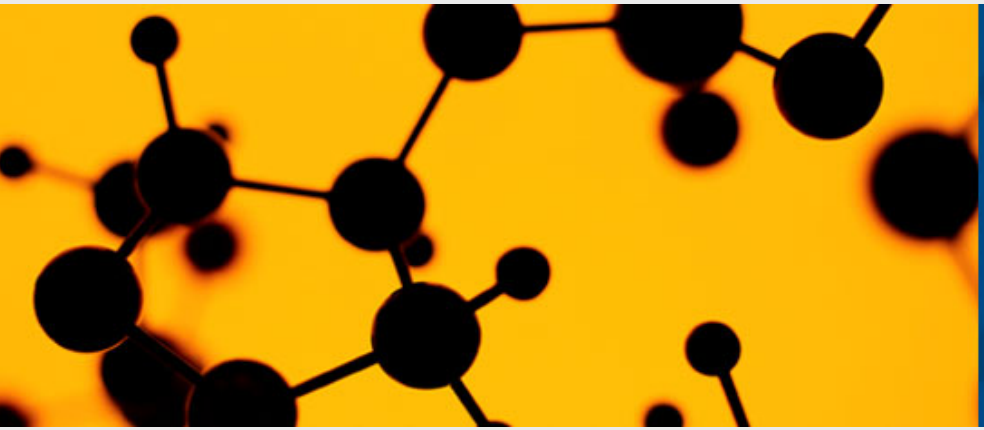
Vgo Software



Forms to Fusion

New York Oracle Users Group - www.nyoug.com

Agenda

- Introductions and topic review
- State of the Forms landscape
- Your options
- Upgrade? Modernize? Which is right for you?
- Upgrade or Modernize – points to consider
- Forms to Fusion Mapping
- ADF v11 pre-release – our findings
- Closing and Q&A

Introduction

Vgo Software, Inc.

- Software and services to modernize Oracle Forms to JEE or upgrade
- 1 of 2 global partners certified by Oracle product development (only one in the US)
- 1st to migrate Forms to ADF v11
- 1st in the world to automate the conversion of character-based telnet forms
- Software and services based on 4 years of experience in conversions (25+ conversions)
- International customers and partners
- www.vgosoftware.com

The Forms Landscape

Are Forms going somewhere? No.. maybe

- Oracle Forms 2008 de-support
  - v6.0.8.x sustained support ends in January 2008
  - 9.0.2.x sustained support ends in July 1 2008
  - 10gR2 extended support ends December 2011
  - 10gR3 extended support ends December 2011
    - http://www.oracle.com/support/collateral/lifetime-support-coverage-chart.pdf
- Forms continuing on until at least 2013
- Forms community is alive, well and strong
- But… Oracle is moving to ADF – you will too
  - Think about it… what is “Fusion”?
  - It’s important for Oracle’s continued growth strategy – it’s how they will integrate acquired products and those they’ve grown
  - What’s the “glue”? ADF, SOA Suite, BPEL, TopLink, a new (better) Enterprise Message Bus, etc..

Impact

What does this mean?

- If adopting ADF, JDeveloper will be the tool to use to do your work
- If you are not running Oracle Application Server (or Weblogic?), you will need to
- Get up to speed now – prepare for change
- Oracle Applications users – Apps are being migrated to ADF now; your custom extensions will have to move
- Resources – where will all the Forms developers be in 2012 (my guess – same beach as the Cobol developers)

Options

Upgrade to Web Forms

- Pro's: Relatively easy, in-expensive and "safe"
- Con's: Resource issues, true interoperability with other enterprise applications, 2012, 2013…?

Re-engineer to ADF

- Pro's: Convert your business logic, create a thin-client architecture, faster than re-write, less expensive than re-write, consolidate redundant objects and clean out the code, look for opportunity to apply process re-design, think of Forms/ADF integration/coexistence points
- Con's: Still some manual work, more expensive than upgrade, requires Java programming skills, watch out for "blind" conversions, gauge maintainability

Re-write using ADF

- Pro's: Exactly what you want, generation capabilities in JDeveloper
- Con's: Start with green-field design, re-application/creation of business rules, new test cases – time and cost, resource issues (i.e. training to the point of productivity)

Which Option is Right for You?

Upgrade Forms when…

- The application cannot change at all
- Cost is a huge issue
- You need to stay supported (6i users)

Evolve to ADF when you require …

- Greater ability to integrate with other applications
- Greater cross-platform support
- A “pure” thin client architecture
- Open architecture based on Java technologies

Re-write when..

- Business processes need to dramatically change
- You have unlimited budget

Upgrade Options

- Forms Builder
  - Open, compile and save the Form Module in the Forms Builder
  - Instant feedback
  - Least time efficient
- Batch Compiler
  - Create a batch script (DOS or shell) with upgrade flag on
  - Creates FMX's for all the FMB's
  - Check the .ERR file constantly (automated or manual)
  - Resolve errors (in your original Forms) and rerun
- JDAPI
  - Programmatically manipulate Forms
  - Need to have Java expertise – written in Java
- Migration Assistant
  - Command line interface ifplsqlconv90.exe (GUI available on OTN)
  - Makes changes if possible

Evolution Considerations

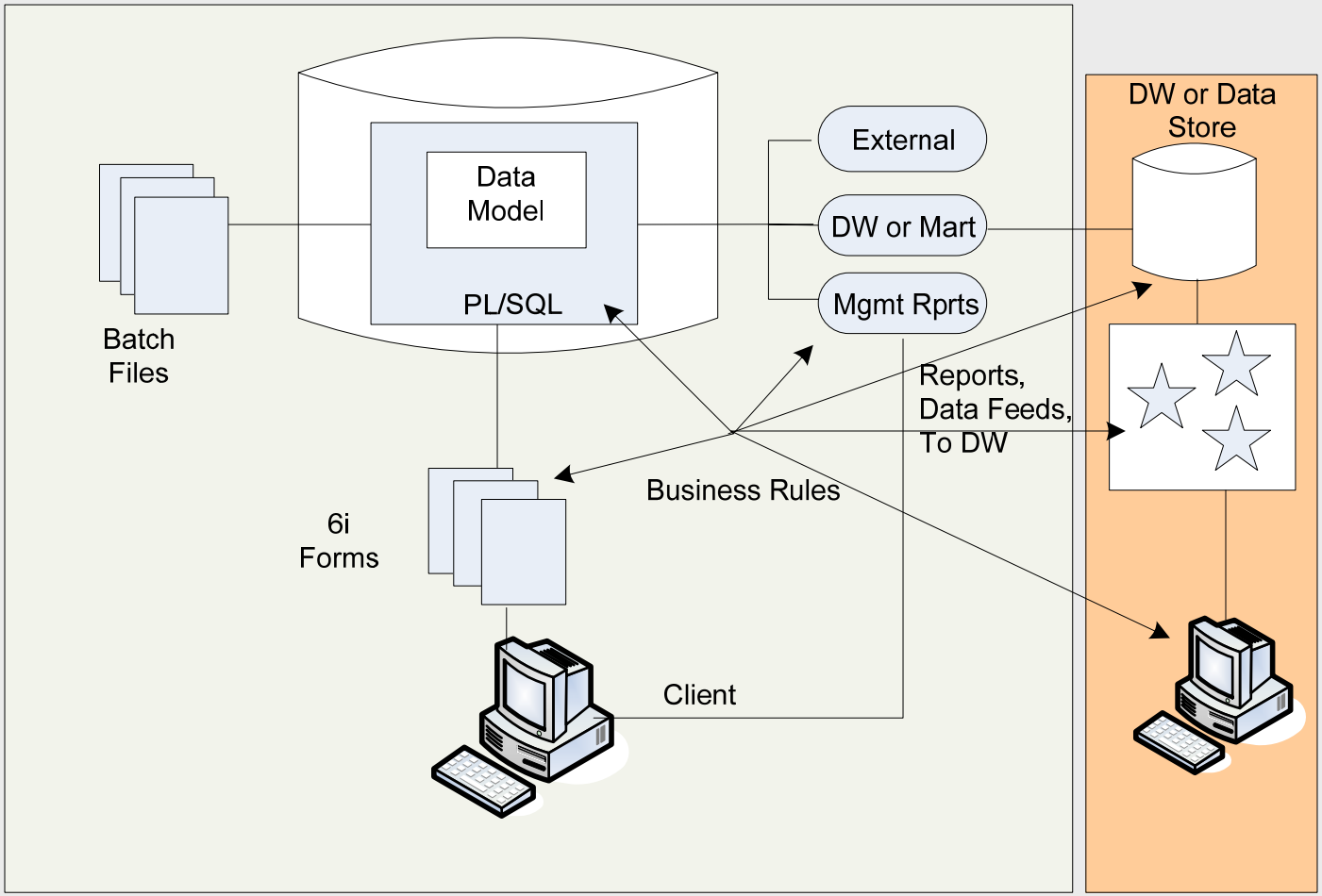
1. **Future state direction: SOA, EAI, etc**
2. **Organizational preparedness**
   - Staff resources
   - Impact to business: prepared for change
   - Testing and QA maturity levels
3. **Tie in functional changes**
   - Any impeded by the old app can be brought in
   - Add value to the project
   - Strategically orient the conversion to add functionality – if it's planned right, it's doable
4. **A dose of realism…**
   - This is not an easy move
   - It requires time and attention

Pre-Conversion Thoughts

Prior to any conversion, effort should be extended to:

- Consider strategic direction and business value
- Domain modeling
- Emphasize re-use and process
- Make ‘High-Leverage’ Enhancements
- Develop your “Conversion Framework”
- Think ahead – where and how does this tie in?

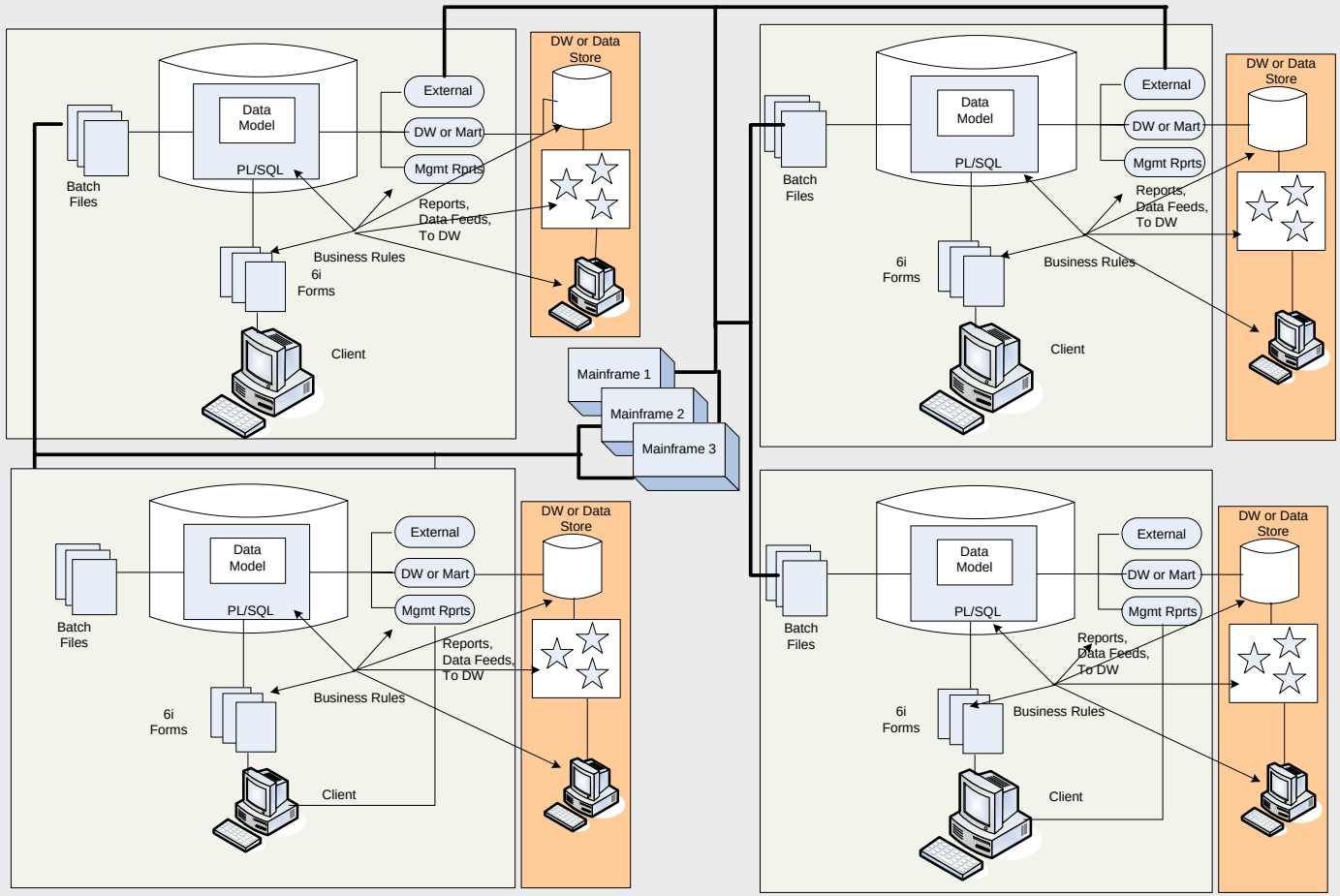
Typical Forms Architecture



Typical Architectural View

To the Nth Degree

Redundant logic, process, data, tight integration with DB's



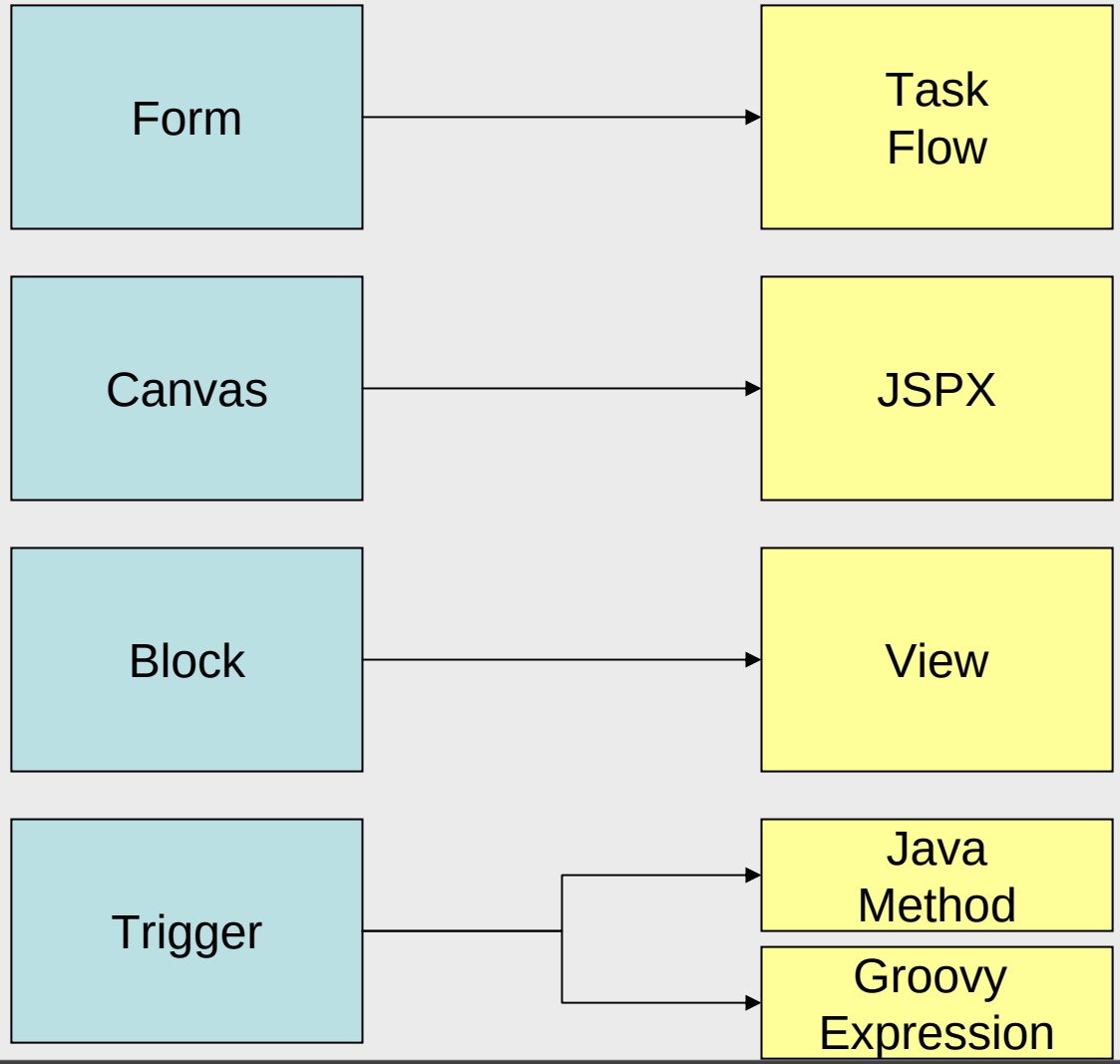
Forms to Fusion Mapping

Legacy Environment	Fusion or ADF Mapping	Complexity	When?
Forms LOV's Query-based blocks Tables (DB) Transactions Windows & Canvases	ADF v11 TR3 Read-only View Objects View Objects Entity Objects Task Flows JSPX pages & PanelGroups, resp.	Mid/High	Specific to app
DB PL/SQL	Leave in DB Convert to ADF Web Service (S OA suite)	Simple Medium/Low Medium/Low	Specific to app Better performance, broader use External use
File processing	BPEL ADF Rule Repository	High Medium Low	External parties involved Re-use in silo Cataloging

Why ADF?

- ADF Business Components
  - Data Caching
  - Transaction Handling
- ADF Rich Faces
  - Ajax-enabled Components
  - JSF-Based
- JDeveloper
  - Lots of Wizards
  - Less Coding

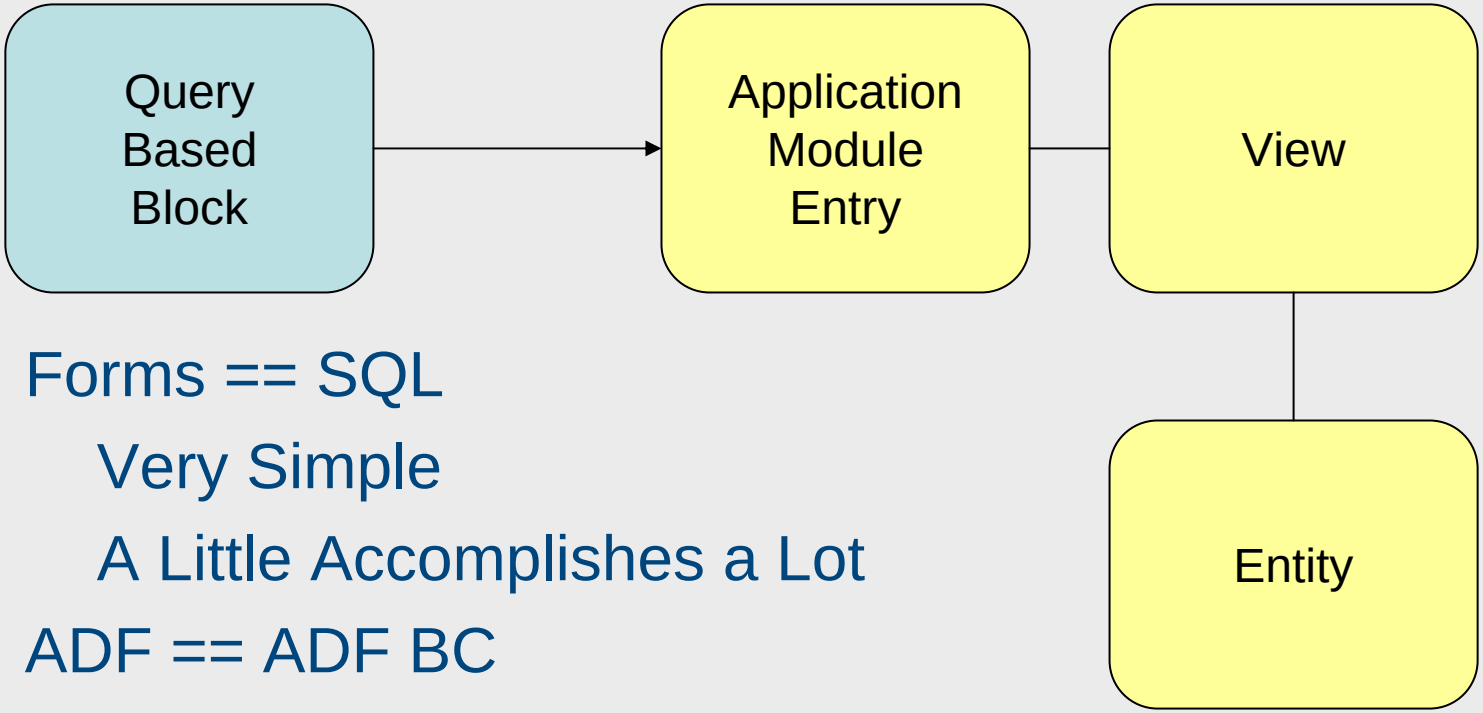
Forms -> ADF



Forms -> ADF

- **Model Layer**
  - **Tables**
    - **Entity Objects**
    - **View Objects**
    - **View Links / Associations**
  - **Query-Based Blocks -> View Objects**
  - **LOVs -> read-only View Objects**

Forms -> ADF



Forms == SQL

- Very Simple
- A Little Accomplishes a Lot

ADF == ADF BC

- Multiple Layers
- Separation of Interests

Forms -> ADF

- **ViewController Layer**
  - **Forms -> Taskflows**
  - **Windows & Canvases**
    - **Windows become separate JSPX pages**
    - **Canvases become mutable PanelGroups**
      - **Hide/show each PanelGroup as application navigates between canvases**

Groovy

❑ What's so groovy about

- **Tech Preview for ADF 11.0.0.0 includes Groovy 1.0**
- **Groovy scripts can be used in any application layer**
  - validation on the presentation layer
  - foreign key checks on the Entity

What Doesn’t Map?

- **Client-Server != Web**
  - **Many aspects of a Forms application can’t be replicated exactly in the web world**
    - **WinAPI Calls**
    - **File-system or Registry access**
    - **Synchronize**
  - **Many aspects of a Forms application should be re-implemented**
    - **Declarative validation**
    - **LOVs**

Summary

- Upgrade for safety and ease
- Evolve when positioning for strategic advantage
- Always consider your process in either type of project – leverage new architectural advantages
- ADF v11 will be the correct go-forward answer
- Think outside of the Forms silo – what is the value to the business and to the enterprise?

Closing & Q/A

Contact Info

Ernst Renner, ernstr@vgosoftware.com

Rob Nocera, rnocera@vgosoftware.com

Rob's blog on ADF, Java and miscellaneous thoughts **www.java-hair.com**