section describes some key interoperability and compatibility information for Oracle Forms and Reports 11g Release 2 (11.1.2).

This chapter contains the following sections:

- [Section 2.1, "Interoperability and Compatibility with Oracle Identity Management"](#)
- [Section 2.2, "Middleware Home and Domain Extension Interoperability for Oracle Forms and Reports"](#)

2.1 Interoperability and Compatibility with Oracle Identity Management

Refer to the following information about interoperability and compatibility issues between Oracle Forms and Reports and Oracle Identity Management:

- [General Information about Using Oracle Identity Management](#)
- [Compatibility with Oracle Internet Directory 11g and Single Sign-On 10g](#)
- [Compatibility and Interoperability with Oracle Access Manager](#)

2.1.1 General Information about Using Oracle Identity Management

Before you install new Oracle Identity Management components or configure your Oracle Forms and Reports software to use Oracle Identity Management services, review:

- The Oracle Fusion Middleware certification information to identify which Oracle Identity Management products are compatible with the Oracle Fusion Middleware products you are using. For more information, see [Section 1.4.2, "Using Oracle Certification Matrices"](#).
- The information in this chapter, to be sure you are installing and configuring versions of the Oracle Fusion Middleware software that will be compatible with existing and future Oracle Fusion Middleware components.

Similarly, before you apply an Oracle Fusion Middleware patch set, review your current environment and verify that applying the patch set won't affect the interoperability between your Oracle Identity Management components and the Oracle Fusion Middleware products that depend on them.

Also note that there are restrictions in terms of where you install the Oracle Identity Management products that you use with Oracle Forms and Reports 11g Release 2

(11.1.2). For more information, see [Section 2.2, "Middleware Home and Domain Extension Interoperability for Oracle Forms and Reports"](#).

2.1.2 Compatibility with Oracle Internet Directory 11g and Single Sign-On 10g

Oracle Fusion Middleware 11g provides an upgrade path for Oracle Single Sign-On users. Specifically, you can upgrade your Oracle Single Sign-On environment to Oracle Access Manager 11g.

However, after upgrading your Oracle Internet Directory (and Oracle Directory Integration Platform) instances to 11g, there are some post-upgrade tasks required in order for Oracle Single Sign-On 10g to work successfully with the upgraded Oracle Internet Directory instance.

For more information, follow the instructions for upgrading Oracle Internet Directory and Oracle Directory Integration Platform in the *Oracle Fusion Middleware Upgrade Guide for Oracle Identity Management*.

For additional information, see "Evaluating Single Sign-On Installations" in the *Oracle Fusion Middleware Installation Guide for Oracle Identity Management*

2.1.3 Compatibility and Interoperability with Oracle Access Manager

When you install Oracle Forms and Reports 11g Release 2 (11.1.2), you can choose to integrate your installation with an existing instance of Oracle Access Manager 11g.

For more information, see "Securing Oracle Forms and Reports With Identity Management" in the *Oracle Fusion Middleware Installation Guide for Oracle Forms and Reports*.

In addition, note the following considerations when using Oracle Access Manager with Oracle Forms and Reports:

- [Restrictions When Installing Oracle Access Manager with Oracle Forms and Reports](#)
- [Using Oracle HTTP Server WebGate with Oracle Access Manager and Oracle Forms and Reports 11g Release 2 \(11.1.2\)](#)

2.1.3.1 Restrictions When Installing Oracle Access Manager with Oracle Forms and Reports

If you plan to use Oracle Access Manager with Oracle Forms and Reports 11g Release 2 (11.1.2), then do one of the following:

- In most cases, it is recommended that you install and configure Oracle Access Manager on a separate host computer than Oracle Forms and Reports.
- If you choose to Oracle Access Manager on the same host as Oracle Forms and Reports, then be sure the two products are installed in separate Middleware homes. For example, do not attempt to install Oracle Access Manager in the same Middleware home as Oracle Forms and Reports 11g Release 2 (11.1.2).

For more information, see [Section 2.2.1, "Middleware Home Interoperability for Oracle Forms and Reports 11g Release 2 \(11.1.2\)"](#).

2.1.3.2 Using Oracle HTTP Server WebGate with Oracle Access Manager and Oracle Forms and Reports 11g Release 2 (11.1.2)

If use Oracle Access Manager with Oracle Forms and Reports, then be sure to also use a version of the Oracle HTTP Server WebGate software that is supported by both Oracle Access Manager and Oracle Forms and Reports 11g Release 2 (11.1.2).

For more information, see [Section 1.4.2, "Using Oracle Certification Matrices"](#).

2.2 Middleware Home and Domain Extension Interoperability for Oracle Forms and Reports

The following sections provide information about the interoperability of Oracle Fusion Middleware products when installing products in a Middleware home and when extending existing Oracle WebLogic Server domains:

- [Middleware Home Interoperability for Oracle Forms and Reports 11g Release 2 \(11.1.2\)](#)
- [Domain Extension Interoperability for Oracle Forms and Reports 11g Release 2 \(11.1.2\)](#)

2.2.1 Middleware Home Interoperability for Oracle Forms and Reports 11g Release 2 (11.1.2)

For most Oracle Fusion Middleware products, the general rule is to be sure that each Middleware home you create should contain only products that are at the same version or patch set.

However, for Oracle Forms and Reports 11g Release 2 (11.1.2), the rule is more restrictive. Unless otherwise documented, avoid installing any other Oracle Fusion Middleware products in the same Middleware home as Oracle Forms and Reports.

This rule is especially important when considering the installation and configuration of Oracle Access Manager and Oracle Forms and Reports. For more information, see [Section 2.1.3, "Compatibility and Interoperability with Oracle Access Manager"](#).

2.2.2 Domain Extension Interoperability for Oracle Forms and Reports 11g Release 2 (11.1.2)

For most Oracle Fusion Middleware products, you can extend an existing Oracle WebLogic Server domain with another Oracle Fusion Middleware product, as long as all the products configured within the domain are of the same release version or patch set.

However, for Oracle Forms and Reports 11g Release 2 (11.1.2), the rule is more restrictive. Unless otherwise documented, avoid extending an Oracle Forms and Reports domain with any other Oracle Fusion Middleware products.

This rule is especially important when considering the installation and configuration of Oracle Access Manager and Oracle Forms and Reports. For more information, see [Section 2.1.3, "Compatibility and Interoperability with Oracle Access Manager"](#).

