

Release Value Proposition for PeopleSoft Enterprise PeopleTools 8.50

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Purpose Statement

This document provides an overview of features and enhancements included in the PeopleTools 8.50 release. It is intended solely to help you assess the business benefits of upgrading to PeopleTools 8.50 and to plan your I.T. projects.

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Release Value Proposition for PeopleSoft Enterprise PeopleTools 8.50 Preface

This document provides an overview of the value proposition that is associated with the new features and enhancements that are planned for PeopleSoft Enterprise PeopleTools 8.50. It is a roadmap that is intended to help you assess the business benefits of PeopleTools 8.50 and to plan your information technology (IT) projects and investments.

The new features and enhancements that are included in this release are grouped according to functional area. Our goal is to ensure that you leverage technology to its fullest to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of your operations. Please note that the final release may not have every feature that is discussed in this document, and a specific feature may become part of a different application or have a product name that is different from those cited in this document.

This preface discusses PeopleSoft release information publications.

PeopleSoft Release Information Publications

This section discusses the following publications that provide in-depth technical and functional information that is available at the time of publication:

1. Release value proposition
2. Prerelease notes
3. Release notes

Release Value Proposition

The release value proposition provides functional details, identifies major enhancements, and articulates the expected business benefit. This document is designed to help you determine whether new product features might warrant upgrading from an old release or embarking on a new PeopleSoft implementation. With this information, managers will be able to initiate preliminary budget planning and begin putting together a project team to further evaluate specific PeopleSoft products. The release value proposition is published before a release.

Prerelease Notes

Prerelease notes provide more functional and technical details than the release value proposition. This document describes how each enhancement functions within the context of the greater business process. This added level of detail should enable project teams to answer the following questions:

- What delivered functionality will change?

- What customizations may be affected?
- How will an upgrade or new implementation affect other systems?
- How will these changes affect the organization?

After the project team has reviewed and analyzed the prerelease notes, business decision makers should be able to determine whether to allocate budget and initiate implementation plans.

Prerelease notes are published before a release.

Release Notes

Release notes are published when the product is made generally available and validate the final scope of the release. The release notes discuss the features and enhancements that are available with the GA release of each product, describing the finalized functional and technical details that will enable project teams to confirm budgets and complete implementation plans.

PeopleSoft Enterprise PeopleTools 8.50 Value Proposition

The PeopleTools 8.50 release continues Oracle's commitment to protect and extend the value of your PeopleSoft implementation, provide additional technology options and enhancements that reduce ongoing operating costs, as well as improve the end user's experience.

Key areas of investment include:

- Extending the PeopleSoft service-enabled architecture.
- Improving the user experience.
- Lowering your total cost of ownership.

The value of PeopleTools 8.50 is grounded in our normal process of including accumulated bug fixes as well as enhancements based upon customer feedback. As a result, we added features that will simplify the integration of your heterogeneous environments, run your business more efficiently, improve the end user's experience, and increase cost effectiveness. Many of the enhancements of this release involve improving the end user's productivity through improved usability enhancements, page performance, and integrated related content.

In sum, PeopleTools 8.50 continues to deliver unparalleled customer choice that ensures support of the latest technical innovation with the industry's lowest cost of ownership and improved user satisfaction.

Key areas and features of PeopleTools 8.50 are:

- Related content
- Improved integration technology
- Greater end-user productivity
- Supported platforms

Related Content

The related content framework is a new feature that enables customers to provide combine of PeopleSoft transaction pages with collaborative, analytical and informational content. A related content frame can appear at the bottom of any PeopleSoft application page. It will allow you to easily display additional content to assist users in completing a business transaction without leaving PeopleSoft applications.

Some important aspects of Related Content:

- Configurable by functional business users (does not require development or IT intervention)
- Displays related content relevant to the specific transactional page
- Available in a tools-only upgrade, works with earlier application versions
- Can display information from other areas within the PeopleSoft application or from external systems.

These are examples of the use of related content:

- Graphical analytics from external sources (for example, a data warehouse) can be displayed.
- Integrating to PeopleSoft Collaborative Portal Services allows collaboration for the specific business process. The same services appear (and can be used) in both the Related Content frame and Portal Collaborative Workspaces.

PeopleSoft Portal's Collaborative services include:

- Tagging (public and private) supports end user community categorization of information and provides additional navigation and search capabilities.
- Threaded discussions.
- Related Documents stored in PeopleSoft's Content Management system.
- Displaying fully functional external web sites and other related links.
- Related information is not read-only. Users can interact directly with information on the Related Content frame.
- Related content is secure and uses the same PeopleSoft security as the application transaction.
- Related content extends the functionality and value of PeopleSoft applications without requiring application upgrades or customizations.

Improved Integration Technology

Integration capabilities of PeopleSoft Enterprise applications set us apart from other ERP applications and customer feedback continues to help us improve our overall integration technology solutions. In the PeopleTools 8.50 release we have improved the way PeopleSoft applications integrate with other systems. In direct response to customer feedback we have focused on improving configuration, performance, management, and troubleshooting of our customer's integrated systems.

Examples of our improved integration technology include:

- Deployment and upgradability of your integration definitions are easier because WSDL and schema definitions are now PeopleSoft managed objects.

- Large messages can be processed more efficiently with a new Application Engine handler.
- Troubleshooting failed service operations has been streamlined with enhanced logging that captures more content and is displayed in a more user friendly manner.

Greater End User Productivity

In addition to the new related content frame mentioned previously, we have also included other features within the 8.50 release that improve the productivity of end users.

Some of these enhancements include:

- Partial page refresh that improves the performance of page refreshes by requiring only sections of a page to be rendered when data on the page changes.
- Lookups and prompts are now presented in modal windows. Rather than taking the user to a new page altogether, these windows “pop up” in front of the main page, leaving the page grayed-out but still visible in the background.
- Advanced grid enhancements will improve end user’s ability to review and interact with data presented in a grid. New features include: scroll bars to scroll through data, re-arranging of column order and resizing column width by drag and drop.

Supported Platforms

PeopleTools 8.50 continues the strong multiplatform tradition of PeopleSoft Enterprise applications. We are continuing this tradition by adding support for newer versions of many platform components. Support was dropped for some older versions, primarily to comply with the manufacturer’s support policy.

The following table lists the major platform support changes:

Platform	Added	Discontinued
Operating System	AIX 6.1 IBM z/OS 1.9, 1.10 Oracle Enterprise Linux 5.1 x86-64 Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) 5.1 x86-64 SuSE Enterprise Linux (SLES) 11 x86-64 Windows Server 2008 (64-bit)	IBM z/OS 1.6, 1.7 iMac OS 9 Oracle Enterprise Linux (OEL) 4.x Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) 4.x SuSE Enterprise Linux (SLES) 9 & 10 Solaris 9 Windows Server 2000, 2003 32-bit
RDBMS	IBM DB2 zOS 9.1 IBM DB2 UDB 9.1, 9.5 IBM Informix 11, 11.5 Microsoft SQL Server 2008	IBM DB2 UDB on HP/UX PA RISC IBM DB2 UDB 8.2 IBM DB2 zOS 7.1 IBM Informix 9.4

Platform	Added	Discontinued
	Oracle 11g	Microsoft SQL Server 2000
Web Server	IBM WebSphere 7.0 WebLogic 10gR3	IBM WebSphere 6.1 Oracle Application Server 10g WebLogic 9.2
Application Server	64-bit binaries on Linux	32-bit Linux
Tuxedo	Tuxedo 10gR3	BEA Tuxedo 9.1
Verity	Verity 6.2.1	Verity 6.1.2
Enterprise Manager	Enterprise Manager 10gR5	Enterprise Manager 10gR3, 10gR4
Crystal	Crystal Reports 2008 SP1 Business Objects Enterprise XI R3	Crystal Reports 2008 SP1 Business Objects Enterprise XI R3
Browser	Firefox 3.0 Internet Explorer 7, 8 Safari 3.1.x, 3.2.x	Firefox 1.5, 2.0 Internet Explorer 6 Mozilla Netscape Safari 2.0.4, 3.0.4
JRE	Java 6	Java 5

Note. This Release Value Proposition **does not** contain a comprehensive list of our support policy, nor does it replace what appears in the certification pages of My Oracle Support (see Doc ID 747587.1). The information provided is a snapshot of the current plans for platform support as of general availability for this release. **Always** refer to Doc ID 747587.1 on My Oracle Support for the current and most comprehensive support information.

PeopleTools 8.50 Enhancements

This section discusses many of the new enhancements that Oracle intends to include in the PeopleTools 8.50 release. These enhancements fall into the following areas:

- User Interface
- Server Administration and Infrastructure
- Security Administration
- Portal Technology / Internet Technology
- Integration Technology
- Reporting and Analytics
- PeopleSoft Global Technology
- Development Productivity
- Regulatory Compliance and Accessibility

User Interface

In the 8.50 release of PeopleTools, many new enhancements were added to the user interface. These changes allow us to include new features that improve end user productivity and satisfaction.

These are some of the user interface enhancements that were added in the release:

- Partial page refreshes
- Modal prompt dialog boxes
- Modal alert dialog boxes
- Updated menu navigation
- Search page enhancements
- New contemporary style sheet

Partial Page Refreshes

PeopleSoft applications use Asynchronous JavaScript and XML (AJAX) technology in a number of key places within the application user interface including partial page refreshes. With a partial page refresh, the browser renders the portion of a page that has changed, rather than refreshing the entire page. Server trips triggered by PeopleCode functions such as FieldChange and FieldEdit for related display fields can be configured to update only the changed data on the page. With AJAX technology, much of the communication with the server happens in the background. Users continue to work uninterrupted during the process.

Modal Prompt Dialog Boxes

All Prompt or Look Up pages share certain characteristics. All Look Up pages are modal and appear in front of the primary page, which is grayed out while the prompt page is active.

In addition, when working with these pages, you can:

- Resize the window
- Close the page from the title bar close icon

Modal Alert Dialog Boxes

All alert dialog boxes share certain characteristics. All alert dialog boxes:

- Are modal
- Appear on top of the primary page, which is grayed out
- Display a message
- Display at least one button

Menu Navigation

There is a new AJAX-enabled left navigation menu pagelet (Menu 2.0). Because of AJAX, when you click the expand/collapse icons in the new menu pagelet; the system redraws only the appropriate hierarchy for the selected link or folder, instead of refreshing the entire menu pagelet. If the user clicks the folder name, the entire structure is refreshed.

Search Page Enhancements

Search pages now include a field to specify "Maximum number of rows to return". When you perform a search using a transaction search page, you can determine the number of entries that the search can return. The maximum settable value and the default value are set in the Search Settings on the PeopleTools Options page.

Users can limit the number of search items returned by entering a lower value in the Maximum number of rows to return field on the search page and can set the number of entries that the search returns to any value less than the maximum.

If the search retrieves more than the maximum number of listings, the Search Results grid displays the total number of results above the search results.

Grid Enhancements

New grid enhancements in the 8.50 release allow application developers to enable a scrollable grid layout. In the scrollable grid layout, users are presented with horizontal and vertical scroll bars, which appear within the grid control and enable the user to scroll through data within the grid. This allows them to scroll data within the grid without having to use the browser scroll bar, thus other data on the page stays in view.

In addition to the scroll bars, other grid enhancements will allow users to drag and drop columns to change column order, search for specific data within the grid and resize a column width directly from the grid. Changes to the grid layout are stored within the system as User Preferences and will be retained for future visits to the page.

New Contemporary Style Sheet

PeopleTools 8.50 will be released with a new style sheet: PSSTYLEDEF_SWAN. The new SWAN style sheet has an updated look and feel, and matches Oracle corporate application standards.

Customers upgrading to 8.50 will be unaffected by the change; however, application developers should use PSSTYLEDEF_SWAN as the default style sheet for application releases 9.1 and later.

Server Administration and Infrastructure

This section discusses the enhancements and changes to PeopleTools infrastructure and server administration, including:

- Enterprise Manager Application Management Pack for PeopleSoft Enterprise
- Change Assistant
- Oracle Configuration Manager
- Extending support for 64-bit technology
- Verity Search
- Transparent Data Encryption
- Audit Vault
- Security server based file directories

Enterprise Manager Application Management Pack for PeopleSoft Enterprise

The PeopleSoft Environment Management Plug-in leverages Oracle Enterprise Manager to provide a single integrated, graphical user interface for monitoring and managing the components of a PeopleSoft environment. This advanced system management option was introduced with PeopleTools 8.48 and continues to be enhanced.

With PeopleTools 8.50, integration into the Process Scheduler will provide system administrators with the ability to manage and monitor their batch jobs from Enterprise Manager. We also enhanced the user interface to streamline the system management process.

Change Assistant

We added a number of performance and usability enhancements to Change Assistant in the 8.50 release of PeopleTools that continue to improve the maintenance and upgrade processes. To improve the file deployment process within Change Assistant, parallel file deployment was built into Change Assistant that dramatically reduces the time needed for the file deployment process.

Oracle Configuration Management

To help our customers lower their cost of ownership, improve their system productivity, and increase the value of Oracle support, the PeopleTools install process for the 8.50 release is introducing the option to install the Oracle Configuration Manager (OCM) tool. This tool is a collector that discovers what Oracle products have been installed and provides the ability to send this data back to Oracle Support. Knowing what Oracle products a customer has installed simplifies and streamlines the support process with the My Oracle Support system. Benefits include problem avoidance because Oracle can proactively notify customers of critical patch updates, health checks, and security alerts based on their product mix.

Extending Support for 64-bit Technology

PeopleTools began exploiting 64-bit technology in 8.48 with the adoption of a 64-bit application server on UNIX platforms. With PeopleTools 8.50, the application server on all flavors of Linux will also take advantage of 64-bit performance, scalability, and memory management.

PeopleTools 8.50 will support only 64-bit operating systems for both the application and web servers.

Verity Search

With PeopleTools 8.50, PeopleSoft is upgrading Verity support to Verity 6.2.1 to enhance the performance and stability of search capabilities.

Customers will now have the ability to configure a failover search domain for a type-3 search server and improve the availability of search. The platform support for the type-3 search server will also be expanded with additional platforms so that all Windows, UNIX, and Linux platforms that support the PeopleSoft application server will have a type-3 search server option.

Transparent Data Encryption

Beginning with PeopleTools 8.50, Oracle database customers can take advantage of Transparent Data Encryption to encrypt sensitive data and help meet regulatory requirements. Application Designer will now detect encrypted columns that have been configured and preserve the configuration through an upgrade as well as generate DDL containing encrypted columns when encryption is selected.

Audit Vault

To enable the use of Audit Vault security and auditing capabilities, PeopleTools 8.50 will now populate the user information so that Audit Vault can detect the PeopleSoft user ID for those using the Oracle database.

Securing Server-Based File Directories

PS_HOME will be de-coupled in PeopleTools 8.50 so that executables, logs, and configuration files will no longer be contained in the same place. This separation will provide greater ease and flexibility in securing the server environment.

Security Administration

With every release of PeopleTools, we strengthen existing or add new security features. This section discusses the changes to PeopleTools security, including:

- User-level SAML security for web services
- JNDI replacing LDAP libraries
- Support for secured FTP

User-Level SAML Security for Web Services

With PeopleTools 8.50, you can now secure web services using SAML, providing greater flexibility and granularity. This is based on node to node certificate trust.

PeopleSoft can now verify user IDs included in the SOAP header or associated with a node definition before invoking a web service request. The user ID must be defined in the system as a valid PeopleSoft ID and, as with any other user ID in the PeopleSoft system, the user ID gains access to system resources through permission lists.

The Web Services page in the Permission Lists component enables you to assign web service permissions to user IDs.

JNDI replacing LDAP libraries

With PeopleTools 8.50, PeopleSoft is implementing JNDI LDAP libraries on all operating systems. This implementation will provide a homogenous install across all operating systems.

We are also consolidating certificate stores with this implementation.

ADAM (AD LDS)

We have tested and certified ADAM (AD LDS) as a supported Directory Server.

Support for Secured FTP

In PeopleTools 8.50, we will introduce support for FTPS using the Libcurl libraries. SFTP is still supported using the ftpunx script customization.

Securing Server Based File Directories

PS_HOME will be de-coupled and made read-only to mitigate toxic file uploads and execution (see Server Administration and Infrastructure)..

Native Integration with Oracle Access Manager

In PeopleTools 8.50, integration with Oracle Access Manager (OAM) is enabled with delivered Signon PeopleCode and configured using the PeopleTools Security pages.

Portal Technology/ Internet Technology

This section discusses the following enhancements made to the PeopleSoft portal:

- Enterprise/Community portal
- Collaborative workspaces
- WSRP technology
- Pagelet Wizard

Enterprise/Community Portal

The PeopleSoft Enterprise Portal 9.1 release continues our strategy that began with release 8.8: to provide rich functionality beyond a simple portal framework. PeopleSoft Enterprise Portal offers a rich set of functional Web 2.0 features, which distinguishes it from conventional framework portals. In addition to new framework improvements and benefits accrued from PeopleTools 8.50, we have added a number of enhancements to the PeopleSoft Enterprise Portal—especially in Collaborative Workspaces—that will enable you to introduce Web 2.0 concepts and practices into your enterprise with a resulting improvement in user effectiveness, efficiency, and profitability.

PeopleSoft Enterprise Portal contains many Web 2.0 capabilities. Collaborative Workspaces, which is a set of features that comes with PeopleSoft Enterprise Portal, supplies the majority of those capabilities.

The next release (9.1) will provide these important new features:

- Wikis
- Blogs
- Tagging
- RSS publishing

These new features complement the following features, which are present in the current (9.0) release:

- Discussion forum
- Document management
- Links
- Action items
- Polling
- Events
- Calendaring
- Security/Member management

In addition, PeopleSoft Enterprise Portal inherits these benefits from PeopleSoft PeopleTools:

- Security/Access management (role-based)
- Branding
- Integration Broker/SOA support
- Single sign-in
- Search
- Framework/User Experience Improvements

The next release of PeopleSoft Enterprise Portal will be delivered on PeopleTools 8.50, which will give Portal some important usability improvements. Among the most notable are:

- Partial page/pagelet refresh. (Content in a single pagelet can be refreshed without refreshing everything in the Portal. Performance will improve.)
- Drag-and-drop pagelets. Now, users will be able to arrange the layout of their portal by simply dragging pagelets to their desired location.
- Composite UIs/Mashups.

- Improved search capability.
- Contemporary, attractive styles.

These features, along with the inherent, delivered integration with PeopleSoft applications, make PeopleSoft Enterprise Portal a strong platform to support your PeopleSoft-focused business processes, as well as those that require external or other content.

Portal Services in Related Content Framework

Collaborative portal services such as Discussion forums and Tagging can also be displayed in related content frames within application pages, providing valuable integration between PeopleSoft applications and portal services.

WSRP Technology

PeopleSoft continues its commitment to support WSRP standards. For this release, the latest version of WebCenter is certified with PeopleSoft, and it can be integrated using WSRP.

Pagelet Wizard

Pagelet Wizard has been enhanced to provide support for OBIEE reports via the OBIEE integration. This enhancement provides greater ease in pulling OBIEE reports into PeopleSoft as pagelets without requiring IT support.

Integration Technology

This section discusses the enhancements to Integration Broker that help ease the development, testing, and management of our integration technology.

Integration Broker

A number of exciting new enhancements have been made to Integration Broker to improve the way integrations are built and how applications interact. The changes are broad and cover many areas, such as performance, developer productivity, security, and standards compliance. The following topics are key enhancements to Integration Broker. They are not all of the changes, but they are indicative of the breadth of the changes.

WSDL and Schema-Managed Objects

New managed object types were added for WSDL and XML Schema objects so that Data Mover is not required to move WSDL and Schemas between environments. Support for these new managed objects is native to Application Designer for Project Development and Upgrade. WSDL and Schema-managed objects can be inserted into an Application Designer Project, viewed as a development and upgrade object, compared to objects in a target database, and be upgrade copied to a target database as well as to and from a project file.

Message Builder

Changes made to the Message Builder Component will help users understand the structure of an integration message. Two additional tree views are provided, records only, and included fields. Records show the hierarchy of records in a message but no fields. An included fields view shows the fields included in the message for each record. Both views appear in read-only mode. The current view or view-all is still supported.

Nested Message Parts

Integration Broker now supports the ability to create a message part and reuse the message part by reference. Developers have the option of embedding a message part by value or by reference. If a developer chooses the by value option, then a copy of the part is added to a message. Any change to the source part is not reflected in the copy. If a developer chooses the by reference option, any change to the source part is reflected in the message. This enhancement makes it easy for developers to create standard parts that are shared across messages and maintained in one place. The behavior is similar to that of subrecords.

Shared Service Operations

Service operations can be referenced by more than one service. That is, a generic or reusable service operation can be added to multiple different services. This functionality gives the integration developer more flexibility.

WS-I Compliance

Additional parameters are available in the IBInfo structure in IBInfo PeopleCode and are included in the generated SOAP request. The new properties are the destination, action, and fault endpoint properties. This functionality allows integration to continue support for WS-I compliance.

Graphical Routings

Routings, or the definition of the path a message takes from one system to another, can be difficult to interpret by just looking at a routing definition. To make them easier to understand and use, graphical routings are generated and displayed on the routing page for the Service Operation. The routing display will show endpoints, direction, and any transformation that takes place on either end.

Application Engine Handler

A new Service Operation Handler, called Application Engine Handler, will be available for Notification events. This handler will schedule an AppEngine program to run within the process scheduler. The process can be tracked by viewing the Subscription Contract in the Service Operation Monitor. This handler is an excellent alternative for long running programs or Service Operations that have large amounts of data to process in that processing will be performed by the Process Scheduler and not the IB Runtime.

SOAP over JMS

SOAP over JMS is now supported by that addition of a SOAPUpContent property to the JMS Target Connector properties. Setting this property at the node level or routing connector level will cause the gateway to SOAP wrap the request data (if not already wrapped).

Optional Alias Enforcement for Generating WSDL

A Web Services can be created from any created Services in Integration Broker, and sometimes the message that is used to define a service has actual database record and field names in the message-generated schema. Problems with security and issues related to naming standards can occur.

A new check box called Exclude Descriptions in Schema was added to the message builder for rowset-based messages. Selecting this check box will prevent database table and field information from being included in a schema.

Future-Dated Publications

Asynchronous Publication transactions can be held in a queue for a future date. An optional parameter on the IBInfo object called FuturePublicationDate is available to hold the message in a queue until the Integration Broker determines that it is time to publish the message.

Design Time Set of Priority (Sequence) of Multiple Notifications

We can now define the handler firing sequence for a Service Operation that has more than one active notification handlers. Developers can now build notification handlers that are dependent on other notification handlers and be assured that they will fire in sequence.

Namespace and Schema Generation for Rowset-Based Messages

We can override the namespace generated in a schema. By default, the namespace is the schema namespace from the service configuration page. This setting can be overridden at the message level.

Schema Database Support – Distinguish Blank with Zero Value

A message can now pass an integer value of 0 that will be identified as a change by the system.

Add Debugging Information for Security Model

We can now provide additional logging of transactional data when processing the acceptance of a transaction.

Improved Logging

Additional logging information will be posted to the Application Server Log file when the logging level is set to 4 or greater to help determine why a Service Operation was rejected. This logging information will show the actual relevant parameters used to determine if a routing exists. Moreover, if the node credentials fail (password, certification), then a log message will again be written to the application server log. Using this information in the log file when compared with the expected Service Operation metadata, one can then determine what needs to be modified to accept the Service Operation into the PeopleSoft system.

Handler Tester with PSCAMA

The Service Operation Handler tester now supports PeopleSoft Common Application Message Architecture (PSCAMA) messages. Fields were added to allow this content for rowset messages.

Create/Invoke a Service Operation from Test Page

A new test page to improve testing of service operations is available. A service operation can now be selected, populated with test data (rowset, non-rowset, or parts), and a request can be initiated.

Performance Enhancements

Several new options to Integration Broker settings will be introduced to give users more flexibility to improve message throughput. Major changes are the introduction of master/slave load balancing, assignment of multiple queues for a service operation, and support of third-party message chunking.

Multiple domains can be defined for a single PeopleSoft instance. For each domain, a weighting is defined to allow system administrators to decide the number of requests processed or passed to different domains. Powerful machines can be set to do the bulk of the processing, and smaller machines can take load when necessary.

Multiple queues for a service operation mean that a performance backup is less likely due to an overloaded queue. A single message handler can be assigned multiple queues, which can help speed up processing.

Third-party message chunking allows control information to be passed inside the SOAP header that describes to Integration Broker how to accept multiple messages that contain a single large third-party message. Processing the message in parts or chunks is more efficient than as a single message.

SOAP Tester

The existing SOAP tester lets users generate SOAP request, response, and fault messages for a Service Operation. A new link will be added to the page that lets users actually invoke the Service Operation as a Web Service and view the XML output returned from the Operation. This enhancement will help developers unit test service operations that are deployed as web services.

Exclude PSFT Authentication Token

A new option is available to bypass PSFT Authentication Token on services between two PeopleSoft systems. PSFT Authentication Token works as a single sign-on between trusted PeopleSoft systems and was introduced as an option in 8.48. This new exclusion allows the option of running integrations between PeopleSoft systems the way they ran before 8.48.

Overhaul the Statistic Pages

A lot of work was done to the statistics pages to provide administrators more detailed information about how the integration layer is running. Inbound and Outbound Asynchronous and Inbound and Outbound Synchronous messages now have separate views. Each section includes Averages and Analysis, complete with charts to help users understand the average performance for throughput.

Services Security

PeopleTools 8.50 extends web service security (WS-Security) for inbound and outbound integrations using SAML (see Security Administration).

Request Verification

PeopleTools 8.50 requests are accepted based on additional granularity of the message, for example, encrypted, and digitally signed.

User Profile Sync

Configuration of attributes will be synchronized in PeopleTools 8.50.

Reporting and Analytics

This section discusses the following enhancements:

- Connected Query
- Query Feeds
- Query Access Service
- Essbase Cube Builder
- PeopleSoft nVision

Connected Query

PeopleTools 8.50 includes a new feature that will allow users to connect or join multiple queries to produce a single output file. Joined queries can represent parent-child data relationship, nested data or even unrelated data. This feature will be useful to customers in a number of ways:

- Prepare an XML output file that contains nested PeopleSoft data for use in an XML Publisher report. This will allow XML Publisher to produce complex reports from the PeopleSoft system through the use of a “sub-report” type of feature.
- Provide PeopleSoft data to external systems that represent nested data relationships.
- Connected Queries can be scheduled and are also PeopleSoft Managed Objects

Query Feeds

As of PeopleTools 8.50, all PSQuery objects can be defined as the source of an RSS feed. This will allow users to define a feed from a particular set of PeopleSoft data. Once a feed is defined, the user can simply subscribe to the feed and gain access to the data through a standard feed reader – something like Microsoft Outlook, Mozilla Thunderbird or their browser.

Queries are probably the best mechanism for users, departments or entire organizations to create standard definitions of reusable PeopleSoft data. Combining this capability with the PeopleTools RSS Feed architecture enables our customers to provide their users access to system data without requiring them to actually login to the system directly.

Access to query data always requires user-level validation, so even when being read in a Feed Reader, customers know that their critical data is secure.

Query Access Service (QAS)

PeopleTools contains a relatively little-known product called Query Access Service (QAS). This product, originally included in PeopleTools 8.48, allows PeopleSoft developers to access a complete PeopleCode programming interface for the PSQuery features. These features include creating a new query, listing the query SQL, executing a query, and many more.

PeopleTools 8.50 will extend the Query Access Service product to include a web services layer to the QAS application programming interface, allowing external systems or applications to access the QAS API programmatically. Functions to create, modify, manipulate and execute queries, as well as receive the resulting data, can be accessed via standard web services.

The power of this enhancement, combined with the underlying value of the entire PSQuery architecture, allows your PeopleSoft application to be a SOA-enabled provider of mission-critical data throughout the enterprise. Utilizing PSQuery objects, rather than providing access to the underlying PeopleSoft data tables, allows you to enforce data definition, security and access control policies that would be extremely difficult or costly to enforce otherwise.

External systems or applications such as a corporate data warehouse, front-office Java application or an enterprise reporting solution will be able to access PeopleSoft data easily and efficiently. That access can be provided with confidence, knowing that the external systems are utilizing the powerful and secure PSQuery architecture.

Essbase Cube Builder

PeopleTools Cube Manager is a product that allows for the easy, straightforward creation of data cubes – data structure for analytic and reporting access by systems such as Oracle Essbase. In PeopleTools 8.50, Cube Manager is being enhanced to support version 9.5, also known as Oracle EPM System 11.

PSQuery and PSTree objects can be defined as the source of Essbase cubes.

PeopleSoft nVision

PeopleTools 8.50 will provide a number of enhancements to the nVision product. These include:

- “Not in” PSTree criteria, when defining a Tree Node the ability to specify criteria for data that is “not in” the tree.
- Multiple effective dated trees in filter criteria.
- Query prompts in PIA allow users to enter prompts to queries from a PeopleSoft page.
- Private Reports allow a user to specify an nVision report for non-public access.

PeopleSoft Global Technology

In the PeopleTools 8.50 release, we continue to invest and support our global customers by providing the following global enhancements:

- Supported character sets.
- Oracle database character sets
- Time zone data.
- Currency data
- Language codes and translations
- Updated fonts

Supported Character Sets

In PeopleTools 8.50, two new character sets were added to the PSCHARSETS table:

Character Set Name	Description
UTF-8	Unicode UTF-8 (the existing UTF8 character set code is equivalent to this new name)
UTF8BOM	Unicode UTF-8 with BOM (byte-order mark)

Oracle database character sets

PeopleTools 8.50 supports the Oracle database character sets AL32UTF8 and JA16SJISILDE.

Time Zone Data

PeopleTools 8.50 includes several revised time zone definitions and new daylight saving time IDs (DST IDs). Changes include two new DST IDs and seven revised time zone definitions.

Currency Data

PeopleTools 8.50 includes several updated currency code definitions.

New language codes and translations

New language codes are defined for Bulgarian, Croatian, Romanian, Slovakian, Slovenian, Serbian, and UK English.

New translations are available for UK English.

Updated Fonts

Updated Albany fonts are available and a barcode font 126R00.TTF is available.

Development Productivity

This section describes changes and updates to these PeopleSoft development tools that help your developers be more productive:

- Interactive PeopleCode Debugger
- AppClass Drilldown
- Freeform Style Sheet

Interactive PeopleCode Debugger

Enhancements to the PeopleCode debugger make it a first class debugging environment. Developers can now look at the program stack, navigate the stack to inspect variable values prior to calls, and change variable values. PeopleCode debugger is now a very productive debugging environment.

Application Class Navigation and Drilldown

Application classes are standalone PeopleCode programs that offer developers many of the benefits of object oriented development. PeopleSoft applications have been taking advantage of building application functionality with application classes since PeopleTools 8.41. A productivity issue of navigating from one method in one class to another method in another class while developing the code has always existed. With application class navigation and drilldown, developers are just one click away from any application class program or method called within another line of PeopleCode.

Freeform Style Sheet

PeopleTools 8.50 makes it easier for developers to build and enable custom style sheets to modify colors, fonts, branding information, and any other part of a PeopleSoft page.

Regulatory Compliance and Accessibility

Beginning with PeopleTools 8.14, delivered in June 2001, PeopleSoft and Oracle have made many enhancements to ensure that the HTML generated by PeopleTools meets accessibility standards and regulations. If you are developing a product using PeopleTools, you should be able to create a product that complies with accessibility standards and guidelines. If you are a user of PeopleSoft Applications, you should be able to operate the product in a manner comparable to that of a user who is not disabled and with a wide variety of Assistive Technologies such as screen readers.

We have continued to enhance accessibility support and have added several important improvements for this release:

- Table Summary attribute for grids – Grid Table Summaries enable describing the grid purpose. The summary is recognizable by assistive technologies.
- Transparent style class - In standard mode, some page controls do not have a label for better usability. However, in accessible mode, a label is necessary. This new style class allows a label to be visible in accessible mode while being hidden in standard mode.

The previous two enhancements enable these additional improvements:

- All fields are associated with the label attribute in accessible mode.
- Group boxes, scroll areas, and grids have titles available in accessible mode.
- Fields within grids have a title so that they are read properly by screen readers in accessible mode.
- Now provide a clear indication of focus for color-blind users.
- Enabled adding headers to pages that are readable by assistive technologies.
- Improved interaction of the Jaws screen reader with PeopleSoft pages.

In addition, we are using automated accessibility support tools to audit PeopleSoft pages. These tools check for common omissions on pages such as images not having alt text, tables that don't have summaries or the summary tag, or headings. This provides an automated way to do accessibility validation on our pages, resulting better and more complete coverage for accessibility.

See the PeopleSoft Product Accessibility Templates on oracle.com for more information on accessibility and PeopleSoft products.

Enhanced Product Information

Oracle continues to enhance the user experience with PeopleSoft products by improving the quality and ease of access to vital information.

Note. The links provided in this section may change over time. If a link does not take you to the proper location, oracle.com should produce a more current link.

New Information Portal

The PeopleSoft Enterprise Information Portal provides customers with a single entry point to locate the documentation, training, and other useful information they need to help with their implementation process and improve their daily experience with our products.

PeopleSoft Enterprise offers many information solutions to help our customers succeed. By using our popular PeopleSoft Enterprise Information Solution data sheets, customers can easily access information and links to PeopleBooks, Documentation Updates, Instructor-Led Training, Online Classes, User Productivity Kits (UPK), Self Study CDs, Certification Programs, and other helpful information.

See <http://www.oracle.com/applications/peoplesoft-information-portal.html>

PeopleBooks Improvements

Several enhancements have been made to the PeopleBooks documentation in the areas of content breadth, organization, and usability.

- **Hosted PeopleBooks.** Starting with this release, our new Hosted PeopleBooks solution allows you the option to access your context sensitive PeopleBooks help directly from our hosted server. The hosted documentation will be updated on a regularly scheduled basis, ensuring that you have access to the most current documentation. Regular updates will reduce the need to view separate maintenance documentation postings on MetaLink 3 because that documentation will now be incorporated into the hosted PeopleBooks content. We will also offer updated installable HTML PeopleBooks Libraries for those who prefer to have the documentation installed on their local server. Updated PDF versions of PeopleBooks will be posted on OTN, based on the content update schedule. The Hosted and Updated installable PeopleBooks will be available in English only. Translated PeopleBooks will still be offered in their original GA state via Electronic Product Delivery (ePD).
- **Installed PeopleBooks Organization.** You will notice a big change as soon as you install PeopleBooks. We now deliver PeopleBooks logically grouped by product line and functional area so that books are easier to find when

accessing them online.

- **Improved Application Page Navigation Documentation.** Navigation to an application page now appears wherever a page is defined in our documentation. Now, in addition to the navigation being listed in the Page Introduction Table, the navigation will also be listed at each location in the PeopleBook where the application page is discussed in detail. Customers will not need to look elsewhere in the book for the page navigation.
- **More Examples.** Throughout our documentation, we have added real life examples of application setup or business process tasks to help customers envision the documentation in our PeopleBooks. When an example is more extensive or does not easily fit into a suitable section of the documentation, we may also include a Scenarios appendix that contains standalone examples of how our products are best implemented and used.
- **Helpful Hints.** Sometimes a useful bit of information or troubleshooting advice can mean a big difference in how easily a product is set up or used. In certain situations, we have included such information in a Note or Warning within the documentation itself. If the information is too lengthy to include in a Note or Warning, it may be included in a Helpful Hints appendix.
- **Enhanced Cross-References.** Using a new formatting capability within our PeopleBooks authoring tool, we can now insert a useful cross-reference link within standard paragraph text. This capability puts appropriate cross-references closer to the documentation to which they apply, making them more useful to our customers.

Researching PeopleBooks

We have created a free, short, online course titled Researching in PeopleBooks that will give our customers:

- A better understanding of the documentation structure and organization.
- Techniques for finding information more quickly and easily by using search functionality, best practice search strategies, and indexes.

Take this brief course to help you more quickly find the information you need in PeopleBooks.

See

http://oukc.oracle.com/static05/opn/peoplesoft/Researching_in_PeopleBooks/Researching_in_PeopleBooks/index.htm

User Productivity Kits (UPK)

The User Productivity Kit (UPK Developer and content) is PeopleSoft's end user training solution. It provides a single source development and customization tool to enable rapid content creation and customization. UPK also may provide system process documentation, user acceptance test scripts, training materials, role-based performance support, and documentation.

For this release, we have broadened our UPK footprint with more UPK content offerings than ever before. Leverage this powerful end-user training solution to improve your organization's productivity in a highly cost-effective manner.

See <http://www.oracle.com/goto/upk/user-productivity-kit.html>

Document Change History

This section describes the changes made to this document after the initial posting. Please make a note of these changes if you have downloaded previous versions.

Date	Change to Document
May 1, 2009	Posted original version.
Future date	Some later version