Reading Data from Oracle E-Business Suite Flexfields
Abstract
You can use PowerExchange for Oracle E-Business Suite to read data from Oracle E-Business Suite flexfields.

Overview
This article describes how to use PowerExchange for Oracle E-Business Suite to read data from an Oracle E-Business Suite flexfield. Oracle E-Business Suite flexfields are custom fields that you can use to customize data based on business needs.

Flexfields
Flexfields are flexible data fields in a form that contain segments. Oracle E-Business Suite stores its master data in codes. Codes consist of segments that identify general ledger accounts, part numbers, and other business entities. Each segment can represent a characteristic of the entity. Oracle E-Business Suite applications represent these codes in the form of flexfields.
You can use or modify the default set of flexfields that Oracle E-Business Suite provides. Or, you can create flexfields based on your business needs.
Oracle E-Business Suite contains the following types of flexfield:
- Key flexfield
- Descriptive flexfield

Key Flexfield
A key flexfield is an intelligent field that stores information represented as codes. A key flexfield contains multiple segments. Each segment contains a value and a meaning. When you install Oracle applications, you can use the flexfields to configure code segments based on your business needs. You can configure the meaning for each segment, define the values that each segment can contain, and define rules to combine the segment values that form a valid code. You can also define relationships between segments. You must configure key flexfields during the implementation period to capture data effectively.
For example, Oracle applications use the Accounting Flexfield to represent codes for the general ledger account. An organization might require segments, such as department ID, account type, accounting calendar, and currency, in the Accounting Flexfield. Another organization might require additional segments, such as accounting method and tax year. You can customize segments based on the business needs.

Descriptive Flexfield
A descriptive flexfield is a user-defined field in a page or group of pages. You can use a descriptive flexfield to track additional information that is important and unique to your business needs and is not directly captured by the Oracle E-Business Suite form.
For example, an organization might require segments for additional information, such as vendor names and contact information. Another organization may require only vendor names in the form. You can customize or create descriptive flexfields to capture additional information based on your business needs.
Descriptive flexfields can contain global and context-sensitive segments. Global segments always appear in the form. Context-sensitive segments appear depending on the information present in the form.
For example, an organization may use an employee form to maintain employee records. The employee form contains global segments such as name, designation, and contact information. However, the organization may configure some context-sensitive segments, such as incentives percentage and performance grade, that are available based on the designation of an employee.

Importing Flexfields as Source Definitions
Use PowerExchange for Oracle E-Business Suite to import an Oracle E-Business Suite flexfield as a source definition. When you connect to Oracle E-Business Suite, the Import from Oracle E-Business Suite Wizard lists source objects. If
you select flexfields from the list, the wizard displays the list of all the Oracle E-Business Suite flexfields. You can select the flexfields that you need to import as Oracle E-Business Suite source definitions.

The following figure shows the Import from Oracle E-Business Suite Wizard:

When you import a flexfield as an Oracle E-Business Suite source definition, the Import from Oracle E-Business Suite Wizard imports each segment as a field in the source definition. The Designer adds a field named CONCATENATED_PORT to the source definition. The CONCATENATED_PORT field concatenates all fields in a source definition, separated by the delimiter defined in Oracle E-Business Suite.

You can use the CONCATENATED_PORT field to read data for all the fields from an Oracle E-Business Suite source. The fields are separated with the delimiter defined in Oracle E-Business Suite.

You must have permission to access metadata from the Oracle E-Business Suite source.

To import an Oracle E-Business Suite flexfield as a source definition:
1. In the Source Analyzer, click Sources > Import from Oracle E-Business Suite.
2. Select the DSN used to connect to the source system.
   To create or modify a DSN, click the Browse button to open the ODBC Administrator, create the DSN, and click OK.
3. Enter a user name and password.
4. Enter the apps schema name that contains metadata for the Oracle E-Business Suite source.
5. Click Connect.
6. Optionally, select a language.
   By default, the wizard selects the base language of the Oracle E-Business Suite.
7. Click Next.
   A list of applications appears.
8. Optionally, enter a filter condition to reduce the metadata that appears in the wizard.
You can select a filter type and then enter a name or description to filter metadata. To enter a filter condition, use an SQL expression or regular expression syntax. For more information about filter, see the *PowerExchange for Oracle E-Business Suite User Guide*.

9. Select one or more flexfields to import.
   For example, select the General Ledger application from the list of flexfields and select the FED Accting Flex child object from the list of Accounting Flexfield key flexfield.
   If you select an object that contains child objects, all the child objects are selected. Clear the objects that you do not want to import.

10. Optionally, select Show Selected Objects Only to view only selected objects.
11. Optionally, click an object to view a list of fields for the selected object on the Field List tab.
    The list displays the metadata for the flexfield that you import as an Oracle E-Business Suite source definition. These fields are segments for the flexfield configured in the Oracle E-Business Suite application.
    The following figure shows the list of metadata for the selected object:

12. Optionally, on the Data Preview tab, select a source object and click Data Preview to preview data.
13. Click Next.
14. Click Import to import flexfields as a source definition.
    The Import Status window displays the status of the imported objects.
    Repeat steps 9 to 14 to import descriptive flexfields as a source definition.
15. Click Finish.
The following figure shows flexfields imported as an Oracle E-Business Suite source definition:

![Flexfields Table]

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