

Manage Proxies – Has Oracle Opened Pandora’s Box?

Starting with 12.2.4, Oracle has opened the “Manage Proxies” Pandora’s box that I have been fearing would happen since this functionality was introduced in 11.5.10.2. (See note at the end about this being backported to 12.1).

The “Manage Proxies” functionality allows a user to effectively delegate their login to another user – the equivalent of providing another user your credentials (i.e. user name and password) so they can log in as you.

Prior to this, the ability to Manage Proxies has always only be available if you had the Manage Proxies “Role” assigned to you which is done through the User Management module.

What ‘Manage Proxies’ allows...

Manage Proxies is accessible through your “Preferences” page which is available to everyone.

ORACLE E-Business Suite

Logged In As JEFFREY_HARE

General Preferences

Cancel Reset to Default Apply

Languages

Current Session Language American English ⓘ

Default Application Language American English ⓘ

Accessibility

Accessibility Features None ⓘ

Visual

Page Header Display Style Icons Only

Access Keys

Disable Access Keys

TIP Select this check box to disable access keys in all accessibility modes.

Regional

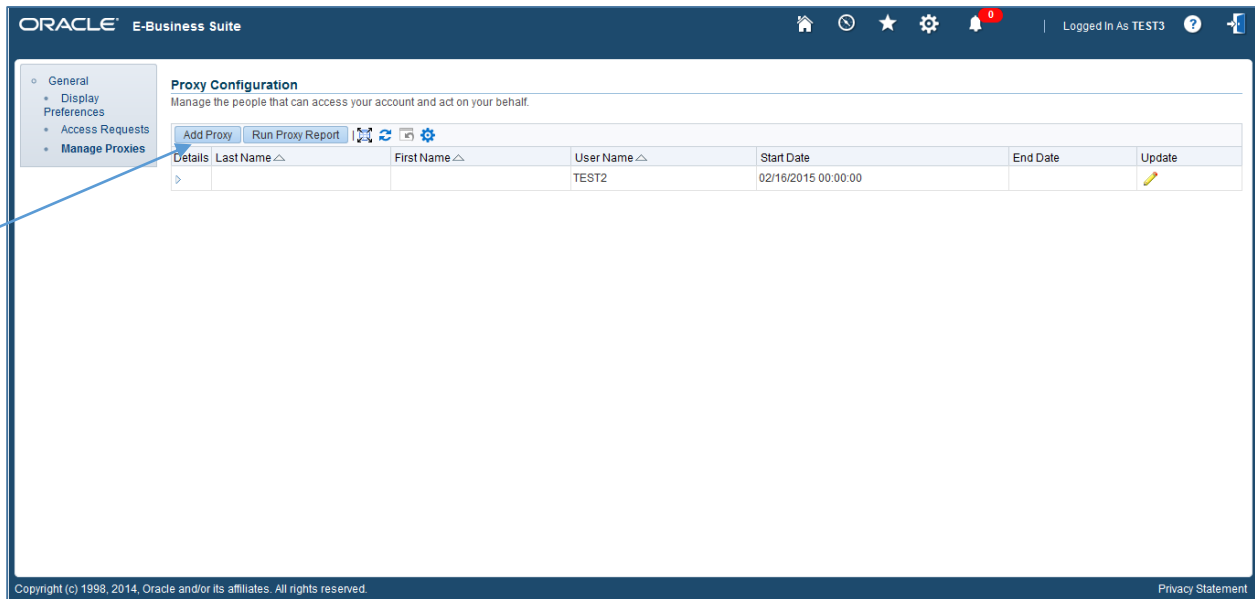
Territory United States

Date Format MM/dd/yyyy (02/16/2015)

Timezone (GMT-08:00) Pacific Time

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The Manage Proxies link takes you to this page:

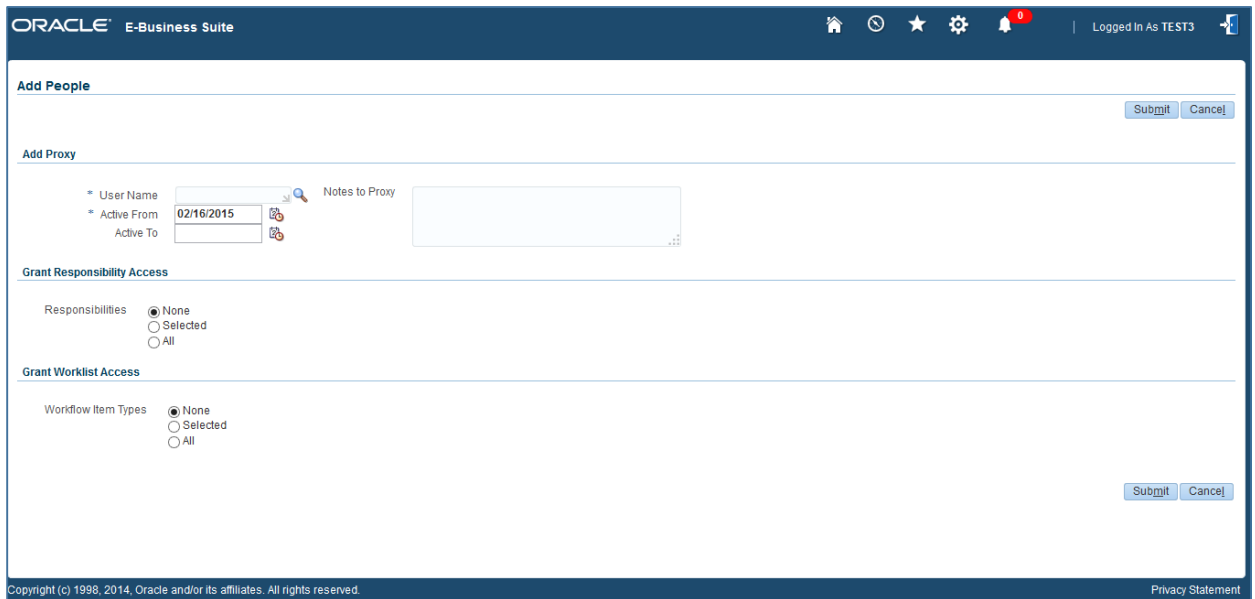


The screenshot shows the Oracle E-Business Suite interface. The top navigation bar includes the Oracle logo, 'E-Business Suite', and user information 'Logged In As TEST3'. A left-hand menu contains 'General', 'Display Preferences', 'Access Requests', and 'Manage Proxies'. The main content area is titled 'Proxy Configuration' with the subtitle 'Manage the people that can access your account and act on your behalf.' Below this are buttons for 'Add Proxy' and 'Run Proxy Report'. A table displays proxy configuration details:

Details	Last Name ^	First Name ^	User Name ^	Start Date	End Date	Update
>			TEST2	02/16/2015 00:00:00		

At the bottom of the page, there is a copyright notice: 'Copyright (c) 1998, 2014, Oracle and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.' and a 'Privacy Statement' link.

When you press the Add Proxy button you receive this page:



The screenshot shows the 'Add People' form in Oracle E-Business Suite. The form is titled 'Add People' and includes 'Submit' and 'Cancel' buttons. The 'Add Proxy' section contains the following fields:

- User Name:
- Active From:
- Active To:
- Notes to Proxy:

The 'Grant Responsibility Access' section has radio buttons for 'None' (selected), 'Selected', and 'All'. The 'Grant Worklist Access' section has radio buttons for 'None' (selected), 'Selected', and 'All'. 'Submit' and 'Cancel' buttons are located at the bottom right of the form. The footer includes the copyright notice: 'Copyright (c) 1998, 2014, Oracle and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.' and a 'Privacy Statement' link.

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You can enter a User to whom you want to allow you to be your Proxy. Following is what a completed form looks like for User Name “TEST1”:

ORACLE E-Business Suite

Logged In As TEST3

Add People

Submit Cancel

Add Proxy

User Name: TEST1

Active From: 02/16/2015

Active To:

Notes to Proxy:

Grant Responsibility Access

Responsibilities: None Selected All

Grant Worklist Access

Workflow Item Types: None Selected All

Submit Cancel

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In this case, I have chosen “All” radio buttons for the Grant Responsibility Access and Workflow Item Types.

The system confirms that TEST1 is my ‘proxy’ user (in this case so is TEST2):

ORACLE E-Business Suite

Logged In As TEST3

Confirmation

Your changes have been saved successfully.

Proxy Configuration

Manage the people that can access your account and act on your behalf.

Add Proxy Run Proxy Report

Details	Last Name	First Name	User Name	Start Date	End Date	Update
>			TEST1	02/16/2015 00:00:00		
>			TEST2	02/16/2015 00:00:00		

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This is what the User “TEST3” has access to:

ORACLE E-Business Suite

Enterprise Search Contract Documents Go Search Results Display Preference Standard

Home

Navigator

Personalize

Payables Manager

Worklist

Full List

From	Type	Subject	Sent	Due
There are no notifications in this view.				
TIP Vacation Rules - Redirect or auto-respond to notifications.				

So now I log into TEST1 and see this:

ORACLE E-Business Suite

Enterprise Search Contract Documents Go Search Results Display Preference Standard

Home

Navigator

Personalize

General Ledger Super User

Worklist

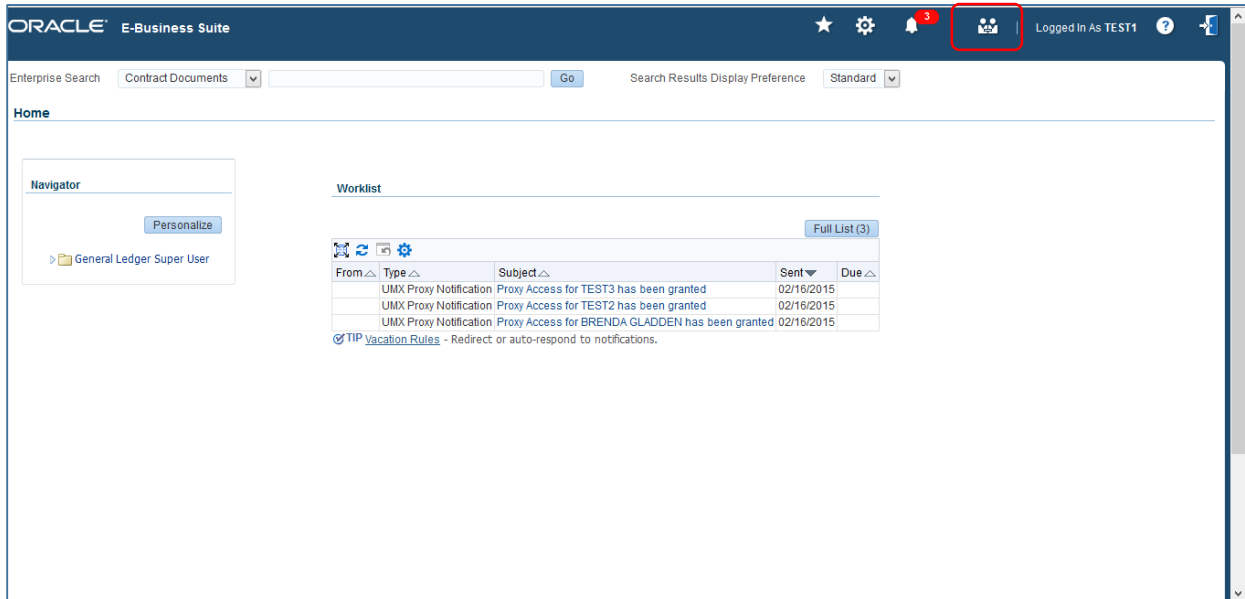
Full List (3)

From	Type	Subject	Sent	Due
UMX Proxy Notification	Proxy Access for TEST3 has been granted		02/16/2015	
UMX Proxy Notification	Proxy Access for TEST2 has been granted		02/16/2015	
UMX Proxy Notification	Proxy Access for BRENDA GLADDEN has been granted		02/16/2015	

Note that TEST1 only has access to General Ledger Super User.

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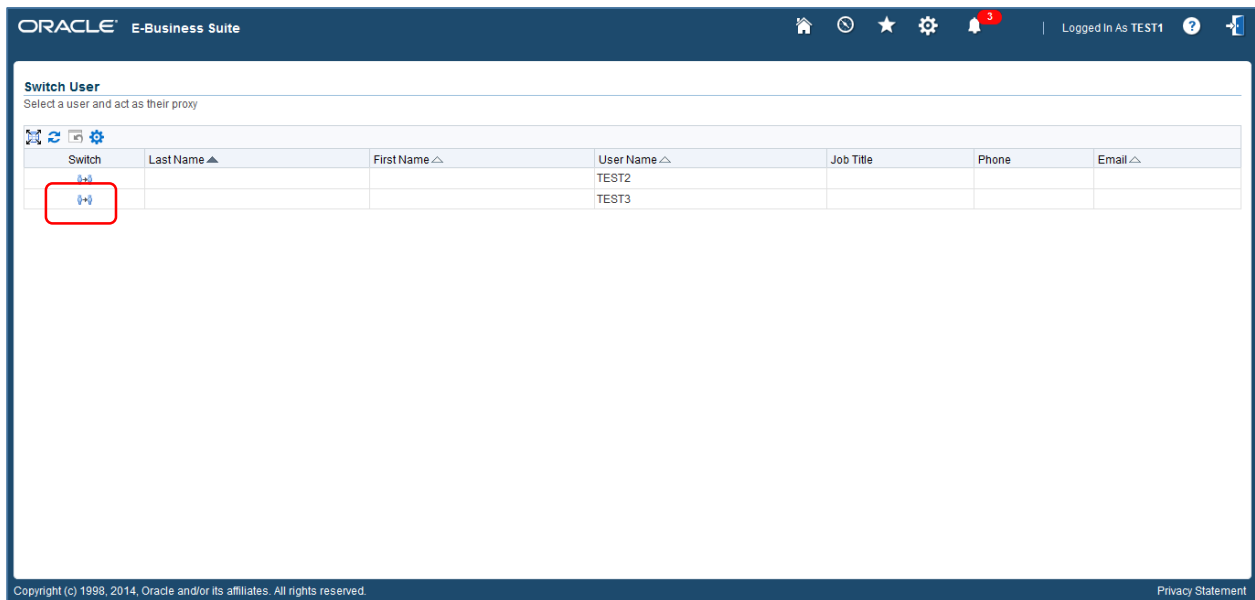
From this same screen, we can see we have a new option:





The screenshot shows the Oracle E-Business Suite Home page. In the top right corner, there is a notification icon (a bell) with a red circle containing the number '3'. This icon is highlighted with a red rectangle. Below the notification icon, the text 'Logged In As TEST1' is visible. The main content area shows a 'Worklist' section with a table of notifications.

From	Type	Subject	Sent	Due
UMX Proxy Notification	Proxy Access for TEST3 has been granted		02/16/2015	
UMX Proxy Notification	Proxy Access for TEST2 has been granted		02/16/2015	
UMX Proxy Notification	Proxy Access for BRENDA GLADDEN has been granted		02/16/2015	

When I press that icon, I receive this page:



The screenshot shows the 'Switch User' page in Oracle E-Business Suite. The page title is 'Switch User' and the subtitle is 'Select a user and act as their proxy'. Below the title, there is a table with columns: Switch, Last Name, First Name, User Name, Job Title, Phone, and Email. The 'Switch' column contains two rows of data, each with a 'Switch' button (represented by a small icon) highlighted with a red rectangle.

Switch	Last Name	First Name	User Name	Job Title	Phone	Email
			TEST2			
			TEST3			

As TEST1, I have been granted the privileges to Proxy as either TEST2 or TEST3.

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If I press the Switch icon related to TEST3, I receive this screen:



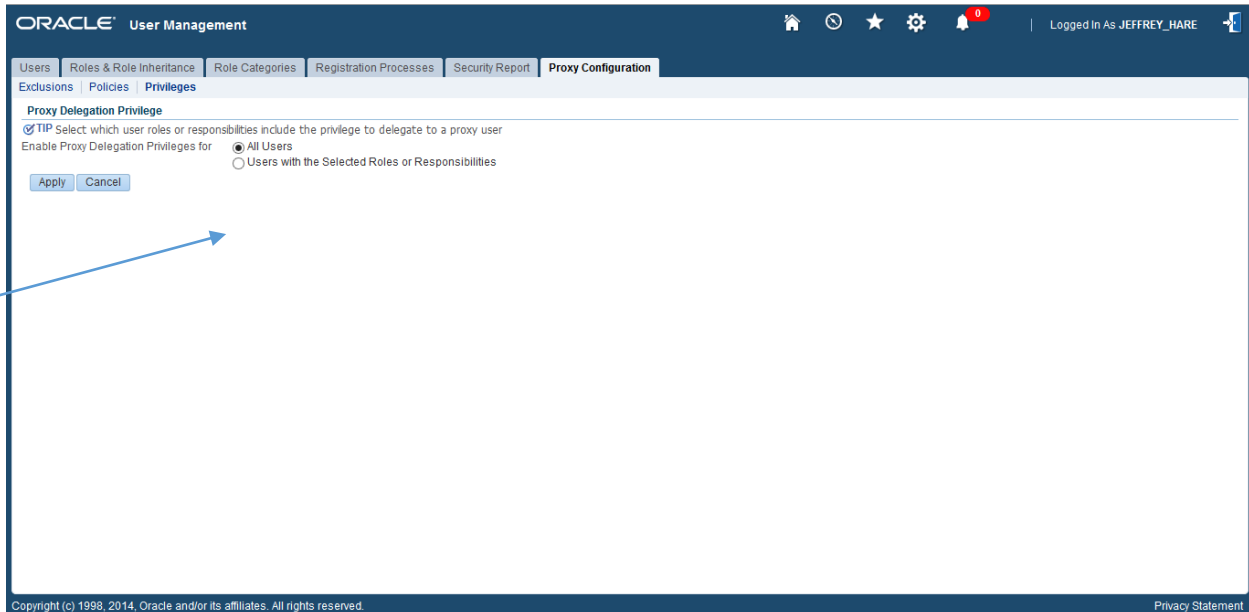
You can see that I am still logged in as TEST1, but I am a “Proxy” for TEST3 and now have the Payables Manager responsibility.

When performing transactions as a Proxy for TEST3, the system’s ‘created by’ and ‘last updated by’ information would be as TEST3 – which is the equivalent of the owner of the TEST3 account giving their user name and password to the owner of TEST1 to use (i.e. it completely obfuscates who is doing the data entry).

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How was this introduced?

Oracle introduced a new Proxy Delegation Privilege page that is accessible via the User Management role. As you can see from the below, they made this capability available to All Users.



Oracle should have, by default, chosen the second radio button – “Users with the Selected Roles or Responsibilities”, but instead chose the “All Users” option instead.

My recommendation is to change this default to the “Users with the Selected Roles or Responsibilities” option as part of your upgrade to or implementation of 12.2.4.

I also recommend that this feature never be enabled, even for a selected group of Users or Responsibilities. The ability to proxy a user is the equivalent of allowing another person to log in using your username and password – something that would be vehemently prohibited in most, if not all, organizations using Oracle (or any software for that matter).

You can find out more about this feature in the Oracle® E-Business Suite - Security Guide - Release 12.2 (Part No. E22952-10).

12.1.3 Backport Patch

You can find out more about this issue via bug 19804456. This ‘fix’ has been backported to 12.1.3 and is included in Recommended Patch Collection (RPC) #3. This means if you are 12.1.3 it could be enabled in your environment if the patch 19804456 or if RPC3 has been applied that includes this patch.