



The Choice of Experience



Application Management *for PeopleSoft*

Beacon Enterprise Application Manager



Integrated with PeopleSoft, *BEAM* automates processes involved with Change, Configuration and Release Management and provides unique data validation functionality, request management and enforceable IT compliance, reducing the effort and expense of maintaining PeopleSoft applications.

Managing Change for PeopleSoft

PeopleSoft Enterprise applications provide Oracle customers with best practices pre-configured into end-to-end business processes.

However, the most common issue among these customers is the struggle to keep up with the continuous flow of changes to their systems – from patches and upgrades to tax updates, regulatory changes and business process improvements.

How do IT organizations manage this change and continue to deliver strategic value to your business?

Today, the prevailing method for managing change to PeopleSoft applications is through a hodgepodge of manual processes. Typically the manual change process is supported by a collection of electronic documents, paper documents, email, phone calls and meetings.

Also, a key component of PeopleSoft change management is the approval process. Multiple approvals may be needed throughout the workflow, different sets of approvers may be needed for each approval, and an historical accounting of approvers must be available.

The inefficiency often found in these practices impacts the ability for auditors to verify that effective controls are in place.

The tools for migrating changes often require expert knowledge, and the time to perform the updates can be lengthy. When changes are finally promoted into their destination environment, challenges may still exist. Errors made at this stage can be costly in terms of wasted effort and server downtime.

Many failed tests executed as part of the change management process are the result of differences that inevitably develop between PeopleSoft environments (i.e., production, test, development, training).

Identifying the cause of these discrepancies can be challenging and time-consuming. Having the ability to automatically identify differences in similar tables across environments, you will reduce both the time and cost needed to keep multiple environments in synch.

Beacon's Application Management solution is comprised of two modules that operate independently and in unison: BEAM and Automate Test.

Benefits

Efficient & Verifiable Processes

Change enables you to manage structured and automated workflows to implement changes in PeopleSoft environments. Sophisticated capabilities to manage approvals, regulate exceptions and notify stakeholders are incorporated into the change management process.

With BEAM, the need for managing change through manual processes, electronic documents and personal interactions is eliminated.

Regulatory Compliance

At every phase in the process, *BEAM* automatically logs activity to enable auditors to easily verify that processes are compliant with regulatory and organizational guidelines and that an ethical separation of duties has been preserved.

This capability strengthens security, improves auditability and increases awareness of PeopleSoft change activities throughout the support organization. Comprehensive audit logs help support compliance with Corporate Governance regulations like Sarbanes Oxley, CSOX, J-SOX, CLERP9, LSF, and L262/2005.

Preserve Business Continuity

BEAM's unique change management approach streamlines the upgrade process. These capabilities dramatically reduce downtime during regular maintenance cycles and minimize the time required to recover when critical defects are found in the PeopleSoft application environment.



BEAM - Advanced Features

Enforced Workflow

BEAM allows administrators to define multiple, fully customized, reusable migration work-flow templates using a visual designer – one for each standard change management process. These templates allow you to define workflow steps that not only automate execution of the administration utilities, but also include approval steps, notifications, command line executions, file transfers, and database updates.

Migration workflows are automatically configured on the basis of PeopleSoft patch files, resulting in automatic association of objects and files to the appropriate workflow steps.

Advanced Authorization & Approvals

BEAM specifies an additional layer of security on top of existing PeopleSoft and file system security to restrict the execution of environment-specific migration workflow steps to specific users. Additionally, approval steps in the migration require the appropriate individual or group approvals to be performed before a migration may proceed. All approvals and changes in authority are recorded for auditing.

Impact Analysis

Performing manual impact analysis for a patch or set of enhancements requires analyzing a PeopleSoft Compare Report – a document that can be several inches thick. BEAM allows you to concurrently view source and target environment lists of migration-related database and file objects – simplifying the task of merging objects into an environment. All points of conflict between the source and target environments are identified and highlighted.

Users can not only compare file objects (e.g. SQR, nVision, and COBOL), but can also easily consolidate content from differing file object versions facilitating the preservation of customizations when patch updates are applied.

Object and Data Comparisons

BEAM Compares' tight integration with PeopleSoft metadata allows it to compare objects individually or by project. In addition, BEAM is the only solution that allows you to compare security objects. It also allows you to compare control, transactional and configuration data.

BEAM's ability to compare values of a field within a table in one environment to the value in the same table in another environment, helps ensure that all objects and data is consistent across multiple PeopleSoft environments.

Security Features

BEAM enables the administrator to leverage existing security measures in implementing a complete security solution for change management. BEAM uses the same LDAP methods as PeopleSoft to authenticate users. Only authenticated users can execute steps in the migration workflow and participate in approvals.

Object Locking

Enforce a planned upgrade sequence for application changes, thereby preserving the integrity of the associated objects and files. BEAM users and PeopleSoft developers can work collaboratively knowing that locked objects will be safeguarded from unintended updates. Enforcing locks against all objects and files associated with a workflow ensures that the objects and files stay synchronized throughout the migration process.

Comprehensive Reporting

BEAM automatically captures information about every migration action including who performed each step, when it occurred and what was changed. Comprehensive audit reports for changes and approvals meet compliance requirements and allow stakeholders to retrieve specific information for their work.

Supported Platforms

BEAM Workstation

Operating System

- Windows XP Pro SP2 (32-bit)
- Windows 2000 Workstation SP4
- Windows 7 (32 bit)
- Windows Vista *

Microsoft Silverlight 4.0.x *

Runtime Component

- Microsoft .NET Framework 2.0
- Microsoft .NET 4.0 *

Web Browser

- Microsoft Internet Explorer 6-9 *

Desktop Store Database

- Oracle Database 9i, 10g, 11g
- Microsoft SQL Server 2000, 2005
- Microsoft SQL Server 2008, 2010*

Server Requirements

- Windows Server 2003 RS (32-bit)
- Windows Server 2003 R2 with Windows Terminal Services (32-bit)
- Windows Server 2008 R2 *

PeopleSoft Application Environment

PeopleSoft Tools

- Release 8.17, 8.18
- Release 8.43 – 8.50
- Release 8.51

Database

- Oracle Database 9i, 10g
- Microsoft SQL Server 2000, 2005
- IBM DB2 UDB 8

Directory Services

- Microsoft Active Directory
- LDAP v3

* Compares Utility

