



Auto Suggest Enhancement

Configuring Auto Suggest for Refined Usability

By Marcia Holmes-Rousell

E1 Editor's Note: Auto Suggest is functionality that has been available in EnterpriseOne since release 9.1. It is used in many modules, most notably when searching for an Address Book record. While it is more helpful than the visual assist, there is still some room for improvement. In this article, Marcia explains a few simple modifications you can make that will significantly increase its usability by eliminating duplicate records and adding fields like mailing address to help the user make the appropriate choice.

Introduction

Have you been frustrated by the inability to limit the look up during purchase order entry to "V" (vendor) search types only? Or entry in sales orders to customer types only? Maybe you are working in an AP automation environment and finding that if the correct search type is not used, the AP integration will fail.

Beginning in EnterpriseOne application release 9.1 and tools 9.1, Oracle provided the Auto Suggest functionality which allows entry of a name into an address book number field. The Auto Suggest will open a window with the matching results. With a small configuration change, you can enhance and utilize Auto Suggest to filter by search type(s) in specific application forms.

Standard JDE Auto Suggest Functionality

Auto Suggest is turned on for a field when a downward arrow appears in the far right end of the

entry box. As you begin typing the name into the field and once you reach the required number of characters, the Auto Suggest window will pop open and show you the address book matches.

The screenshot shows the 'Order Header' form with the 'Supplier' field open to an auto-suggest window. The window displays a table of address book records:

Address Number	Alpha Name	Long Address	Sch Typ
4484	Grabow, Scott	109440	X
89111	Grabski, Donald	89111	E
72274	Grace Architects, PLLC		VX
46286	Graczkowski, John	46286	E
46286	Graczkowski, John	46286	E
73618	Gradin, David A.	73618	X
1765	Graebel Companies		VX
74983	Graf, Gunter	74983	CWX
71902	Graf, Marie G	71902	X
4994	Graff, Brenda I.	200124	X

Figure 1: Standard Auto Suggest functionality on Supplier field in the purchase order header entry form P4310.

Weaknesses of the Standard Auto Suggest Functionality

As shown in Figure 1, there are several areas which can be improved upon:

1. All search types are displayed, even though the Auto Suggest search was called from the vendor field for PO entry.
2. If there are date effective address book records for a single address book number, that record will display twice, as shown by address number 46286.
3. The Auto Suggest business fields are not very helpful for determining which address book record to take in the case of multiple mailing addresses for a company, since this window doesn't show any mailing address information.
4. All address book fields use this same Auto Suggest business view, so it would be advantageous to determine what fields would be most beneficial for viewing in that type.

Modified Auto Suggest

By setting up a modified Auto Suggest and applying it to the appropriate forms by way of the standard tools, a much more beneficial and user-friendly process can be utilized.

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