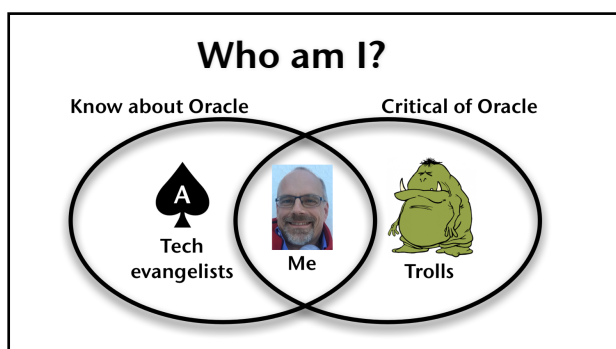# APEX, ADF, or VBCS?

A real-life application built in three tools

Nordic ACE Tour 2017
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The Case

Who am I?

Know about Oracle — Critical of Oracle

Tech evangelists — Me — Trolls

Who am I?

- Name: Sten Vesterli
- Mission: To make the world a better place by helping people use appropriate information technology to achieve their goals
- 20 years of Oracle experience

The Old Way

From Old to New

The old way
- Receive spreadsheets
- Manually merge
- Single user
- Manually update
- Manually keep vendors informed of changes

The new way
- Import spreadsheets
- Multi user
- Auto recording of changes
- Auto reporting to vendors

The Oracle Solutions

- Application Express (APEX)
- Application Development Framework (ADF)
- Visual Builder Cloud Service (VBCS)

APEX End-User UI

ADF End-User UI

VBCS End-User UI

End User UI Comparison

- APEX & ADF very similar
  - Strong on keyboard interaction
  - APEX has row global search & duplicate
  - ADF has easy multi-column search
  - Neither defaults date picker well by default
- VBCS first generation web feel

APEX Development

APEX

- **Import spreadsheet and create matching table (staging)**
- **Build data model**
- **PL/SQL to load from staging**
- **Build Interactive Grid**

ADF Development
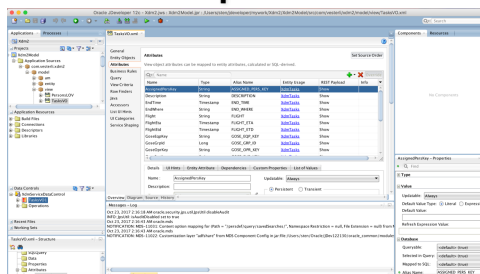
ADF

- **No data import features**
  - Requires existing database
- **Build business components**
- **Build ADF Faces task flow and page fragment**

VBCS UI Development
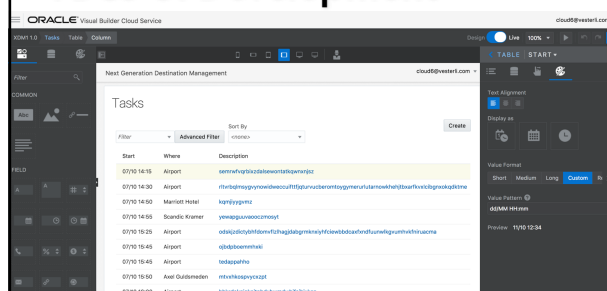
VBCS Data Development
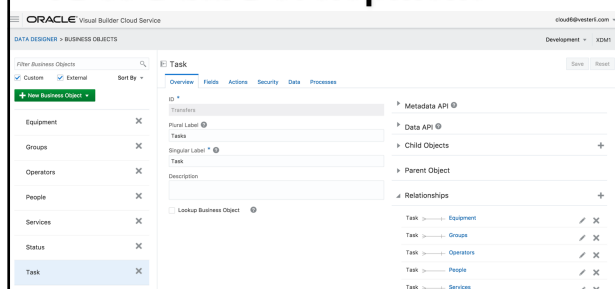
VBCS

- **Can import data**
  - must be pre-processed into proper form
  - auto generates IDs, must convert keys manually (Excel VLOOKUP)
- **Build web application**
  - Table page, edit page, create page
- **Great lifecycle support**

Adding UI Logic

- **APEX**
  - Dynamic actions
- **ADF**
  - Managed Java beans
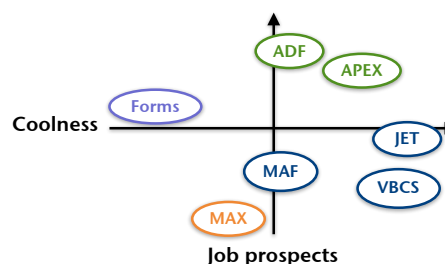- **VBCS**
  - Extremely limited

Adding Data Logic

- **APEX**
  - In database PL/SQL
- **ADF**
  - Override business component methods
  - Or database PL/SQL
- **VBCS**
  - Base on REST service, place logic there

Comparison

	APEX	ADF	VBCS
End-user UI	+++	+++	+
UI development	++	++	++
UI logic	++	+++	-
Data logic	(+++)	+++	(+)
Development speed	++	+	+++
Lifecycle support	-	++	+++

Cool/Job Matrix

What Oracle is Doing Wrong (and Right) in the Cloud

- Free whitepaper this week
- http://bit.ly/orawrong
- Also subscribes to Oracle Tool Watch newsletter

References

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