A World of Possibilities

The Power of Oracle
Application Express to Extend
Oracle E-Business Suite



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This is me

Oracle DBA since 1999 (started v7.3.4)

Oracle Apps DBA since 2006 (11i/R12x)

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President of the Real Application Cluster Special Interest Group (RAC SIG)

Oracle ACE

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Overview



Brake Parts Inc. is committed to leading the global aftermarket as the premier manufacturer of automotive braking components

Manufacturing plants and Sales offices across the globe allow us to provide outstanding service to customers in all regions.

Primary Products

- Friction
 - Pads
 - Shoes
- Rotors
- Calipers
- Wheel Hub Assemblies
- Hydraulics

Corporate Capabilities

- Research and Development
- Engineering
- Testing
- Manufacturing
- Logistics
- Distribution
- Customer Support



World Class Products. Global Commitment.

Confidential

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Agenda

Typical Oracle EBS Extension Options

Oracle APEX Architecture - Integration with EBS

Let's Build an Interactive Report!

Brake Parts APEX Applications

Typical Oracle EBS Extension Options

Traditional Extension Methods

Oracle Forms

Personalization or Modification (Unsupported by Oracle)

Oracle Application Framework (OAF)

Personalization or Modification (Unsupported by Oracle)



Oracle Reports

Custom

Traditional Methods Frustrating!

Oracle Forms, Reports, and OAF are great mature products but...

- They do require additional skills beyond SQL and PL/SQL
- Development time is typically longer to get business what they need
- May <u>not survive</u> patching or upgrades
- Need additional software installed on developer desktops



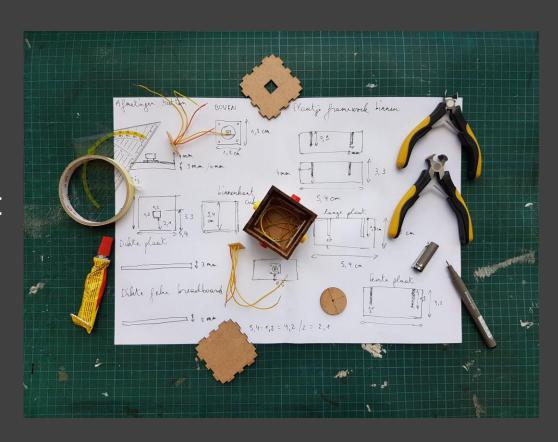
Oracle Application Express (APEX)

- What if you could use a tool to quickly turn those extensions/modifications into reality?
- Only need a web browser to develop
- Low code framework with built-in wizard driven tools
- Deploy something that is secure, scalable and survives EBS patches/upgrades
- Make both your IT staff and business users happier



RAPID APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT

- James Martin
- Iterative Development
- Prototyping



Oracle Application Express (APEX)

- Oracle Application Express is included with Oracle Database (since 2004)
- Fully supported and **no additional licensing** costs to use APEX

 Consult your Oracle Sales rep on impact to EBS licensing (you might be using the limited usage licensing).
- Runs in the database so can scale with the database
 Works with Exadata, Real Application Clusters (RAC) and InMemory option
- Built in wizards that allow rapid development of applications

What can you do with APEX?

- Create data entry or lookup forms
- Create interactive reports with the ability to drill down, filter and create charts
- Eliminate Excel spreadsheets and Access databases!
 - Convert them to APEX so they can be easily accessible by everyone, secured and backed up.
 - A true single source of truth!





Oracle APEX Architecture – Integration with EBS

APEX Architecture



"Oracle Application Express consists of a metadata repository that stores the definitions of applications and the APEX engine that renders and processes pages"

APEX Web Listener Options

Oracle REST Data Services (ORDS)

Recommended

- Oracle REST Data Services Listener is a Java-based Web server. It features file system caching, offers improved file upload capability, and is certified with Oracle WebLogic Server, Apache Tomcat, or Standalone (built-in Jetty).
- Oracle HTTP Server and mod_plsql (Deprecated)
 - Oracle HTTP Server uses the mod_plsql plug-in to communicate with the Oracle Application Express engine within the Oracle database.
- **Embedded PL/SQL Gateway (Legacy)**
 - Oracle XML DB Protocol Server with the Embedded PL/SQL Gateway installs with Oracle Database. It provides the database with a Web server and the necessary infrastructure to create dynamic applications.

Supported Java EE Application Servers

• **WebLogic** - Best of class but licensing can be expensive.

Apache Tomcat – Leader in open source web application server.

Standalone - Uses built in web server called Jetty.

High Level Installation Steps

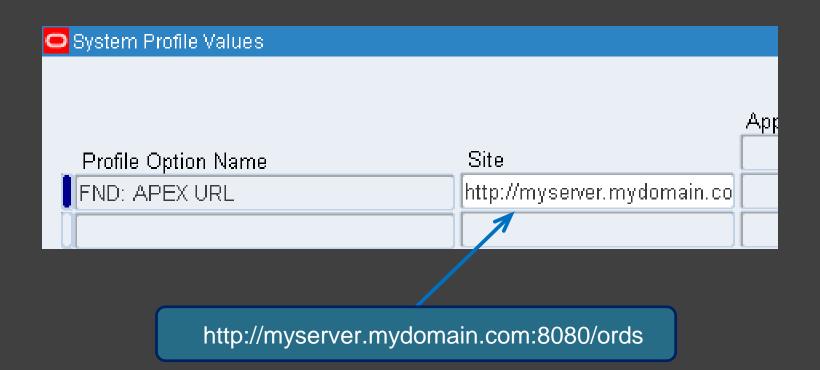
- Install APEX into the Oracle EBS database
- Install Oracle Rest Data Services (ORDS)
- Install web application server (WLS, Tomcat, Standalone)
- Deploy ords.war to web application server

High Level Installation Steps

- Make sure the required EBS patches to support APEX are installed (Patch 12726556, 12316083)
- Create your custom schema in the EBS database (e.g. XXAPEX)
- Create a Workspace in APEX and tie that to the custom schema
- Create APEX developer accounts

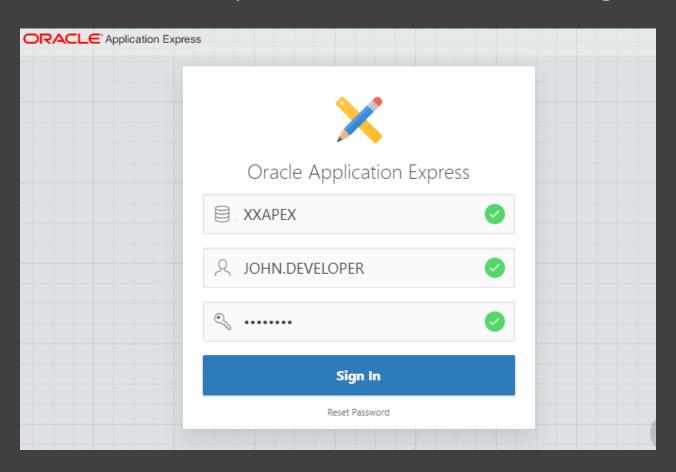
High Level Installation Steps

Set your Oracle EBS Profile Value with your APEX URL



It's Installed...Now What?

Give the developer a browser and start creating!



APEX Authentication



- APEX uses authentication schemes to determine the user
- APEX offers pre-configured authentication schemes including
 Oracle Single Sign-On (OSSO) and Oracle Access Manager
 (OAM).
 - Requires licensing
- Use custom built authentication that will validate against current EBS users and their responsibilities
 - Custom PL/SQL using the FND_USER_PKG

APEX Authentication

- Another custom option that is available from Insum Solutions (fee now)
 - Uses EBS user credentials to validate and allow users to automatically and seamlessly login to an APEX application (think of it as a custom Single Sign On)
 - Includes the ability to initiate your standard EBS initialization calls from the APEX application
 - FND_GLOBAL.APPS_INTIALIZE
 - MO_GLOBAL.INIT
 - MO_GLOBAL.SET_POLICY_CONTEXT

APEX Authorization

What can the user see in APEX?

What can the user do in APEX?

- APEX authorization schemes can be applied to various components
 - Forms, buttons, page regions, etc.



APEX Themes

- APEX 5.0+ uses the Universal Theme by default.
- The APEX theme used by BPI initially was Traditional Blue # 20
- Looks most like Oracle EBS OAF pages
- **Note:** When using Traditional Blue #20 (or any other theme) will **overwrite** the default Universal Theme



Additional Setups in EBS

For each APEX application/report you'll need to do the following:

- Setup Function
- Setup Menus
- Setup Responsibilities
- Assign Responsibilities to Users

Some Best Practices

- Separate tablespace for the APEX engine (don't use SYSAUX!)
- Separate tablespace for custom database objects that will be created to support APEX applications (e.g. XXAPEX)
- Never access EBS data directly but only through views
- Modifications to EBS data should only be done via supported
 APIs

Some Best Practices (Cont.)

- PL/SQL, grants, and synonyms should be owned by APPS
- Don't forget about menu exclusions when adding APEX applications to seeded menus (not everyone should see everything)
- Make sure to <u>tune your underlying SQL</u>! APEX will only be as quick as the SQL!
- Give considerations for **high availability** if the rest of your EBS environment is doing so (e.g. multiple application servers).

EBS 12.2.x Guidelines

Edition enable your APEX custom schema (e.g. XXAPEX)

Create the editioned view on your custom tablesexec AD_ZD_TABLE.UPGRADE('XXAPEX','XXAPEX_TABLE');

For updates to existing objects, follow the online patching cycle

Review MOS documents 1306563.1 and 1531121.1 for additional details

How do we get started?

Basic Proof of Concept

Let's Build An Interactive Report!

Let's Build An Interactive Report!

- Functional analyst manually ran query to get business user data
- Provided in a spreadsheet
- Never up to date



Create Your Database Objects

--As APPS User

SQL>create or replace view apps.xxapex_supplier_listing_demo (ou_name,

. . .

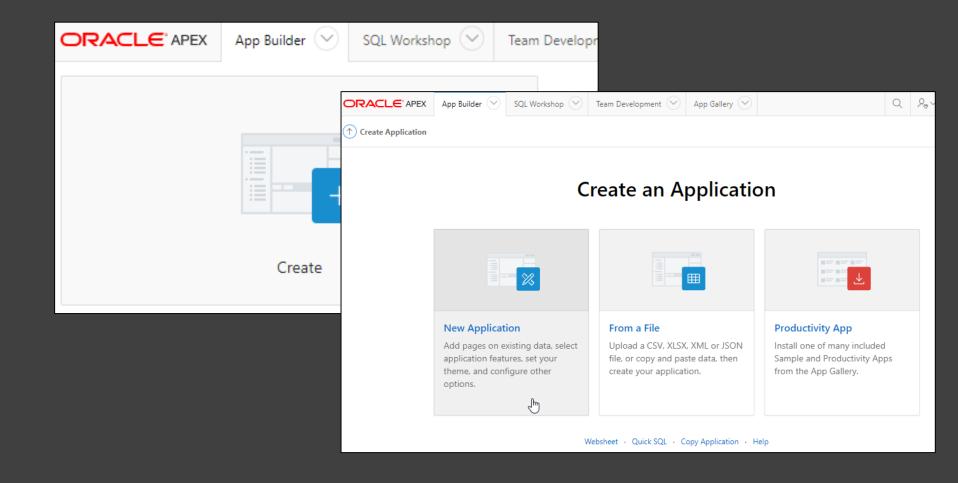
--As APPS User

SQL>grant select on apps.xxapex_supplier_listing_demo to xxapex;

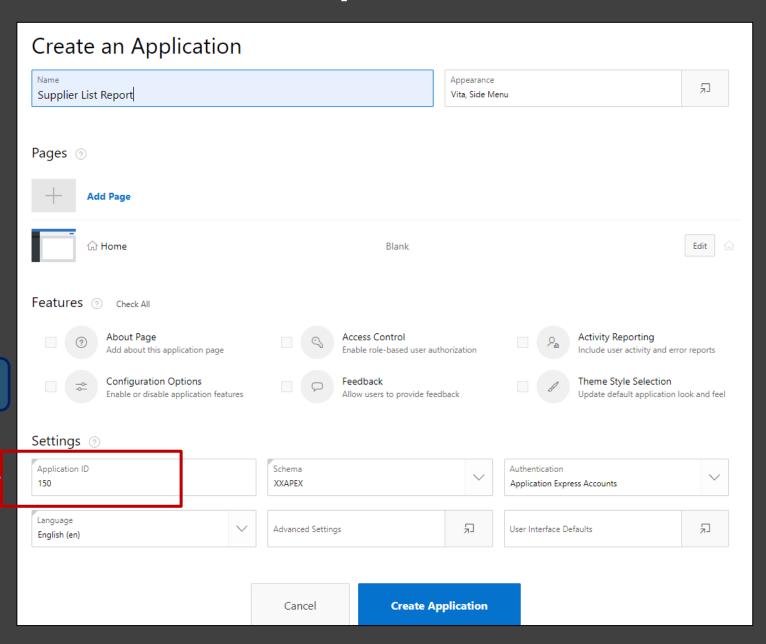
--As XXAPEX User

SQL> create or replace view xxapex.xxapex_supplier_listing_demo AS select * from apps.xxapex_supplier_listing_demo;

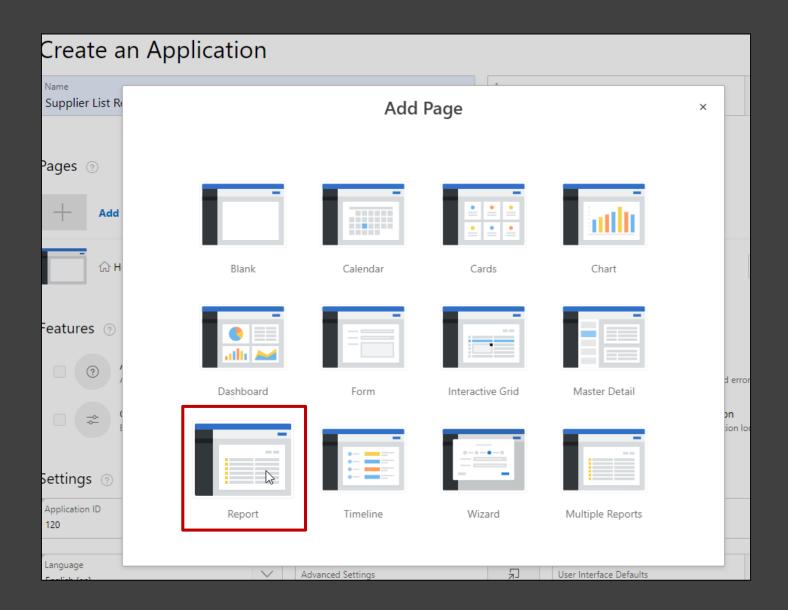
Let's Build An Interactive Report!

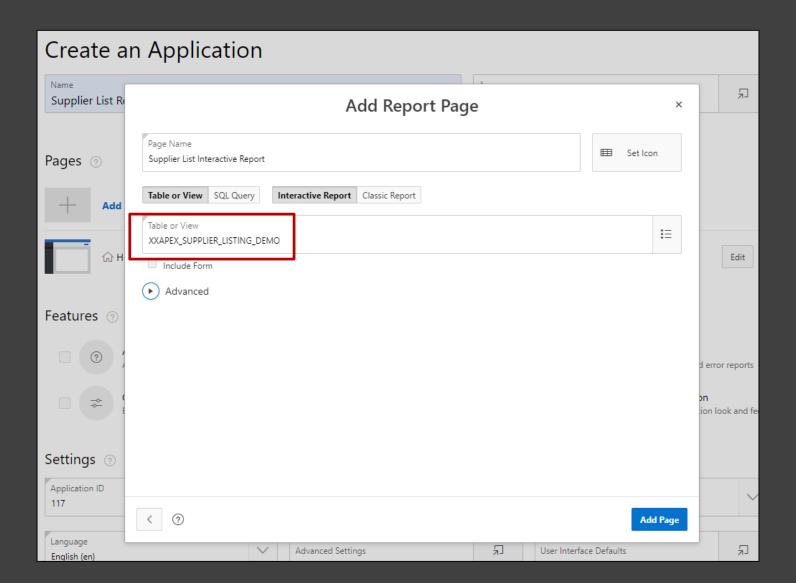


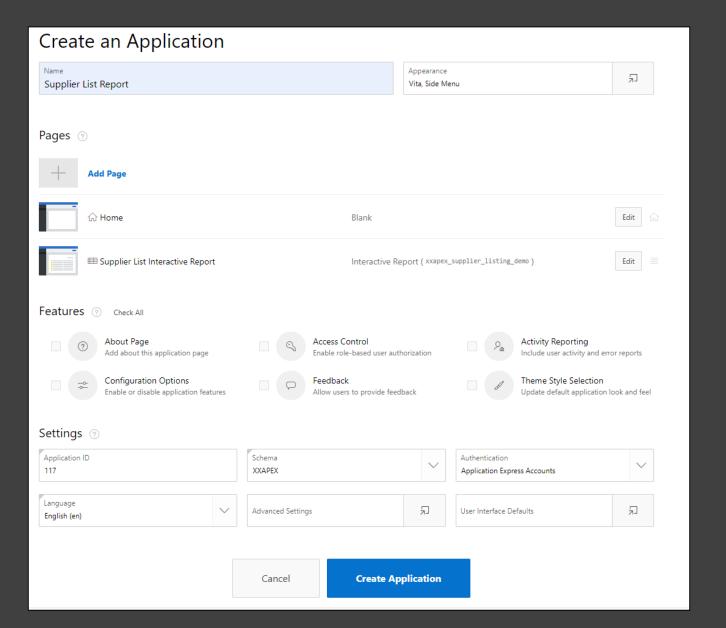
Let's Build An Interactive Report!

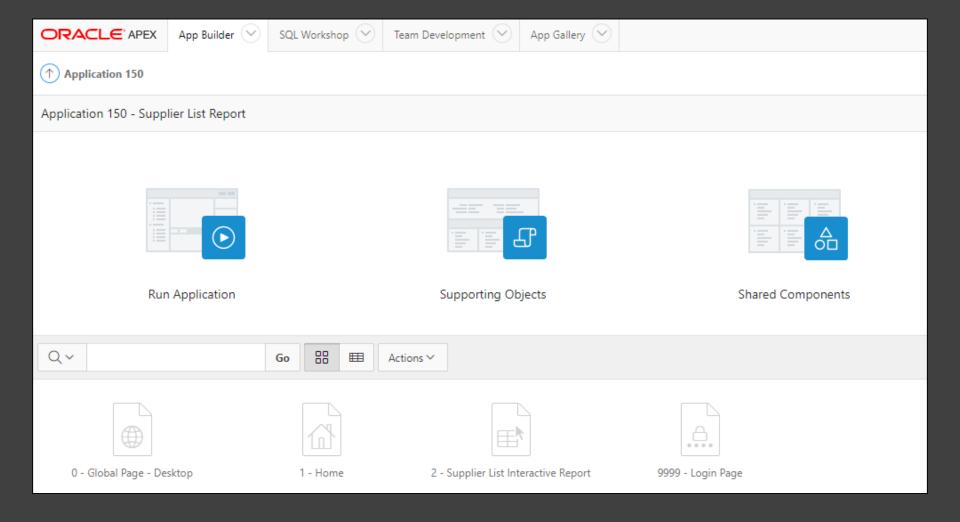


New Application ID

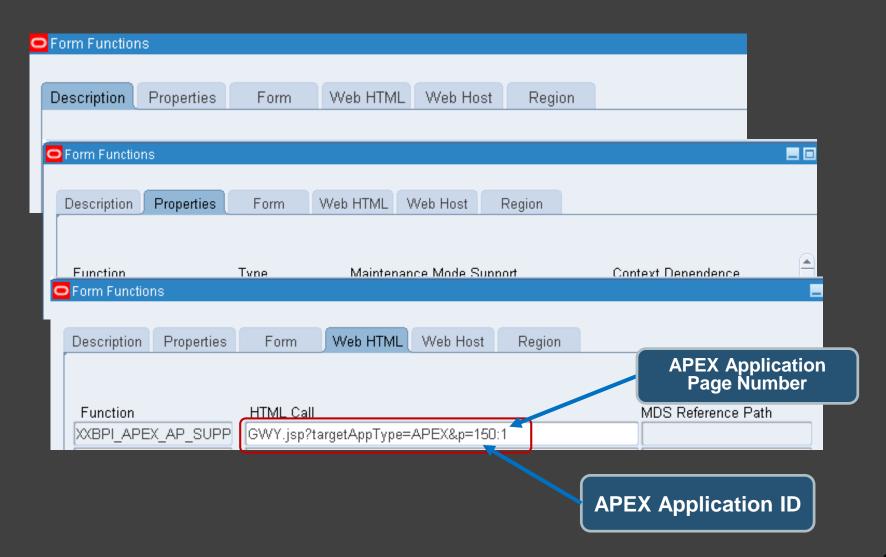




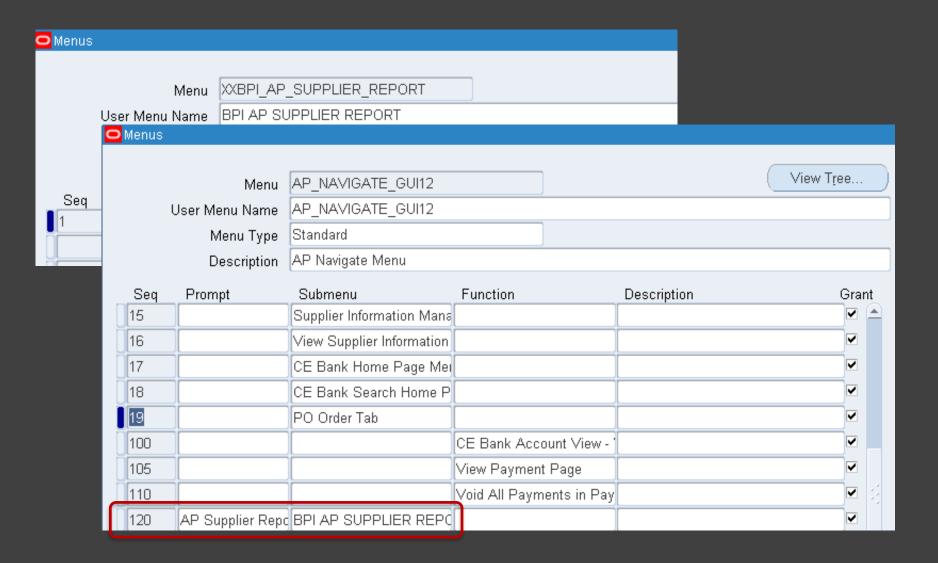




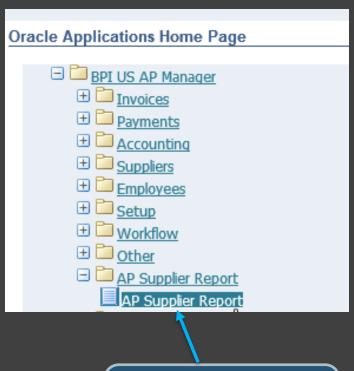
Create EBS Function



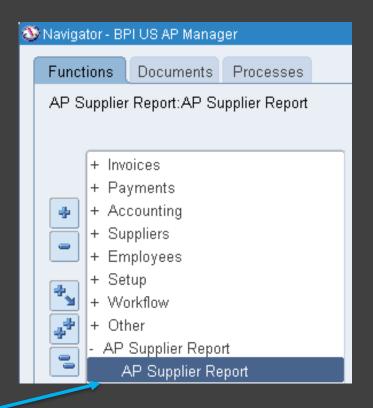
Create EBS Submenu/Add to Menu

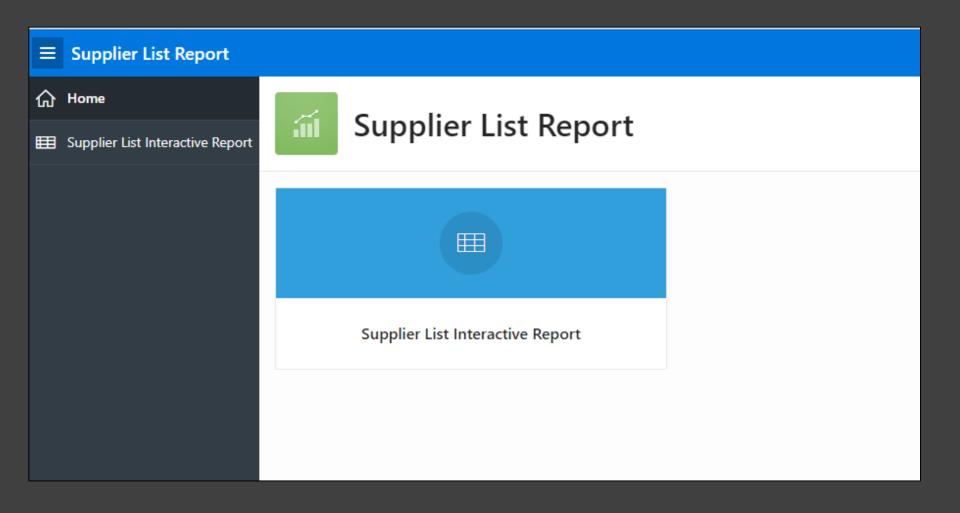


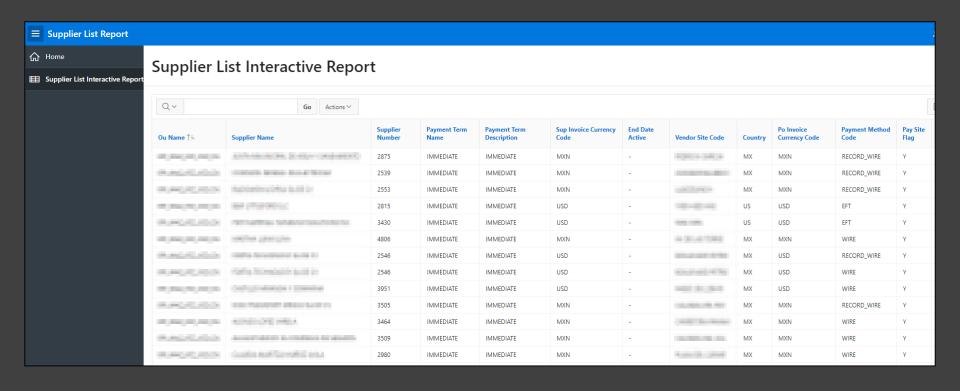
Launch APEX From EBS Menu



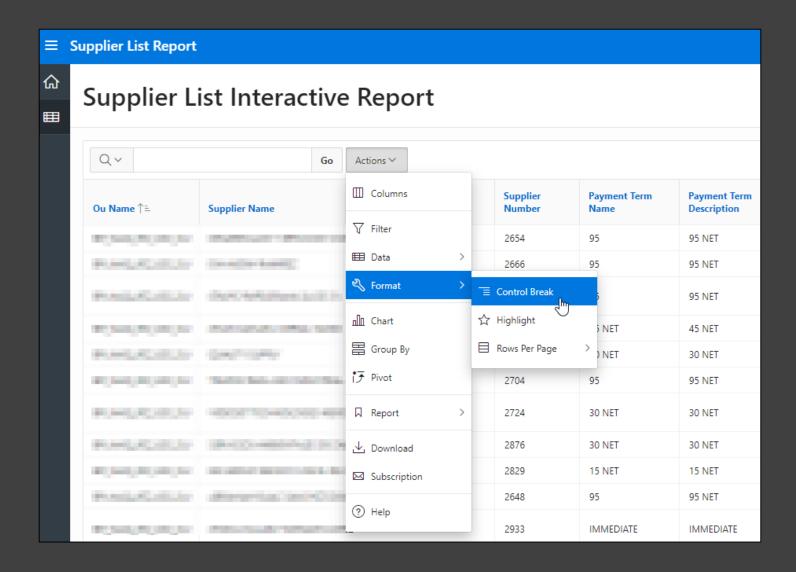
Entry to the APEX application is via a menu in EBS



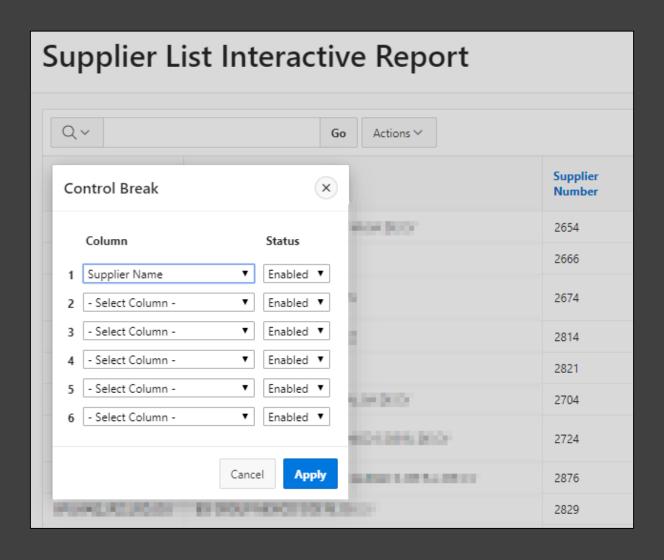




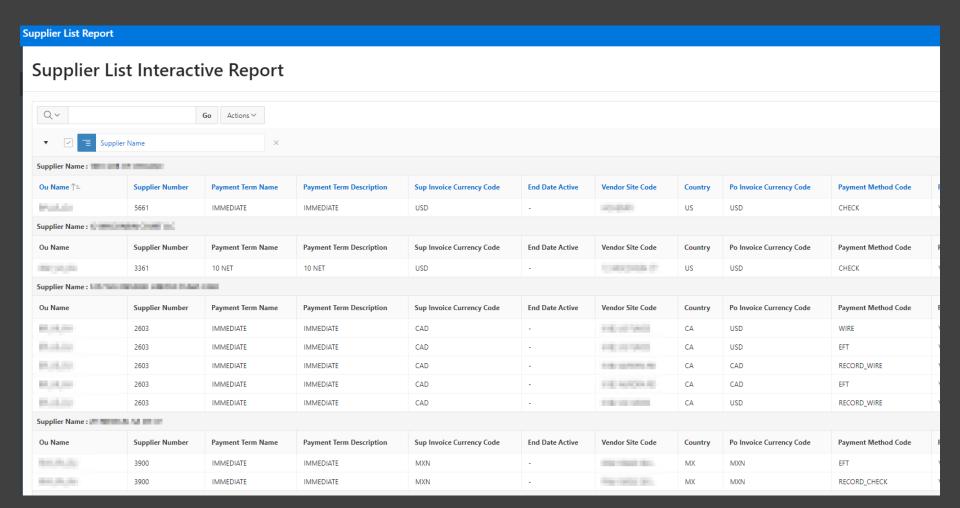
Control Break



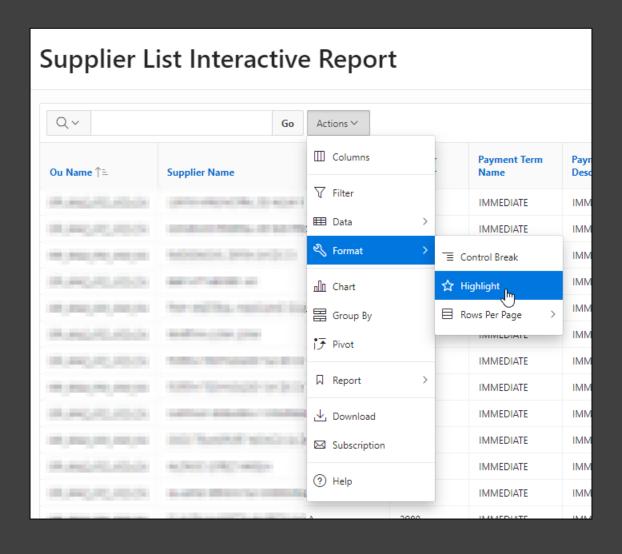
Control Break



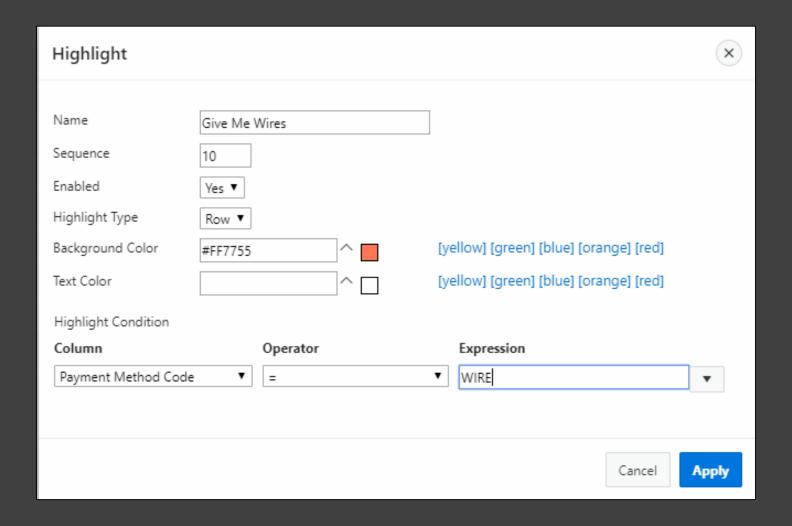
Control Break



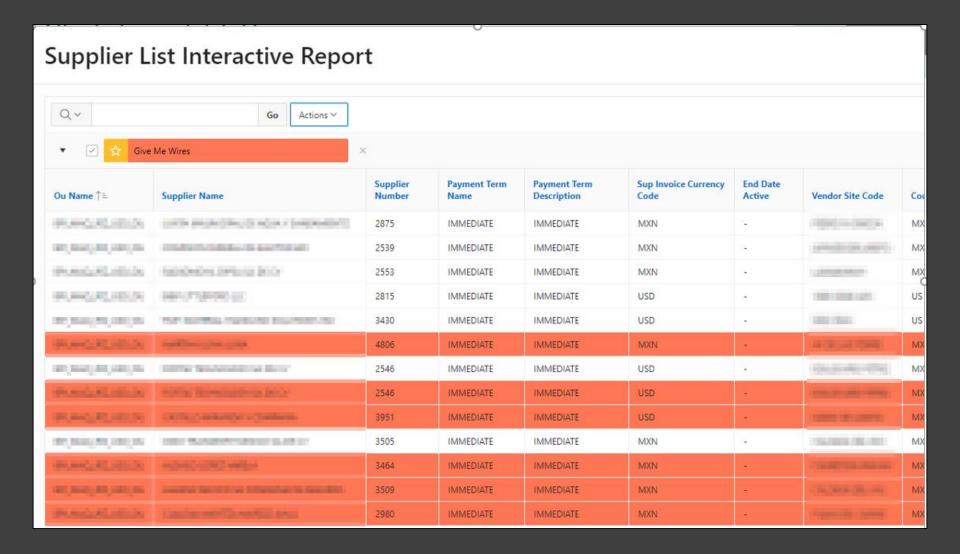
Highlight Rows w/ Certain Criteria



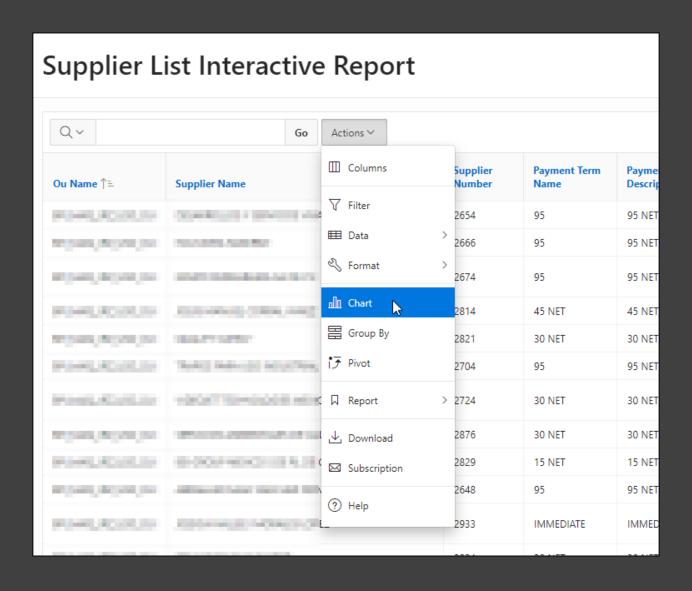
Highlight Rows w/ Certain Criteria



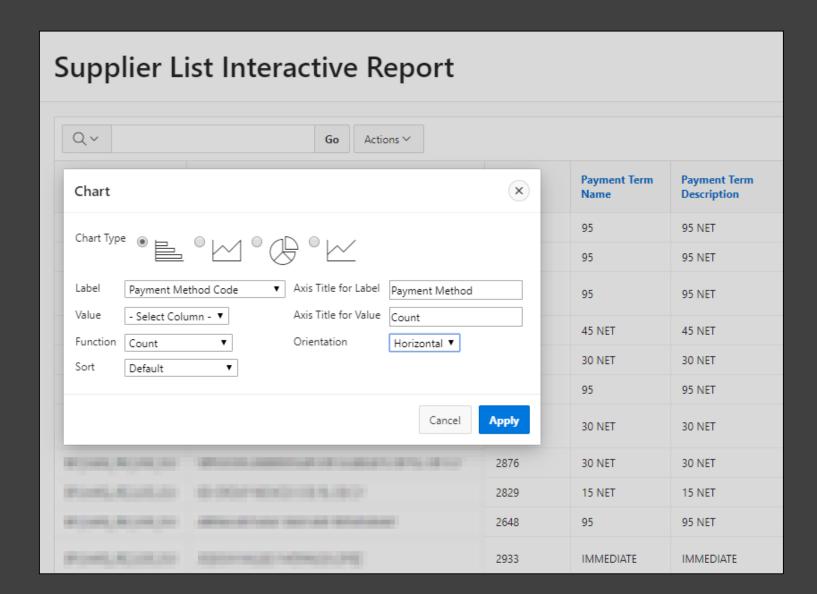
Highlight Rows w/ Certain Criteria



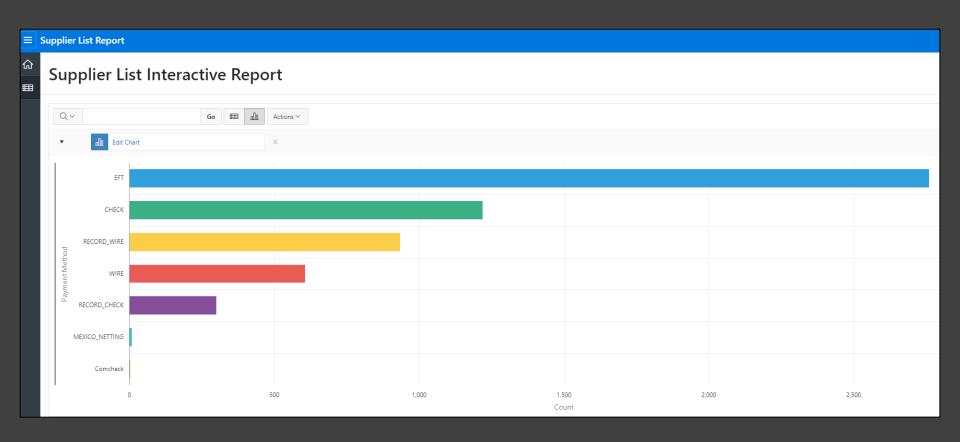
How about a chart?



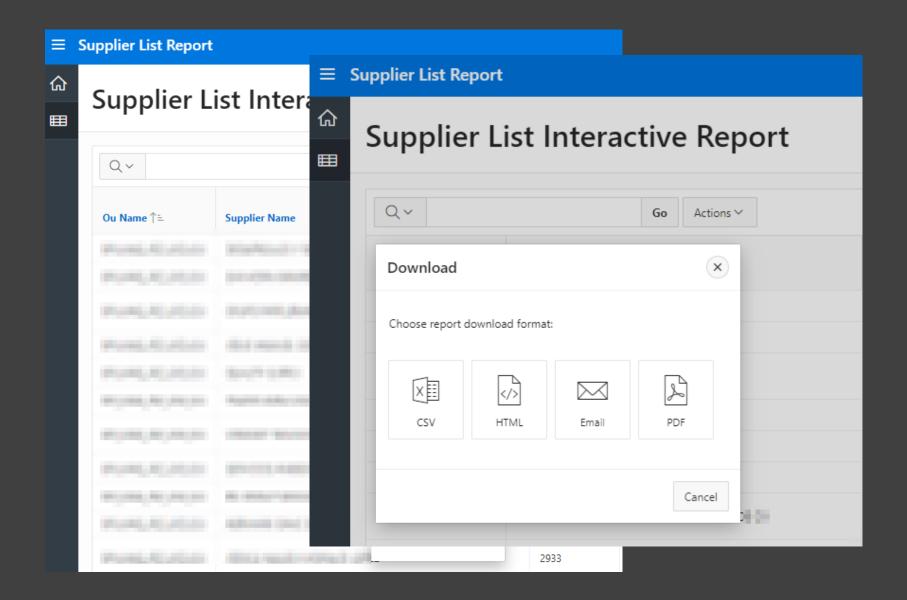
How about a chart?



How about a chart?

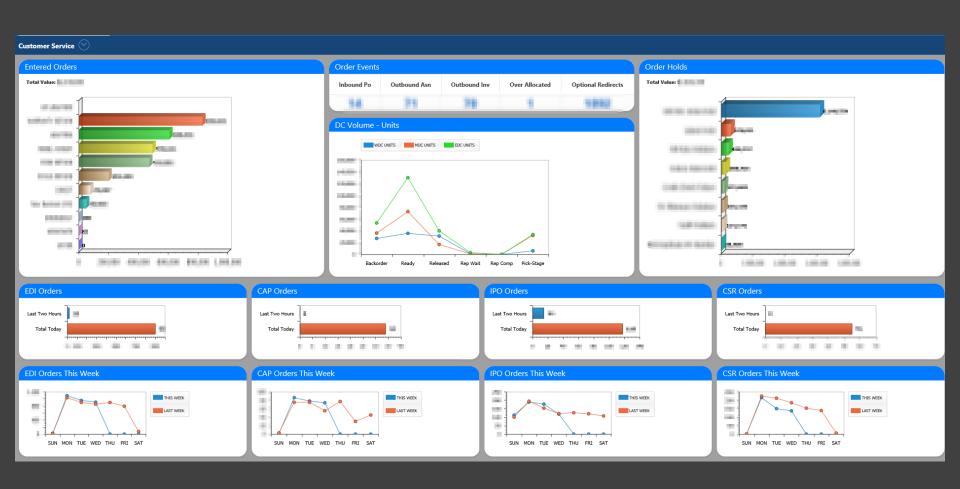


But I Want My Data in Excel!

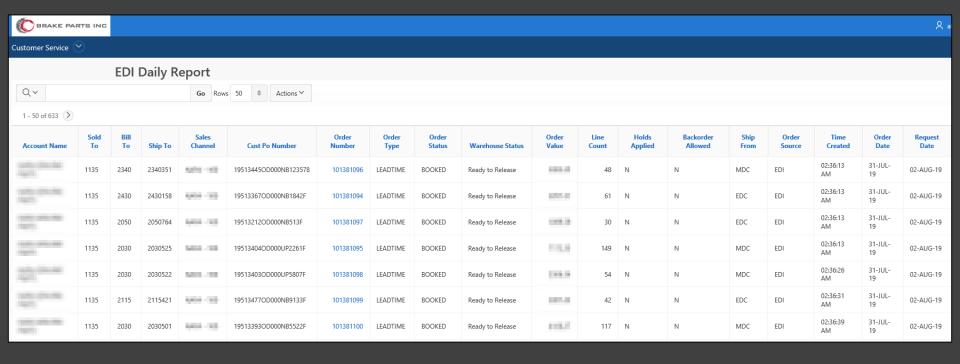


Brake Parts APEX Applications

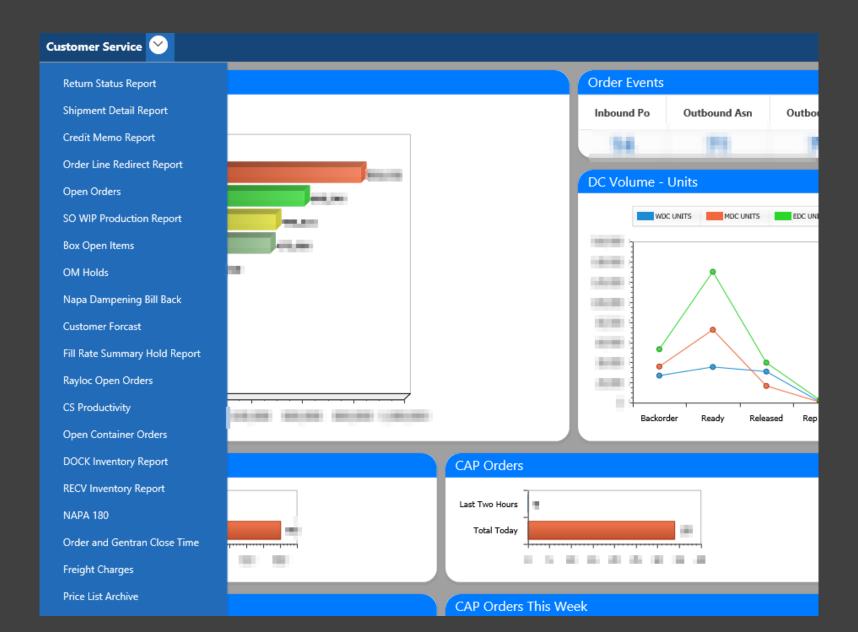
Customer Service Dashboard



Customer Service Dashboard



Customer Service Dashboard

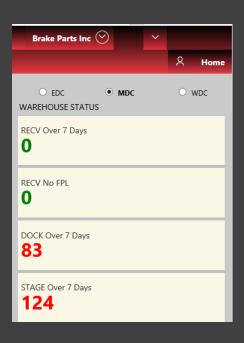


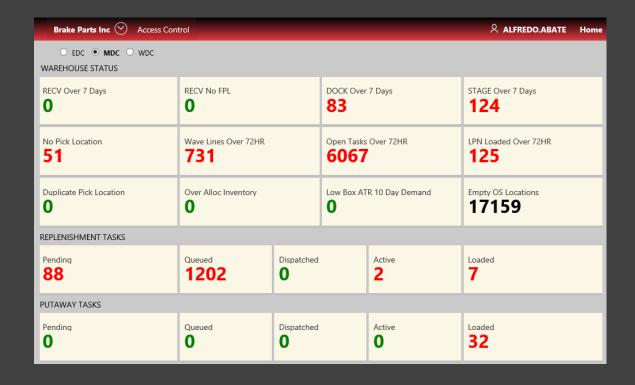
Distribution Center Dashboard

Brake Parts Inc 💮 Access Control					
○ EDC ● MDC ○ WDC WAREHOUSE STATUS					
RECV Over 7 Days	RECV No FPL		DOCK Over 7 Days		STAGE Over 7 Days
No Pick Location 51	Wave Lines Over 72HR 731		Open Tasks Over 72HR 6067		LPN Loaded Over 72HR 125
Duplicate Pick Location	Over Alloc Inventory		Low Box ATR 10 Day Demand		Empty OS Locations 17159
REPLENISHMENT TASKS					
Pending 88	Queued 1202	Dispatched 0		Active 2	Loaded 7
PUTAWAY TASKS					
Pending 0	Queued 0	Dispatched 0		Active 0	32
CYCLE COUNT TASKS					
Pending 5520	Queued 207	Dispatched 0		Active 2	Loaded 0
OUTBOUND TASKS					
Pending 6614	Queued 624	Dispatched 1426		Active 37	Loaded 1458

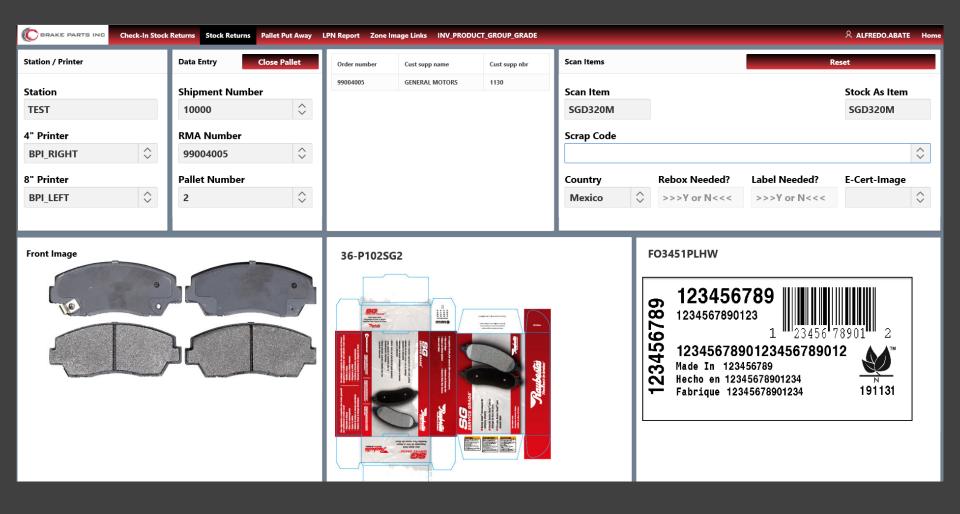
Distribution Center Dashboard

APEX Universal Theme Responsive - Tablet/Cell Phone Ready

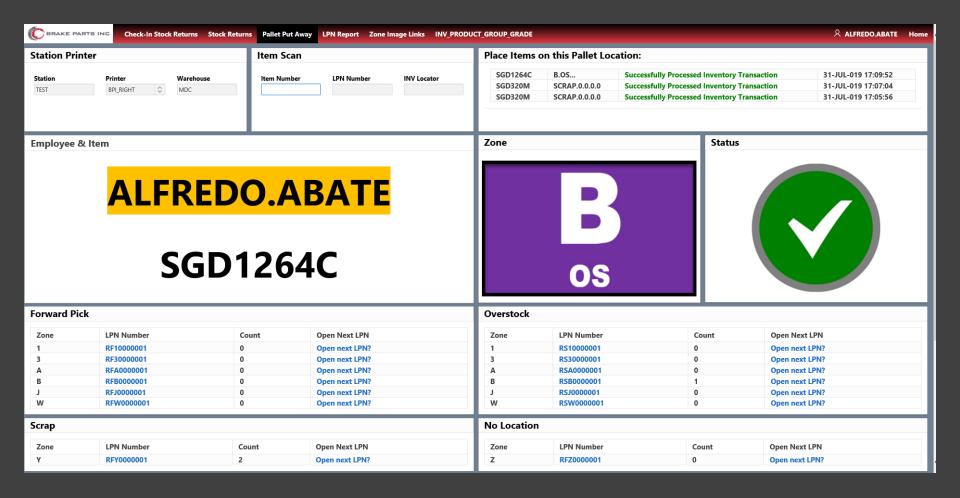




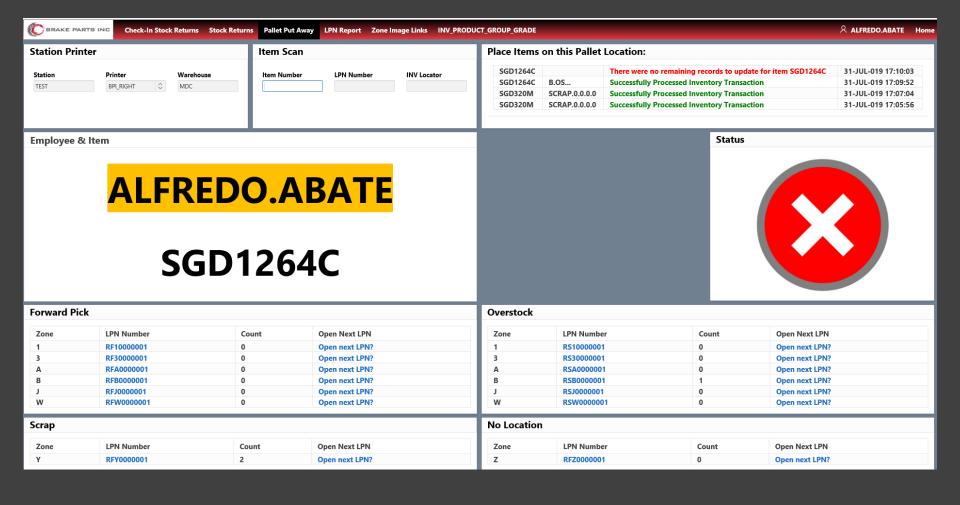
Distribution Center Stock Returns



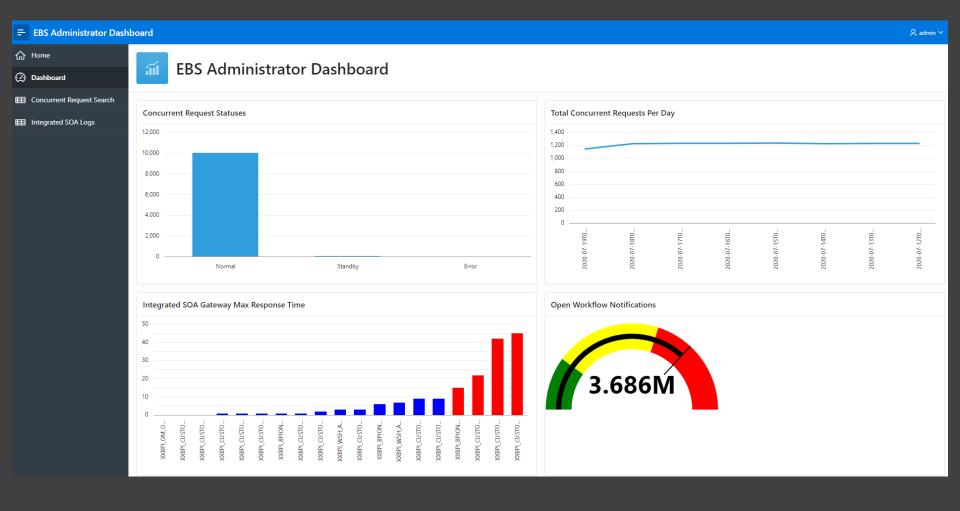
Distribution Center Stock Returns

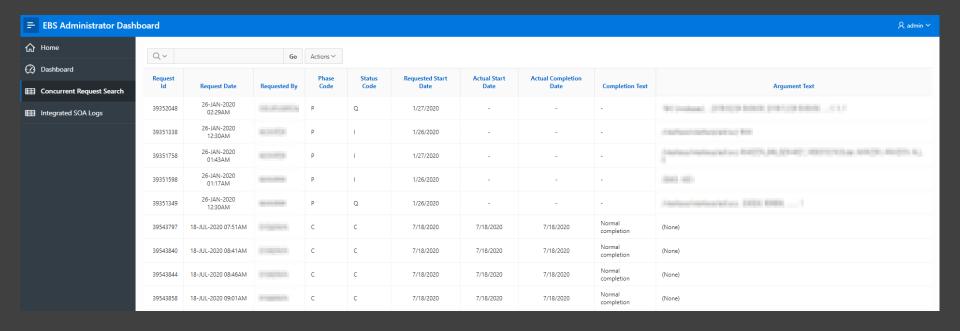


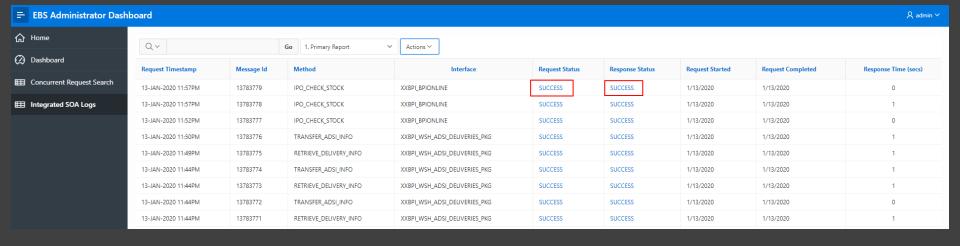
Distribution Center Stock Returns

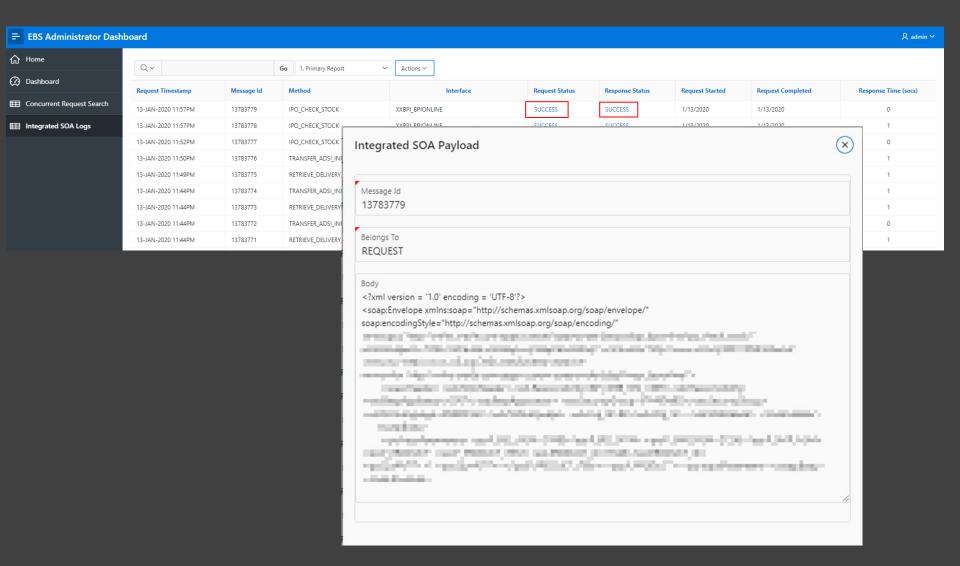


Even for the DBA!









APEX will change your organization!

A World of Possibilities Awaits!



Learning More About Apex

- Get a free workspace and start exploring!
 https://apex.oracle.com/en/
- Oracle APEX Curriculum

 https://www.oracle.com/database/technologies/appdev/apex/apexcurriculum.html
- Download and install Oracle Database 18c XE, APEX 20.1, ORDS 20.2 on your desktop.
- Check out the official Oracle APEX documentation http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/developertools/apex/documentation/index.html

References

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- REST Data Services Installation, Configuration, and Development Guide -. Oracle, Web. May. 2019.
 - https://docs.oracle.com/en/database/oracle/oracle-rest-data-services/19.1/aelig/index.html.

If you only remember three things today!

APEX is free!

Start with a simple POC

Fully supported by Oracle Support



Thank You For Attending My Session!

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Twitter: @ HeyAlfredoDBA