Comparing API Wizard and Web ADI

Background

It's never been easy or efficient to get business data in and out of the Oracle E-Business Suite. Tedious data entry, data updating, and reporting work bogs people down in every Oracle module, negatively impacting day to day data processing, periodic data tasks, and larger Oracle projects.

Oracle data processing slows business to a crawl for system users in a variety of ways, and the problems often spill over to the I.T. team, consuming significant hours every year for multiple people and departments across the organization. In addition to pulling business and I.T. professionals away from other critical work, Oracle data processing problems delay decision making and introduce numerous opportunities for bad data to get into the system.

Most organizations running Oracle employ a patchwork of approaches and tools, and expend a great deal of time and effort all through the year, in an ongoing battle against data uploading and reporting challenges. Oracle's Web ADI is often among the mix, as are other Oracle technologies. This mix also typically includes keystroke emulators, application extensions and customizations created by I.T. and/or third parties, and one-off point products.

Web ADI is arguably the best there is, but even that leaves a great deal to be desired. Now there is a much better option.

Why API Wizard is superior to Web ADI

API Wizard and Web ADI both aim to speed up and streamline Oracle data processing work, and both use Excel as the user interface. That's where the similarities end.

API Wizard:

- **Works for every Oracle business process**
  API Wizard is the only Oracle productivity platform that works across the entire Oracle E-Business Suite, seamlessly combining Excel-based data entry, data updating, and reporting in one consistent enterprise tool. API Wizard's breadth of functionality compares very favorably to Web ADI's limited data uploading capability and complete lack of reporting.

- **Is far easier to use for business people**
  API Wizard Excel loaders and reports are set up to optimize data processing speed, accuracy, and efficiency for people with business data to process. API Wizard Excel solutions combine all of Excel's native functionality plus a host of exclusive API Wizard features to make any Oracle data processing blazing fast. If your people can use Excel, they can use API Wizard. Nothing could be easier for the business. Web ADI is harder to use, less richly featured, and less reliable.

- **Is far easier to use for I.T. people**
  API Wizard's patented, dynamic processing engine makes it virtually immune to Oracle patching.   API Wizard ships with a growing number of pre-configured Excel loaders and reports, as well as its point-and-click, no programming authoring system for rapidly generating Excel solutions that precisely fit any business requirements. API Wizard enables I.T. to incorporate any data validations into Excel loaders without programming. API Wizard enables I.T. to combine multiple APIs into a single Excel loader without programming. Web ADI, on the other hand, is very sensitive to Oracle changes, and it ships with just a few integrators that require custom programming and ongoing maintenance to have any hope of matching your organization's business-specific rules and requirements. Creating a Web ADI integrator for any process beyond the included ones requires SDLC custom programming and an ongoing maintenance and support burden. Incorporating data validations and stringing together multiple APIs also requires custom programming in Web ADI.

User Benefits — API Wizard vs. Web ADI

Excel-based Oracle data uploading and reporting in one integrated tool.
API Wizard is the only Oracle E-Business Suite productivity tool that offers Excel data uploading and Excel reporting in one seamlessly integrated enterprise productivity platform. Oracle users need both capabilities for maximum efficiency, and API Wizard delivers. API Wizard provides a consistent look, feel, and feature set for users no matter what underlying Oracle task they're working on. API Wizard does far more than Web ADI and Discoverer put together.

Enter, update and report on any business data in every Oracle module.
API Wizard works in every Oracle module. API Wizard uploads data quickly and returns status and error messages to the Excel loader in real time for simple transaction confirmation and error correction. API Wizard delivers live Oracle data directly into fully functional Excel anytime it's needed. The API Wizard end user works in Excel, and any rules or complexity in the underlying Oracle transaction are neatly tucked beneath the Excel interface. Web ADI has limited uploading and has no reporting.

Stays current with changing business needs.
API Wizard Excel loaders and reports are easy to set up and modify so your data processing solutions stay current with changes in the business. With Web ADI it's a custom programming effort to make even minor changes to an integrator. As a result, it's often hard to justify making changes to Web ADI integrators so they often get harder to use as time passes and changes accumulate in the underlying business.

API Wizard Supports multiple commit/rollback options.
Set up individual API Wizard Excel loaders with data commit/rollback strategies that best fit the task and the end user(s). API Wizard Excel loaders can automatically roll back if a single record errors or if an error threshold is exceeded. API Wizard Excel loaders can automatically commit after each record, or at a predetermined transaction frequency. API Wizard users can run API Wizard Excel loaders and leave the data in a pending (not committed) state so they can analyze the results and even report against it, which makes for easy data preparation, analysis, and testing. Web ADI doesn't have this capability.

Validate data with Excel Loader-level validation rules before uploading to Oracle.
API Wizard Excel loaders can easily be set up to follow rules which determine if any data in the API Wizard Excel loader can be processed. For instance, set a rule that no data may be processed on

the last day of the month, after 5pm, or if certain control totals in the Excel loader don't match. Rules can be used to deliver personalized messages when Loader-level validations fail. Web ADI doesn't have this capability.

Validate data with Excel row-level validation rules before uploading to Oracle.
Set a rule, or rules, which determine if a particular row in a worksheet can be processed. For instance, reject data that violates min/max rules, enforces upper case and blank space rules, or rejects a record that's been updated by anyone else with a certain period of time. Give personalized messages when row-level validations fail. Web ADI doesn't have this capability.

Easily handle high volume data loads.
Authorized users can click 'execute' on a large data load and walk away confident that API Wizard will do the work flawlessly while they're gone. API Wizard has a parallel processing capability to break large loads into smaller, concurrent loads, as well a number of other features and options for efficiently handling high volumes. Web ADI is susceptible to problems and peculiarities when data volume exceeds a few hundred records.

Save templates to preserve personalizations or complete a task over multiple sessions.
API Wizard Excel loaders and reports are regular Excel files which can be saved and used at any time. Web ADI generates an Excel template on the fly each time it's used, which is a pain if you want to be able to work with data in chunks or personalize your Excel workbook in any way (formulas, colors, rules, notes, etc.).

Supports single cell report functions for deriving Oracle data.
API Wizard's reporting functionality allows for the derivation of single cell "answers', or values, that are derived based on live Oracle data and any Excel formula. This capability enables the configuration of sophisticated, yet easy to use, reports that speed access to business data and improve decision making. In addition to terrific stand-alone reporting, API Wizard reports can also be incorporated into API Wizard Excel loaders to further reduce transaction times. Web ADI doesn't have this capability.

Supports ability to schedule jobs.
API Wizard Excel loaders and reports can be run on a schedule, which can be helpful in a variety of situations. Web ADI doesn't have this capability.

Complete stability; API Wizard works every time.
API Wizard's dynamic architecture was designed to be immune to Oracle patches, upgrades, and any changes in the stack, which means users don't experience service disruptions. Web ADI can lock up if you sneeze too close to it because it's very sensitive to application changes, environment changes, patches, etc. When Web ADI crashes, the reason why is not always readily apparent, and the the user loses all of that session's data preparation efforts.

Options to track and monitor any/all API Wizard activity.
API Wizard has an audit capability to meet the most stringent GRC requirements. You can use API Wizard to keep a detailed history of transactions created or updated with the tool, and to keep track of any data processed through API Wizard. Web ADI doesn't have this capability.

Users have complete visibility into the process.
API Wizard provides a real-time update in the Excel status bar to give the user total visibility into the process. Status bar indicates the record being processed, the total number of records to be processed, the number of successes and failures so far, and estimated time remaining.

I.T. Use Benefits — API Wizard vs. Web ADI

The easiest way to solve Oracle problems.
To the I.T. team, API Wizard is the way to rapidly generate Excel-based solutions for any of the organization's Oracle data entry, data updating and reporting problems with little to no custom programming and far less technical effort than ever before possible. API Wizard Excel loaders and reports are user-friendly and simple to maintain.

Rapidly configure API Wizard Excel loaders to solve any Oracle data uploading need.
API Wizard puts the power of Oracle's vast library of public APIs and open interfaces at your team's fingertips without the custom programming. API Wizard's authoring tools provide the no programming, point and click way for developers, systems analysts, technical analysts, functional analysts and even some super-users to rapidly configure Excel loaders that precisely fit the organization's business needs. API Wizard enables any I.T. resource to set up Excel loaders and add the Excel and API Wizard features that will dramatically speed up Oracle data processing. Web ADI comes with a few seeded templates only, and those require custom coding to meet your organization's requirements. Creating any new integrators in Web ADI requires custom coding and ongoing maintenance.

Rapidly configure API Wizard Excel reports to solve any Oracle reporting need.
Drop SQL query into API Wizard and save it. That's all that's required to generate a brand new API Wizard Excel report that's ready to be provisioned and used. From the report's initial default state, any I.T. resource, even super users, can use API Wizard's point and click Report Configuration tool to modify the appearance and basic characteristics. They can also establish double-click drill down relationships with other, related Excel reports with a few mouse clicks. Compare API Wizard Excel report creation to the lengthy process and special training required to set up reports in Discoverer and OBIEE. Some API Wizard customers use API Wizard reporting as a fast way to set up OBIEE reports. Web ADI has no reporting capability.

Works with custom APIs and custom schema data.
In addition to working with all public Oracle APIs, and being able to extract data from any Oracle EBS table, API Wizard can also work with any private Oracle API, custom data, or custom pl/sql that your organization or 3rd party consultants create. Our customers use this capability to put a locked-down Excel interface on their own value-added wrappers or custom programs, and to extract data into Excel from any data stored in an underlying Oracle database. API Wizard's ability to work with custom data and programs gives Oracle users Excel-based solutions for data that is usually difficult and time-consuming to create, update, and access. This also lowers the I.T. team's ongoing maintenance and direct user support load. Web ADI is tied to Oracle form-based processes and cannot be used for custom schema or other applications without customization.

Incorporate business specific validations without programming.
API Wizard provides a no-programming method for embedding business-specific logic, or rules, into Excel loaders that go above and beyond the standard Oracle data validations. Rules can be set up at the Loader level or at the Excel row level. This enables the easy incorporation of rules that can be run before data is submitted to Oracle, and is another way that API Wizard enhances data quality and cuts processing time. In Web ADI, any rules beyond standard Oracle can only be handled through custom programming.

Supports use of multiple APIs in a single API Wizard Excel loader template.
API Wizard supports the use of one or more Oracle APIs in a single Excel loader without necessarily creating a custom pl/sql wrapper or use a workflow engine. This increases the range of API

Wizard Excel loaders that can be configured, not programmed. For example, one API Wizard Excel loader can create employee, create address and create assignment, or can create party, party address, account, and account site, etc. While there are still some situations where the business requirements are probably better served by a wrapper, API Wizard provides the I.T. team with a number of no-programming options. Web ADI is limited to one API per worksheet, and the only way to combine multiple APIs is through custom programming.

Works with advanced record types without programming.
API Wizard is ready to work with any pl/sql API and any type of data without programming. The API Wizard Builder automatically breaks down complex data types, translating them into scalar data types, which helps a great deal when setting up API Wizard Excel loaders. With Web ADI you must create a wrapper to work with APIs utilizing complex data types to translate them into scalar data types.

Works with parent/child relationships without programming.
API Wizard natively supports data with parent/child relationships. With Web ADI you must create a wrapper to work with APIs that use data with parent/child relationships.

Supports worksheet protection to stop users from altering the Excel loader.
API Wizard is fully integrated with Excel so you can use all of it's native functionality, including formulas, validations and worksheet protection. Sometimes it's useful to lock down the API Wizard Excel loader so end users cannot make changes. Web ADI does not support worksheet protection.

Easily audit data changes.
API Wizard provides a full audit capability which I.T. can enable or disable so it's easy to track any and all activity processed through the tool. Web ADI doesn't have this capability.

I.T. Support Benefits — API Wizard vs. Web ADI

Anyone in I.T. can support API Wizard Excel solutions.
API Wizard Excel loaders and reports are straightforward and modular. Anyone in I.T., even some super users in business, can understand how API Wizard Excel solutions work. API Wizard makes it easy for one person to support or modify an Excel loader or report that another person set up. API Wizard is far easier to support and maintain. In Web ADI you often need the developer who created the integrator, or need the documentation that was created with it, to modify it.

Architecture is clean and hassle-free.
API Wizard is a modular, efficient environment to work in. API Wizard's dynamic, patented architecture makes it virtually immune to Oracle patching and changes. This is in stark contrast to Web ADI, which is greatly impacted by both database and application tier patches. Web ADI is fraught with problems and errors that occur at multiple places in the application stack at different times, often with little warning and no explanations. As a result, API Wizard Excel solutions significantly reduce the need for regression testing, which is a significant ongoing cost of using Web ADI.

Immediately ready to utilize new Oracle APIs.
API Wizard's patented, dynamic method of working with APIs and open interfaces in real time is why API Wizard works immediately with any of the thousands of public APIs in your organization's Oracle system. It's also why, if Oracle releases 10 new APIs in a patch tomorrow, API Wizard is ready to use them right away through configuration, not programming.

Immediately ready to utilize custom APIs.

API Wizard's patented, dynamic method of working with APIs and open interfaces in real time is why API Wizard can work with any custom API that your technical team or consultants create. Our customers with Oracle extensions and/or customizations use API Wizard to rapidly put an Excel interface and administrative control structure on their custom pl/sql programs. Using API Wizard for this also reduces the maintenance and direct user support associated with these programs.

Little to no custom code required.

API Wizard requires little to no custom code to work across the entire Oracle E-Business Suite. Few Oracle organizations use Web ADI in more than a few spots because doing so requires a significant commitment to ongoing development and support.

Automatic notification if an API has changed.

The API Wizard engine notifies you if a change has been made to an underlying API.
Web ADI does not.

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