



January/February 2010

## On Distribution/Sales Order Management

### Order Activity Rules 101

By Russ Bartunek

**E1W** **Editor's Note:** So, you didn't graduate from the OAR School of Excellence (does it even exist?). Does that mean you're not allowed to touch Order Activity Rules? Relax, says Russ Bartunek. While improperly set up OARs can result in some major issues, Russ provides some great tips to ensure that your OARs are properly configured, as well as a review of the areas in which an improper setup can have the most impact (read damage).

#### Whaddaya Mean, Status Not in Status Flow...???

Yep, we're talking about Order Activity Rules, or OARs, as they're commonly called. You never think about them until they don't work. Remember way back when, before go-live when you first set them up? Absent any new order processes, you probably haven't given them a thought since. They just kind of sit there, one of those humble, mundane, not-very-interesting building blocks of JDE®. Their only role in life is to shepherd our order lines through their various paths until they reach their ultimate reward: Status Code 999.

So, life is good, until you get that annoying little "Status Not in Status Flow" error during order entry. You know immediately that OARs are the problem, but what caused it?

Immediately, the questions start rolling around in your head. *Did somebody dream up a new Order Type while I wasn't watching?*

Nope, it's an SO; been doing them for years. *OK, then somebody must have changed the **Override Next Status** field in the Processing Options.* Could be. *Or maybe...no, please not that! Could someone have gone and messed with the **Other Allowed Status** fields in the OARs themselves?* You're beginning to get the idea.

**So, life is good, until you get that annoying little "Status Not in Status Flow" error during order entry.**

Now, those normally inoffensive, mundane building blocks have become something to trip over, in not one but several places throughout the system. Let's start from the top with OAR setup and then visit some other places in the system where OARs can result in bruised toes, or worse.

#### Where's Your Diploma?

All JDE World® clients are familiar with this intimidating message that you receive when selecting OARs from a menu. Something like, "Only graduate students of OARs should proceed beyond this point", blah, blah, blah. After you conquer your initial fear and you're convinced there's nothing you don't know about OARs, you blithely "F6" your way past this message and get down to business.



## Order Activity Rules 101

Seriously, it's good to remember that there's plenty of potential for collateral damage if these things aren't set up right. Let's take a look at a typical, out-of-the-box OAR configuration for inventory sales orders, as shown in Figure 1. We'll bypass the initial Find/Browse form and take a field-by-field look at where the setup, revision, and damage (kidding) are actually done.

Last Status	Last Status Description	Next Status	Other 1	Other 2	Other 3	Other 4	Other 5	Ledger Y/N
520	Enter Order/Receive EDI Order	540	560					N
540	Print Pick	560	580	999				N
560	Ship Confirmation	580	620					N
580	Print Invoices	600						N
600	Invoice Journal	620						N
620	Sales Update	999						N
999	Complete - Ready to Purge							

Figure 1: Order Activity Rules

- **Order Type/Line Type:** The combination of these two fields uniquely identifies the process by which a specific line-level transaction will be processed through the system.
- **Order Type Next Number:** Most of us know the basics of Next Numbers (NNs):
  - These “buckets” of auto-assigned numbers exist for each JDE suite. For example, System 42 is for Sales Orders.
  - There are ten NN buckets in each suite.
  - Unspeakable havoc can result if these numbers are not set correctly at go-live or if they are incorrectly updated following go-live.

That third bullet point about NNs is actually a story for another day. What's important to know for now is that **the value in this field determines which NN Bucket assigns the numbers for this Order Type/Line Type combination.**

Take another look at Figure 1. The “1” in the **Order Type Next Number** field refers to “Bucket 1” for Next Numbers in System 42. Now, if you look at Figure 2, you'll see that Row 1 (which represents Bucket 1) has a value of 2811. This means that, barring the use of check digits, the next SO order number assigned will be 2811.

## This Article Continues...

**Subscribers**, log in from our main search page to access the full article:

[www.JDEtips.com/MyAccess.html](http://www.JDEtips.com/MyAccess.html)

**Not a Subscriber? Gain access to our full library of JDE topics:**

[www.JDEtips.com/JD-Edwards-Library](http://www.JDEtips.com/JD-Edwards-Library)

Visit [www.JDEtips.com](http://www.JDEtips.com) for information on the JDEtips University schedule, private training and consulting, and our Knowledge Express Document Library.

**License Information:** The use of JDE is granted to JDEtips, Inc. by permission from J.D. Edwards World Source Company. The information on this website and in our publications is the copyrighted work of JDEtips, Inc. and is owned by JDEtips, Inc.

**NO WARRANTY:** This documentation is delivered as is, and JDEtips, Inc. makes no warranty as to its accuracy or use. Any use of this documentation is at the risk of the user. Although we make every good faith effort to ensure accuracy, this document may include technical or other inaccuracies or typographical errors. JDEtips, Inc. reserves the right to make changes without prior notice.

Oracle and J.D. Edwards EnterpriseOne and World are trademarks or registered trademarks of Oracle Corporation. All other trademarks and product names are the property of their respective owners.

Copyright © by JDEtips, Inc.