

# Using a Custom Payroll Flow Pattern to Submit a Parameterized Report in Oracle Cloud Application

By: Ashish Harbhajanka

## Introduction

As some of you might already be aware that as of current release of Oracle Fusion Cloud Application we do not have the feasibility to associate a Custom LOV to an ESS Job Parameter. One either has to use a Text Input or have to submit the BIP Report from the Schedule Option available.

However, there is an ever-increasing need to have a Custom LOV input available while **submitting an ESS Job** some of the most common reasons being:

1. **User Friendly:**

Business Users who have been working with earlier ERP products (specifically EBS and I guess applicable to other ERP Products too) are used to have to a Custom LOV available while submitting a request. Having the similar setup while submitting a Report in Cloud obviously brings about a high degree of comfort and easiness.

2. **Ensure Data Validity:**

In case we do not have a LOV associated with a parameter, we do not have any control over the input passed on by the end user. Having a List of Values ensures that only valid values are passed and user does not has to worry about the specific data values to be passed. They can simply choose any of the available values.

Unfortunately, till date this feature is not available in Oracle Cloud Application (I hope this comes out early, would bring a smile on lot of faces for sure...) and so an alternative option is to Submit the **BIP Report** using **Schedule Option**. But this option too comes with some challenges like:

1. **Provide Access to BI Catalog:**

In order to allow end-users to run a Report one would have to provide access to the BI Catalog Section, which has options of Edit/Delete too available there. There might be instances that some of the Report Components might get accidentally modified/deleted. We would like to avoid such a situation

2. **Too Many Reports Available:**

The BI Catalog displays all available reports and does not necessarily points out the specific report users are interested to submit.

As an alternative, one might consider creating a Custom Payroll Flow Pattern, which allows us to associate a Custom LOV (List of Value) with a BIP Report Parameter. In this article, we would try to demonstrate how to get this done.

## Pre-requisites

We would need to have two custom components created (namely Custom Lookup and a Custom Report) created.

1. **Custom Lookup:**

We have a custom lookup named 'RECORDS\_TO\_SHOW' present in the application, which holds numeric values like 1,2,3,4 and 5.

Navigation: **Navigator->Setup and Maintenance -> Manage Common Lookups**

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Manage Common Lookups

SaveSave and CloseCancel

Search

Lookup TypeRECORDS\_TO\_SHOW

Meaning

Description

Module

SearchReset

Search Results

ActionsViewFormat+XFreezeDetachWrap

Lookup Type	Meaning	Description	Module	Customization Level
RECORDS_TO_SHOW	Records To Show	Custom Lookup Created to Hold N	Global Human Resources	User

RECORDS\_TO\_SHOW: Lookup Codes

ActionsViewFormat+XFreezeDetachWrap

Lookup Code	Display Sequence	Enabled	Start Date	End Date	Meaning	Description	Tag
1	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1/1/51		1	Numeral 1	
2	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1/1/51		2	Numeral 2	
3	3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1/1/51		3	Numeral 3	

2. **Custom Report:** We have a custom report created in the application, which asks for an input (Records to Show) and displays the same number of records. For example it would display 1,2,3,4 and 5 records in the report when the input is 1,2,3,4 and 5 respectively.

BIPPayrollFlowPatternReport.xdo

HomeCatalogFavoritesDashboardsNewOpenSigned In As HCM\_IMPL

Records to Show5Apply

BIPPayrollFlowPatternTe...

PERSON_NUMBER	START_DATE
7	09/03/2009
10	05/11/2007
13	15/05/2004
39	20/11/2008
44	03/06/2008

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## Creating Custom Payroll Flow Pattern

Now since we have all the pre-requisite components present we may start with creation of a Custom Payroll Flow Pattern.

We would need to use the below navigation:

Navigation: **Navigator-> Payroll (Checklist) ->Manage Payroll Flow Patterns**

We would need to populate the following details into the UI

Basic Information	
Attribute Name	Attribute Value
*Flow Pattern	BIPPayrollFlowPattern
Description	Custom Flow Pattern Created to demonstrate how to pass parameter value to a Report Via Custom Lookup
*LDG Required	No
Default Flow	Yes
Activities to Include	Statutory
Selected Tasks	Run BI Publisher Report

Once done the UI would appear as below:

Overview Manage Payroll Flow Patterns x

Basic Information Tasks Task Sequence Parameters Task Parameters Review

Create Payroll Flow Pattern: Basic Information

Basic Information

\* Flow Pattern BIPPayrollFlowPattern

Description Custom Payroll Flow Pattern Created to demonstrate how to pass parameter value to a Report Via Custom Lookup

\* LDG Required No

Default Flow Yes

Activities

Activities to Include Statutory

Tasks

Select the tasks sequentially, based on the order in which they should be done.

Available Tasks

- Archive End-of-Year Payroll Results
- Run Payroll Data Validation Report
- Run Payroll Interface Report for NGA
- Run Statutory Deduction Register
- Run Worker Data Validation Report
- Run Year End Negative Balances Report
- Verify a Statutory task

Selected Tasks

- Run BI Publisher Report

Back Next Submit Cancel

Once done we would need to click on 'Next' button and this would take us to the new screen (as shown):

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**Create Payroll Flow Pattern: Tasks**

Flow Pattern: BIPPayrollFlowPattern  
Description: Custom Flow Pattern Created to demonstrate how to pass parameter value to a Report Via Custom Lookup  
LDG Required: No  
Default Flow: Yes

**Tasks**

Flow Task	Activity	Task Group	Task	Description
Run BI Publisher Rep	Statutory	Reporting	Run BI Publish...	Sample task for...

**Run BI Publisher Report: Owner and Checklist**

Task	Parent Checklist	Owner	Description	Task Type
Run BI Publisher Report	Reporting			

We need not to make any changes on this page and we can proceed further by clicking the 'Next' Button:

**Create Payroll Flow Pattern: Task Sequence**

Flow Pattern: BIPPayrollFlowPattern  
Description: Custom Flow Pattern Created to demonstrate how to pass parameter value to a Report Via Custom Lookup  
LDG Required: No  
Default Flow: Yes

**Task Sequence**

Task	Following Task
Run BI Publisher Report	End Task
Start Task	Run BI Publisher Report

This page too does not needs any modifications and we can safely move on to the next train stop (Yes! by Clicking 'Next' Button again)

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Overview Manage Payroll Flow Patterns x

Basic Information Tasks Task Sequence **Parameters** Task Parameters Review

**Create Payroll Flow Pattern: Parameters**

Flow Pattern: BIPPayrollFlowPattern Default Flow: Yes

Description: Custom Flow Pattern Created to demonstrate how to pass parameter value to a Report Via Custom Lookup

LDG Required: No

Actions View + Edit Print X

* Flow Parameter	Description	* Use for Searches	* Display	* Display Format	Lookup	Sequence	* Usage	Parameter Basis	Basis Value
No data to display.									

We would now need to click on the Add Icon (+) highlighted in yellow colour in above snapshot and populate the following details:

Attribute Name	Attribute Value
*Flow Parameter	Records to Show
Description	Displays a Drop Down List of Numerals which controls the no of records to be displayed in Report
*Use for Searches	Yes
*Display	Mandatory
*Display Format	Lookup Choice List
Lookup	RECORDS_TO_SHOW
Sequence	1
*Usage	Input Parameter
Parameter Basis	
Basis Value	

Once populated the screen would appear as below:

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**Create Payroll Flow Pattern: Parameters**

Flow Pattern: BIPPAYROLLFLOWPATTERN  
Description: Custom Flow Pattern Created to demonstrate how to pass parameter value to a Report Via Custom Lookup  
LDG Required: No

* Flow Parameter	Description	* Use for Searches	* Display	* Display Format	Lookup	Sequence	* Usage	Parameter Basis	Basis Value
Records to Show	played in Report	Yes	Mandatory	Lookup Choi	* IRDS_TO_SHOW	1	Input param		

We now need to Click on 'Next' Button and we would land up on the **Task Parameters** task, This UI task has already multiple parameters along with Report Name and Report Path fields present.

**Create Payroll Flow Pattern: Task Parameters**

Flow Pattern: BIPPAYROLLFLOWPATTERN  
Description: Custom Flow Pattern Created to demonstrate how to pass parameter value to a Report Via Custom Lookup  
LDG Required: No

Delete all the Parameters Except Report Name, Report Path and First Argument

Name	Description	Display	Task
Eighth Argument	Eighth parameter for the report data model	No	Run BI Publish...
Fifth Argument	Fifth parameter for the report data model	No	Run BI Publish...
First Argument	First argument of the report	No	Run BI Publish...
Fourth Argument	Fourth parameter for the report data model	No	Run BI Publish...
Legislative Data Group		No	Run BI Publish...
Ninth Argument	Ninth parameter for the report data model	No	Run BI Publish...
Report Name	Report Name	No	Run BI Publish...
Report Path	Path of the BI publisher template	No	Run BI Publish...

Since we only have one input parameter for our report, we would need to delete all other parameters and once done we should be left out with only three parameters namely Report Path, Report Name and Records to Show (the name we have given to our Report Parameter)

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Name	Description	Task	Action Name	Execution Mode
Report Path	Path of the BI pu	Run BI Publish...	Submit	SUBMIT
Report Name	Report Name	Run BI Publish...	Submit	SUBMIT
Records to Show	Shows the Num...	Run BI Publish...	Submit	SUBMIT

Details of the Report Path Parameter is:

**Report Path: Parameter Details**

Display Format: Text Usage: Input parameter

Parameter Basis: Constant Bind

Basis Value: /Custom/Practice Samples/BI/P

Sequence: 1

Since we would be using Constant Value for Report Path we need to choose Parameter Basis as Constant Bind and Basis Value as the Exact Report Path in BI Directory

Details of Report Name Parameter is:

**Report Name: Parameter Details**

Display Format: Text Usage: Input parameter

Parameter Basis: Constant Bind

Basis Value: BIPayrollFlowPatternReport

Sequence: 2

Since we would be using a Constant Value Report Name choose Parameter Basis as Constant Bind and Basis Value as the Exact Report Name

Details of First Argument (Renamed as Records to Show)

**Records to Show: Parameter Details**

Display Format: Text Usage: Input parameter

Parameter Basis: Bind To Flow

Basis Value: Records to Show

Sequence: 3

As the First Argument(Records to Show) is a Flow Parameter choose the Parameter Basis as Bind to Flow and Basis Value as Records to Show (the lookup value associated..this appears as the only drop down value available here)

Once all the changes are done we would move to the review page and it looks as below:

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**Create Payroll Flow Pattern: Review**

Flow Pattern: BIPPAYROLLFLOWPATTERN  
Default Flow: Yes

Description: Custom Flow Pattern Created to demonstrate how to pass parameter value to a Report Via Custom Lookup

LDG Required: No

Task	Task Type	Description	Owner
Statutory			
Reporting			
Run BI Publisher Report			

We can now submit the same and the Payroll Flow Pattern will be created.

## Running the Payroll Flow Pattern and Verifying Results

As a last step, we would be running the Payroll Flow pattern and verify the result.

Navigation: Submit a Process or Report

**Submit a Process or Report: Enter Parameters**

Flow Details

Flow Pattern: BIPPAYROLLFLOWPATTERN

\* Payroll Flow: FirstRun

Parameter Details

\* Records to Show: 5

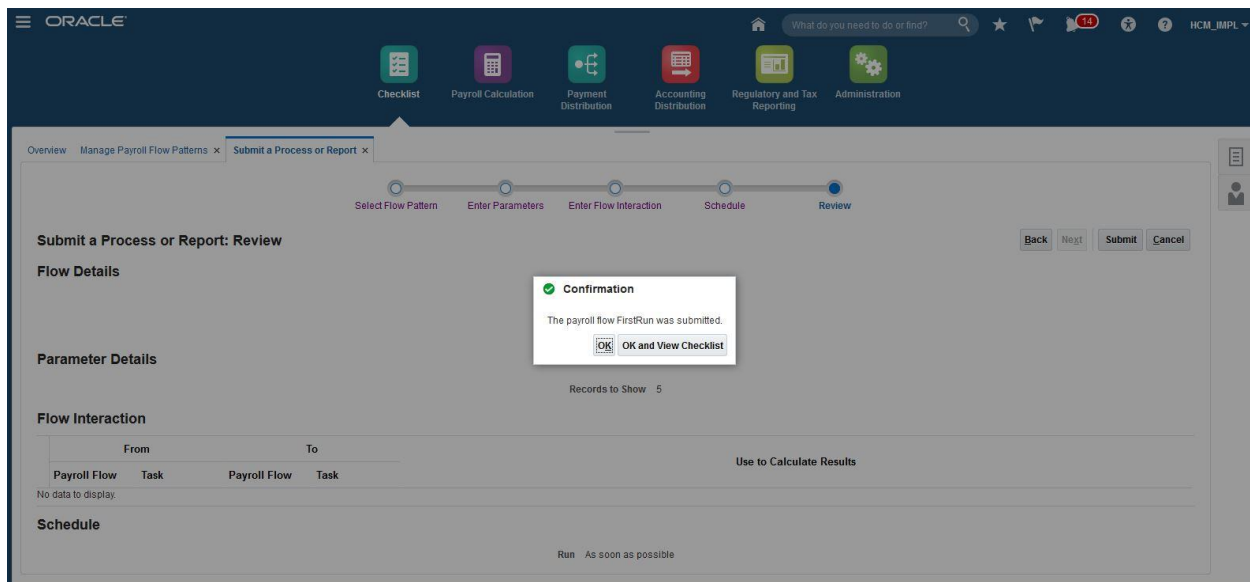
We could see that a LOV appears with a predefined list of available values to choose from.

We would select 5 for this run and would expect to get 5 records fetched in the report.

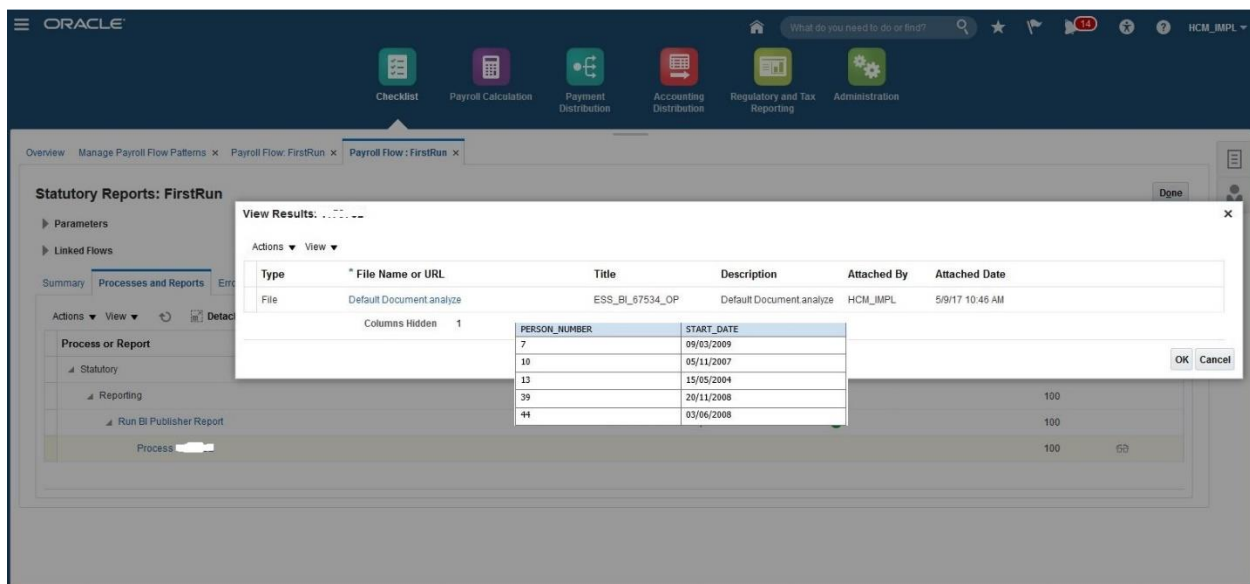


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We would now click on the 'Ok and View Checklist' to find the results.



We could see that the results are in complete sync with our expectation.

## Inference

With this we have now come to the end of our article. I hope you guys have now got an idea of how to create a Custom Payroll Flow Pattern and associate a Drop Down List with the Custom BIP Report Parameter thereby allowing the end user the ease and flexibility to choose valid value from a predefined list.

Thanks all for your time and have a nice day ahead.. Good Bye till we meet next time...