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## Best-of-Breed Integration

Best-of-breed solutions aren't about to go away. Oracle CEO Larry Ellison acknowledged at AppsWorld that the Oracle E-Business Suite 11*i* only provides 80% of what customers want. And yet Oracle repudiates customization of its 11*i* software. Unfortunately, that leaves customers with few options. Some will wait for a completed 11*i* offering, potentially losing time in the race for competitive advantage; others cannot afford to wait, and they will choose customization or a best-of-breed solution: integrating the Oracle E-Business Suite with other vendors' offerings.

### The Integration Problem

Best-of-breed solutions and custom applications require integration with Oracle. Traditionally, that integration is not easy. Oracle recognizes this fact and cites it as the primary reason why its customers should endure 11*i* until it is complete. And it is true that traditional integration is complex and time-consuming. Data needs to be extracted out of 11*i* on one hand, and data needs to be loaded seamlessly into it on the other hand. Oracle itself admits that getting data into and out of its E-Business Suite is difficult.

But integration does not need to be so difficult.

### The Integration Solution

DARC Corporation brings a decade of experience in the Oracle Applications integration space to this dilemma. DARC has created extracts from the Oracle underlying data structures for many years, creating interfaces from Oracle out to ADP, Peoplesoft, and even custom applications. Likewise DARC has built thousands of interfaces into Oracle and, through this experience, has developed a software product called **Isix**.

Isix enables and simplifies integration into 11*i* -- and 11.0 and 10.7. Isix encapsulates the underlying tables and columns and provides the user with a functional viewpoint of the data fields. Each **Isix iDapter**, an intelligent adapter for Oracle's E-Business Suite, contains the necessary data transformation rules to map logical data to Oracle's internal IDs and foreign key

columns. Most importantly, each *i*Dapter includes business logic to ensure that the data is as authentic as if it had been typed into the Oracle screens, even automatically performing complex defaulting and checking of setup tables.

### **Loosely Coupled Architectures**

The key to successful integration in best-of-breed solutions is a loosely coupled architecture. A loosely coupled architecture allows systems on either side of an interface to evolve through patches, upgrades, or configuration adjustments without adversely impacting the other system.

Isix enables just such a loose coupling. Isix is designed for flexibility, and it allows change on either side of the interface without necessitating the code re-writes that traditional integration requires.

### **Integration to a Custom Application**

Best-of-breed architectures can also apply to a custom application. Even though the application is not owned by an external vendor, it is still subject to patches, upgrades, and changes. A company which loosely couples its custom application to Oracle minimizes the risk associated with change.

### **Best of the Best**

These are some of the popular best-of-breed solutions used by companies around the world:

- Peoplesoft HRMS and Oracle Financials
- Ariba Buyer and Oracle Purchasing
- QAD and Oracle Financials/Purchasing
- ADP and Oracle HRMS/Payroll

Best-of-breed integration can be a manageable problem with an architecturally sound solution. The expertise and experience of DARC combined with the power of the Isix software platform enable customers to integrate the best industry applications and to succeed in a competitive market.