

## Oracle Forms 12c Frequently Asked Questions

### Introduction

This white paper addresses some of the questions users of Oracle Forms 12c may have and some of the questions already asked on forums, mailing lists and blogs.

### Strategy and Roadmap

**Q:** How long will Oracle Forms continue to be supported?

**A:** Oracle Forms has a large and active user base. It continues to be developed and enhanced, and is an important component of Oracle Fusion Middleware. Oracle remains committed to the development and support of Oracle Forms. This commitment is outlined in the Statement of Direction. Details can be found in MyOracleSupport Note [2009262.1](#).

**Q:** I am on client/server or character mode. How can I move forward, and preserve my investment in Forms?

**A:** This is a broad question and can't be answered in this small space since there are so many varying factors from customer to customer. However Oracle's general recommendation can be summarized here: upgrade, integrate, and modernize. A detailed document explaining how to properly upgrade can be found in the Oracle Forms Documentation Library for the version to which you are upgrading.

If you are using client/server or character mode, you should upgrade to Forms on the web so that you are on the latest version of Forms, in a supported environment, and integrated with Oracle Fusion Middleware. For the majority of customers, upgrading to Forms on the web is relatively straight forward. Refer to the Upgrading Oracle Forms 6i to Oracle Forms 12c (the latest version) document found in the Oracle Forms Documentation Library for the version to which you are upgrading.

<https://docs.oracle.com/middleware/12212/formsandreports>

After successfully upgrading and ensuring the basic stability of your application(s), you can then enhance your existing applications using some of the latest new features and integrate with various other technologies.

For an Oracle Forms application already deployed on Oracle Fusion Middleware, you can integrate with the features of the platform, such as security, load balancing and management, as well as integrate with other technologies such as Oracle BI-Publisher and the Java EE platform. Again, taking advantage of new feature delivered in the latest Forms versions can help to improve both the functionality and appearance of your applications.

Refer to the Oracle Forms product page on the Oracle Technology Network for the latest information.

<http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/developer-tools/forms>

### Oracle Fusion Middleware Forms Services

**Q:** How is the software distributed? Is there a separate download for the design-time tools and the runtime server software?

**A:** All of the software is packaged in one distribution. During the installation, you choose which components you want installed and configured.

**Q:** Will Forms work with WebLogic Server?

**A:** Oracle Forms 12c requires the use of WebLogic Server 12c (of the same version). Currently, the licensing options for Oracle Forms are to run with WebLogic Server Basic (included with Forms and Reports license) or WebLogic Server Suite. You can also use the Internet Application Server - EE license, which also includes WebLogic Server Basic. Contact your Account Representative or Oracle Sales for the latest details.

**Q:** Will Forms be ported to Java so that it can run on the WebLogic Server?

**A:** The Forms client was ported to Java and it runs on the client tier using a Java plug-in, Java Web Start, or as a

standalone Java application. The Forms Servlet (and Listener Servlet) are both written in Java and are deployed into WebLogic Server in 12c.

The Forms Server (aka Runtime) process is written in C and some C++. There are no plans to port this element of the Forms architecture to Java.

- Q:** What version of Java is used on the server side in 12c?
- A:** The Java version used by WebLogic Server and Forms in 12.2.1.x versions is currently 8. If newer versions become certified in the future, they will be added to the Product Certification Matrix. For more details, refer to the Fusion Middleware Product Certification Matrix.

## Platform Support

- Q:** Will I need Jinitiator on the user's machine to run Oracle Forms?
- A:** Jinitiator is no longer supported. Java and/or a Java plug-in are required on the client machine. For Forms version 12.2.1.0 through 12.2.1.3, Oracle has certified Forms with Java 7 and 8. Although Java 7 was certified, using it is no longer recommended. End-user machines will need to be manually configured to use the desired Java version. To best understand exactly which Java distribution should be used, refer to the Forms Deployment Guide found in the Documentation Library mentioned earlier in this paper. To determine which Java versions have been certified for use with Oracle Forms, refer to the Product Certification Matrix.

<http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/middleware/ias/downloads/fusion-certification-100350.html>

- Q:** What browsers are supported?
- A:** Forms 12c was certified with most popular browsers. However, some may no longer support using the Java Plugin. Refer to the Product Certification Matrix for the Fusion Middleware version in question.
- Q:** My browser no longer supports the Plugin. What should I do?
- A:** Beginning with Forms 12c, the use of a browser is optional. In addition to running your application directly in a browser, you can also use Java Web Start or the Forms Standalone Launcher (recommended). If you want to use a browser that no longer supports the Java Plugin, you can continue to use that browser, but instead call the Forms application from that browser using Java Web Start. The Forms Standalone Launcher is for cases where no browser is desired. Applications would be launched from a command line or custom designed script. Refer to the documentation.

**Q:** What hardware will Forms run on?

**A:** Forms Services will run on all hardware on which WebLogic Server Infrastructure 12c is certified.

## Upgrading

- Q:** Can I upgrade from earlier versions of Forms to 12c?
- A:** Yes. We will support upgrading from 6.0.8 and later versions of Forms directly to 12c in *most* cases. Some manual changes may be necessary. Refer to the "Upgrading Oracle Forms 6i to Oracle Forms 12c" document for more information.
- <https://docs.oracle.com/middleware/12212/formsandreports>
- Q:** What application changes are needed before upgrading?
- A:** Many client/server and character mode features have been removed from the Forms for versions released after 6i. The removed features mainly relate to features that were only maintained in Forms 6i for the purpose of backwards compatibility. A detailed list of all of the obsolete features can be found in the Oracle Forms and Reports Documentation Library. Specifically refer to the "Upgrading Oracle Forms 6i to Oracle Forms 12c" document.

<https://docs.oracle.com/middleware/12211/formsandreports>

## Single Sign-on

- Q:** Will Forms work with Oracle Access Manager?
- A:** Oracle Access Manager (with WebGate) is the only certified authentication server currently certified for use with Oracle Forms 12c.
- Q:** Can I use LDAP to authenticate Forms Services?
- A:** No. However, if you need to authenticate using an LDAP server, you must enable SSO using Oracle Access Manager (with WebGate) and connecting it to your LDAP server.
- Q:** Can I use any LDAP server in conjunction with OAM to authenticate Forms users?
- A:** Any LDAP server that is certified for use with OAM can be used for an SSO configuration to access Oracle Forms applications. This is because beginning with Forms 12c, Forms no longer communicates directly with the LDAP server.

For Oracle Reports, SSO configurations must use Oracle Internet Directory as the LDAP server used with OAM.

## Security

- Q:** Is Forms traffic encrypted when running in HTTP mode?
- A:** No. Traffic between the Forms client and the Forms Server process is only encrypted when SSL has been enabled and used. When running in HTTP mode Oracle has added a proprietary obfuscation scheme that is not as strong as the SSL standard. Obfuscation is not the same as encryption and should not be assumed to be safe. SSL encryption is strongly recommended. It is your responsibility to properly enable SSL encryption in order to fully protect the information exchanged over the network.
- Q:** Is the database login information encrypted (middle tier to data tier)?
- A:** No. Just like the need to enable SSL between the client to middle tier, you are strongly encouraged to SSL protect the network between the middle tier and data tier. Refer to the database security documentation for details on using encryption for these network connections.

## Miscellaneous

- Q:** Is Motif still required on Linux (Unix) platforms?
- A:** Yes. Motif is needed to install and use any of the GUI (X) based tools on these platforms. This includes Builders, Compilers, etc. That said, it is possible to use the Form Compiler without an X session. Refer to the Forms documentation for details.
- Q:** Will WebUtil be installed and configured along with the Forms installation?
- A:** Generally speaking, the Forms add-on WebUtil is configured during the installation. However, if your application uses OLE functionality and/or was developed prior to Forms 12, it will be necessary to download and configure the third party library, JACOB. You must sign the jacob.jar file (refer to the Java documentation regarding jar signing). The included JACOB libraries (.dll) will need to be properly stored on the file system. Refer to the Forms documentation for information on using JACOB. If your application does not use OEL functionality and the app was designed in Forms 12c, these steps can be avoided.
- Q:** Have any features been deprecated in Forms 12c?
- A:** Between version 11 and 12, no features have been deprecated or desupported. Refer to the "Upgrading Oracle Forms 6i to Oracle Forms 12c" document in the Documentation Library for details.

<https://docs.oracle.com/middleware/12212/formsandreports>

- Q:** Does Forms 12c ship with a client version of the Java plugin (JRE)?
- A:** No. Download the desired version from the Oracle web site.
- <http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/java/javase/downloads>
- Q:** Is there any way I can use my Forms applications on a mobile device?
- A:** Although a Forms application (the UI) cannot be directly run on a mobile device, there are third parties, as well as several Oracle Partners that offer solutions to easily overcome this limitation.
- Q:** Can I run Oracle Forms in Cloud?
- A:** Yes. Oracle Forms (and WebLogic Server) can be installed into Oracle Compute (Infrastructure as a Service). You can also use Oracle's Database Cloud Service (DBaaS) to provide the database needs of your Compute based Forms installation.
- Q:** Oracle Forms 12 requires a "repository database". Do we need a special or unique database for each installation?
- A:** No. There are no special requirements for the database used to host the repository. However, you should refer to the Product Certification Matrix to ensure that a database of the appropriate version is used. Also, a new repository is needed for each WLS domain. More than one repository can be installed into the same database, although each must have different names.
- Q:** Is using Oracle HTTP Server (OHS) required with Forms?
- A:** No. Using OHS is optional, but recommended. By using OHS and configuring it properly, you will be able to access the Forms WLS managed server, as well as any others that are configured (e.g. Oracle Reports, BI-Publisher, etc), using the same listener ports. This can be very helpful with integrating Forms with Reports or BI-Publisher.
- Q:** Now that Oracle Reports has been deprecated and likely won't be available after 12.2.1.3, what should we do?
- A:** Oracle is recommending that Reports users migrate to BI-Publisher. Oracle Forms 12c includes integration with BI-Publisher that resembles integration with Reports, so updating the Forms code should be fairly easy.

Licensing has also been updated, so no additional licensing will be needed in *many* cases. Contact your Sales or Account Representative for details.







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