

## **PAMtutorials 20: General Ledger**

### **Your Accountant's best friend**

Double entry Ledgers have been around since the Giovanni Farolfi ledgers of 1299. This method of book keeping was introduced to the Medici bank in the 14th century

**PIPER-Rx Application Monitor – PAM  
VIRTUAL APPS ADMINISTRATOR**

**PAM** Version 4.0

*"Blurring the line between software product and training"*

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# 1 A brief history of Oracle General Ledger

E-Business Suite has its origins in the financial software written by Oracle UK in the late 1980s.

## 1.1 The year is 1987

Oracle founds its Applications division, building business-management software closely integrated with its database software.

Source [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oracle\\_Corporation#Overall\\_timeline](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oracle_Corporation#Overall_timeline)

Oracle creates its Applications division, initially with seven employees. The first two applications to roll out are Oracle General Ledger and Oracle Purchasing.

Late 1987 saw the first Oracle Application released (Oracle Financials) – Oracle General Ledger only this is why General Ledger has an application ID of 101. Other modules in Oracles family of oracle applications soon follow. (Oracle Fixed Assets, Oracle Accounts Payable and Oracle purchasing).



Source <http://oracle.com.edgesuite.net/timeline/oracle/>

Interestingly, the launch of Oracle financials was the same year as “Black Monday” the stock market crash seeing the Dow Jones Industrial average lose 20+% in one day.

## 1.2 Oracle Financials – The early days

I first started using Oracle Financials back in 1990 with release MPL5, then it was GL, FA, AP and the beginnings of AR only.

With MPL5, if you posted more than 5,000 ledger lines in one post the program crashed... nearly a quarter of a century later Oracle claim you can post 42 million journal lines per hour.

I did in this instance manager to get a copy of the offending source code from the US development labs which allowed us to determine the 5000 line limit.

MPL 6 came and was superseded by MPL7 within the blink of an eye (we usually know why that occurs).

MPL7 was to be a great bonus to our site as we had a heavy foreign exchange (FX) requirement. As MPL5 did not support FX currency Oracle sold us a consultancy project to add FX in to MPL5. and you believe it or not, but the exchange calculation formula Oracle added to MPL5 was opposite to that implemented in MPL7....

I also remember we had to upgrade from MPL5 to MPL7 via MPL6. However MPL6 did not support our hardware so we had no intermediary step we could take.... So we wrote our own upgrade.. As you did back then...

These were the days when the upgrades would crash, you would then edit the upgrade script and comment out the SQL that caused crash and restart the upgrade from the section that crashed.

Any way it was fun times....

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