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ORACLE9ⁱ

A Beginner's Guide

Learn the Essentials of Oracle9ⁱ

MICHAEL ABBEY
MIKE COREY
IAN ABRAMSON

Renowned Oracle Professionals
and Authors



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Oracle9i: A Beginner's Guide

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Oracle9i: A Beginner's Guide

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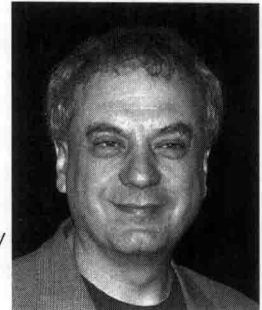
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Oracle9i: A Beginner's Guide

**We dedicate this book to those who suffered,
directly and indirectly, as a result of the events in
the United States on September 11, 2001.**

About the Authors

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Michael S. Abbey

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Ian Abramson

There are points in people's lives when they evaluate where they are and where they are going. This is one of those times, in this world that seems to have redefined the spirit of individuals and brought us closer together. It is humanity that will survive all those that try to destroy. I dedicate my efforts on this book to all those impacted by terrorism around the world. We are all part of the solution, and our reward will be peace.

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Michael Corey

It is very clear to me why most acknowledgments start off with "Thanks to my family..." It is true the family suffers the most. I am very, very grateful that they have tolerated me through it all, especially after I lost three computers and a much-needed Internet connection, among the many other things that happened.

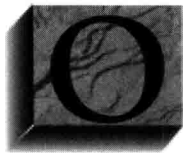
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Last of all, thanks to my coauthors.

Introduction



racle9*i*—the subject material of this book. As the Abbey, Corey, Abramson team places more and more works under its corporate belt, more and more people wonder, “What is Oracle anyway?” While watching CTV Newsnet in Canada, the red letters O-R-A-C-L-E sit on the right margin of your TV screen, reminding you who is responsible for bringing you this fabulous information. In the beginning, some thought Oracle manufactured casual clothing, what with the gamut of T-shirts, golf shirts, and the like populating many work spaces. Oracle software powers the Internet—a saying as well as a fact.

Many of us have our whole IT career invested in one piece of software—Oracle—and yes, thank you very much, business is very good. Unbeknownst to many Internet users, they have had peripheral contact with the Oracle8*i* software and bit by bit Oracle9*i* as the software of choice by most web sites serving up the data that we all enjoy as we surf the net. In the beginning, Oracle was simply a data server, delivering state-of-the-art solutions to corporate business communities. Version 3 is the first many of us saw in the mid-1980s. It ran in RAM—the first 640KB of memory attached to the PCs strewn all over many companies’ offices. Version 3, alongside some early tool offerings by Oracle Systems Corporation, had some heavy competition with the likes of Ashton Tate’s dBASEII to mention one of many. Peter, Paul, and Mary sang “Where Have All the Flowers Gone”; we might reword this familiar teenage classic as “Where Has All the Competition Gone.”

Oracle is the undisputed leader in software solutions that drive the Internet. Is that why you are reading this book? Are you reading it because someone insisted? We believe you fall into that large group of hungry consumers who strive to be on top of the leading-edge technology, whatever the cost. Familiarity and fluency with the technology leader in the 21st century is fundamental to your career, whether you use, manage, help procure, or program with the Oracle9i offering.

We've been around Oracle the company and Oracle the software for many years. We have rubbed shoulders with senior management, hung out with kernel developers, and built up some significant relationships with some of its players over the past 17 years.

Oracle9i: A Beginner's Guide takes you on a journey through the backbone of Oracle's technology. We start by looking at the company, where it has been, and how it has gotten there. There are so many places to go to whet your voracious appetite for Oracle technology. We guide you through where to go to feed that appetite as you ingest Chapter 2. We explain the fundamentals of Oracle's development offerings—SQL*Plus and PL/SQL—then delve into the role of the almighty Oracle techie, the database administrator, affectionately called the DBA. We pay special attention to Oracle Enterprise Manager, a GUI database management offering that has been around since early releases of Oracle7, circa 1992. We finish off the journey looking at the Internet-specific pieces in Oracle9i's offering, paying attention to its data warehousing features.

The intended audience for this book is very wide. Many take it on after having been an end user for many years. They want to look behind the scenes and see what makes their systems tick. Others are transitioning from other pieces of software, looking for a fast route to understanding Oracle9i and how it is put together. Oracle started putting the *i* in their software version name in the late 1990s. We have been putting the *u* in understanding what Oracle is doing, where they have come from, and where their technology is going since our first *Beginner's Guide* offering in 1994. Who knows, perhaps it's superstition that has allowed so much to be accomplished in such a little amount of time. As you enter beginner's land, keep one coincidental piece of information in mind—the structured query language, abbreviated SQL, is the undisputed front end to the world's most powerful Internet software. Oracle headquarters in Redwood Shores, California, is closest to the San Carlos airport—guess what that landing strip's call letters are—SQL. A coincidence? We think not!

Contents at a Glance

1	Oracle: The Company and the Software	3
2	Road Map to Services	15
3	The Oracle Server	59
4	Database Objects	89
5	SQL*Plus 101	113
6	PL/SQL 101	141
7	DBA 101	177
8	More SQL*Plus	203
9	More PL/SQL	241
10	More DBA	259
11	Oracle Enterprise Manager	285
12	Distributed Computing	315
13	The <i>i</i> in Oracle9i	333
14	All Things WWW	349
15	Forms and Reports Overview	375
16	Partitioning Data	401
17	Data Warehousing and Summarization	431
A	Answers to End-of-Chapter Questions	483

Contents

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	xxi
INTRODUCTION	xxiii

PART I

Getting Up to Speed

I Oracle: The Company and the Software	3
Terminology	4
Oracle Corporation: A Timeline	4
1977: In the Beginning	4
1978: Relational Software Inc. Is Born	5
1979: First Commercial Database Product Ships	6
1980: Oracle Systems Is Born	6
1981–1983: First RDBMS to Run on Mainframes and Minicomputers	6
1984: Version 4 (Read Consistency)	6
1985: Oracle Enters the Application Business	7
1986: The First DBMS with Distributed Capabilities	8
1987: The Beat Goes On	8
1988: Oracle Financials/Oracle CASE	8
1989: Oracle 6.2 Is Born	8
1990–1991: The \$1 Billion Mark	9

1992: Ray Lane Is Hired	9
1993: The Applications Business	10
1994–1995: \$2 Billion in Sales and the Network PC	10
1996: Oracle Enters the Consumer Marketplace	11
1997: Oracle8 Released	11
1998: Oracle Supports Linux	11
1999: Oracle8i Released	12
2000: Number One	12
Current Offerings	12
Chapter 1 Questions	13
2 Road Map to Services	15
Terminology	16
Oracle Support Services	18
Logging TARs with OSS	
(the Old-Fashioned Way)	20
Providing Documentation to Support Your TAR	21
MetaLink	23
The Technical Libraries	24
The Forums	28
iTars	30
Client Tombstone Information	32
Brief TAR Description	32
Oracle Technology Network	35
Oracle AppsNet	37
Newsgroups and List Servers	40
Newsgroups	41
List Servers	43
Online Documentation	48
Out of Site!	51
Internet Search Engines	51
Some of Our Favorite Sites	54
Chapter 2 Questions	56
3 The Oracle Server	59
Terminology	60
Architecture of the Server	63
Background Support Processes	65
Database Writer (dbw0)	66
Process Monitor (pmon)	66
System Monitor (smon)	66
Log Writer (lgwr)	67
Checkpoint (ckpt)	67

Recoverer (reco)	67
Archiver (arc0)	67
INIT.ora	68
Location Entries	68
Limiting Entries	70
Feature Entries	70
Making Changes to Parameters	71
The Control File	73
Redo Logs	74
The Database Data Files	77
Rollback Segments/Undo Tablespace	78
Significant Memory Structures	80
The Data Cache	80
The Library Cache	81
Locks and Latches	82
Locks	82
Latches	83
So, You're the New Oracle9i Database	84
Chapter 3 Questions	86

PART II

So You've Just Started?

4 Database Objects	89
Terminology	90
Tables—Where Your Data Is Stored	91
create table, an Example	92
create table as, an Example	93
Views—Customized Selections of One or More Tables	94
create view, an Example	94
Materialized Views—The View That Stores Data	95
create materialized view (Formerly snapshot), an Example	95
Query Rewrite	96
Indexes—A Fast Way to Get at Your Data	96
Advantages of Presorted Order	97
Unique and Non-unique Indexes	97
The 95/5 Rule	98
The Bitmap Index—An Index for Low Variations of Distinct Rows	98
Triggers—Event-Driven Programs	99
create trigger, an Example	99
Synonyms—Object Nicknames	101
create synonym, an Example	102

Sequences—A Fast Way to Obtain a Unique Number	102
create sequence, an Example	103
create role—A Way to Manage Privileges	103
create role, an Example	103
Functions, Procedures, and Packages	104
create function	104
create procedure	105
create package	106
Other Database Objects	107
create operator	107
create directory	108
create library	108
Database Links	108
create cluster	110
Chapter 4 Questions	111
5 SQL*Plus 101	113
How to Access SQL*Plus	114
Access from the Command Line	115
Icon-Based Access	116
Ending Your SQL*Plus Session	116
Data Definition Language (DDL)	116
create/drop Statement	117
Data Types	118
The describe Command	118
Not Null	120
Data Manipulation Language (DML)	120
The insert Statement	121
The select Statement	122
The SQL*Plus Environment	128
Joining Tables	133
Primary Keys and Foreign Keys	133
The break on Clause	135
Using break on with the skip Option	136
Computing Column Values at Break	137
break on report	138
Chapter 5 Questions	140
6 PL/SQL 101	141
Terminology	143
PL/SQL: The Oracle Programming Language	144
PL/SQL Character Set	146
Supported Characters	146
Arithmetic Operators and Relational Operators	147

PL/SQL Structure	147
PL/SQL Variables	149
Control Structures	152
if Logic Structures	154
case Expressions	156
Loops	158
SQL in Your PL/SQL Programs	160
Cursors	161
The Cursor for Loop	163
Exception Handling	165
Stored Procedures and Functions	167
Stored Procedures	167
Functions	171
Basic Debugging	173
Moving On	174
Chapter 6 Questions	175
7 DBA 101	177
Terminology	178
What Is a Database?	179
What Is an Oracle Instance?	180
The System Global Area (SGA)	180
Oracle Background Processes	181
startup open	182
shutdown	184
The Oracle Tablespace	186
Create Tablespace—extent management dictionary	186
Create Tablespace—extent management local autoallocate	187
create undo tablespace	188
alter tablespace add data file	188
alter tablespace offline	189
Drop a Tablespace	189
Rollback Segments	190
create rollback segment	190
alter rollback segment online	192
Shrinking a Rollback Segment Manually	192
drop rollback segment	193
Redo Logs	193
Multiplexed Redo Logs	193
Dropping a Redo Log	194
Adding a Redo Log	195
Control Files—The Database Safety Checklist	196
How Control Files Are Created	196