



www.*DanHotka.com*
Quarterly Newsletter

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Dan Hotka is a Training Specialist who has over 29 years in the computer industry and over 24 years of experience with Oracle products. He is an internationally recognized Oracle expert with Oracle experience dating back to the Oracle V4.0 days. Dan's latest book is the [SQL Developer Handbook](#) by Oracle Press. He is also the author of [Oracle9i Development By Example](#) and [Oracle8i from Scratch](#) by Que and has co-authored 7 other popular books including the [Database Oracle10g Linux Administration](#) by Oracle Press. He is frequently published in Oracle trade journals, and regularly speaks at Oracle conferences and user groups around the world.

Invite Dan to speak at your next event.

Oracle Corp is rolling out Oracle Analytics, a cool end-user data access tool also known as Siebel Analytics.

I attended training on this new tool in June where the Oracle folks assured us that Oracle Discoverer was not being cycled out, but that Oracle Analytics will be an additional Business Intelligence offering.

I am currently developing two courses: Oracle Analytics for End Users and Oracle Analytics for Developers. Both courses will be two days in length. The details are in the Educational Offerings section of this newsletter.

The Oracle Discoverer product bundle is known as Oracle BI SE (Standard Edition) and the Oracle Analytics product bundle is known as Oracle BI EE (Enterprise Edition).

I am pleased to be involved with the Oracle Analytics products. This is a web-based tool that works great on my portable computer lab. I am enjoying the opportunity to enhance my training curriculum in the Business Intelligence arena.

I should have these new courses ready to go by mid September.

I have updated my TOAD course for the latest version of TOAD (version 9.1). This course includes the latest features of TOAD. The

Fall 2007

course guide is a nice annotated booklet complete with white papers.

I just completed 5 years of self-employment. Each year has brought different opportunities and training cycle timeframes. I am seeing the 3-year cycle of repeat business my friend Damian O'Neil in Ireland spoke of. This year differs from other years in that I've been doing more writing and courseware development as paid projects than in the past.

This newsletter, along with all prior newsletters, are available at www.DanHotka.com.

What's in this issue?

Tuning When You Cannot Change the Code!

- Part 3 of a 4 part series covering some useful Init.ora parameter settings. See page 3.

Public Training Offerings

Watch for Dan in your area with these courses. Contact Dan for

course details and enrollment. Check www.DanHotka.com, click on Onsite Training for course outlines, or, just ask Dan.

September 11, Pittsburgh
TOAD Tips and Techniques

September 24 - 26, Minneapolis
SQL Statement Tuning Tips and Techniques

September 27, Minneapolis
TOAD Tips and Techniques

October 12, Minneapolis
TOAD Tips and Techniques

December 3 - 5, Minneapolis
SQL Statement Tuning Tips and Techniques

December 6, Minneapolis
TOAD Tips and Techniques

User Group Information:

- See Dan at BROUG, VOUG, and OOW!
- See page 2 for Dates and Submitted Papers.
- Speaking topics for User Group – www.DanHotka.com

Where Is Your PC Right Now?

Tips on securing and protecting portable computers on page 4.

Product Review

- TOAD 9.1 is out. See Page 5 for a summary of new features.
- SQL Developer 1.2 is out. Review this article for a summary of new features.

Dan In Print...

- *Oracle SQL Developer Handbook* ISBN: 0-07-148474-4.
- *Oracle Database 10g Linux Administration* ISBN: 0-07-223053-3 (I did the Oracle10g tuning chapters).

Order your copy today at www.Amazon.com.

Educational Offerings

- Oracle Analytics Course Offerings.
- My Training Pricing Model – up to 15 attendees for 1 low price!
- On-site at your company or in your city via user group participation...see Educational Offerings.

Cool Websites:

- Kevin McGinnis shares his useful websites. See page 6.

Free Downloads:

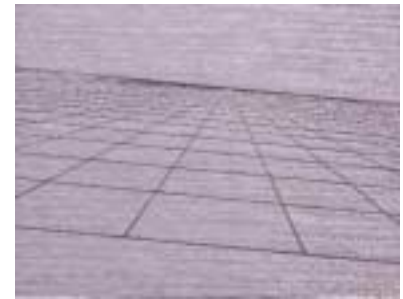
- Check out Page 6 for download sites of previously-discussed products.

The Back Page:

- Air museum in western Iowa, progress on the 60 bug, current problems.

Puzzler...

What was this Oracle logo called?



Go to www.DanHotka.com for the answer!

User Group Information

See Dan this fall at these events:

BROUG (Baton Rouge Oracle Users Group) September 20, 2007

SQL Developer Tips and Techniques

www.broug.org

VOUG October 4 - 5, 2007

Tuning When You Cannot Change the Code!

Oracle Discoverer Tips and Techniques

All The Free Stuff from Oracle Corp

www.Voug.org

Oracle Open Week November 11 - 15, 2007

Submitted papers:

Tuning When You Cannot Change the Code!

Oracle Discoverer Tips and Techniques

www.Oracle.com

I am available to speak at your user group. A complete listing of available topics is on my website.

Let me know what you would like and I can fill your timeslot.

Educational Offerings

Remember that my portable computer lab make these courses very easy to teach at your site. The cost of this lab is included in my 1-fee pricing model (see below).

New Courses:

Oracle Analytics for End Users

This course covers the development of Oracle/Siebel Analytics reports, ad-hoc queries, Answers, and custom dashboards.

Attendees have the opportunity to build a variety of reports using the latest features of the Analytics web-based toolset that includes various display types, graphs, and gauges.

This course has 12 units, each has a hands-on lab exercise. These sections cover:

- ODBC Connections
- Creating Queries and Charts
- Pivot Tables
- Narrative View
- Working with Answers
- Prompts and Variables
- Interactive Dashboards

The course guide makes a nice reference guide as well.

Oracle Analytics for Developers

This 2-day course covers the administrative and Analytics environment setup and configuration. Attendees will learn how to build the Analytics repository from the physical layer through the presentation layer.

Topics in this section include:

- Validation
- Calculation Measures
- Organization
- Multiple data sources
- Aggregates
- Time Series Measures

Attendees will build custom RPD files, install and test their RPD files in a application server/web server environment.

Training Pricing Model

I price my courses at a fixed rate for up to 15 attendees. This rate compares to the price that others charge for just 2 to 4 attendees.

This course fee includes the use of my portable computer lab. There is a separate per attendee charge that covers the cost of the student guide and any additional books that might be associated with the course. This student fee is anywhere from \$30 to \$150, depending on the course.

Current Course Offerings

Give your technical staff that competitive edge with Oracle Workshops! These courses are designed to enhance your staff's skill set to perform their job better.

These workshops are designed to be held at your location. These courses use my portable computer lab. On-site instruction enables more people to be trained with the same training dollar.

The course utilizes a variety of current tools. Students will have the opportunity to learn more about SQL Developer, TOAD, TextPAD, as well as the Oracle tools like

SQL*Plus, iSQL*Plus, and Dan's new Java-based SQL Tuner.

Oracle SQL Tuning Tips and Techniques with Optional 3rd Day Advanced Tuning Topics

TOAD for IT Staff

SQL Developer for IT Staff

Oracle Analytics for End Users

Oracle Analytics for Developers

Oracle Discoverer for End Users

Introduction to Oracle (SQL)

Oracle Intro to PL/SQL

Oracle Advanced PL/SQL

Oracle Fundamentals

Oracle10g New Features for Developers

Introduction to UNIX/Linux

UNIX/Linux Shell Programming

Oracle/Unix Scripting Tips and Techniques

Tuning When You Cannot Change the Code – Part 3 of 4

The third part of this series will illustrate some useful Oracle startup parameter settings that might be helpful.

Oracle i8 introduced a new init.ora parameter called `OPTIMIZER_INDEX_CACHING` which was intended to help with this inequity of the physical i/o versus logical i/o characteristics of the index in the buffer cache.

Unfortunately, this parameter defaults to 0, even in my Oracle9.2

instance! This translates to logical-reads are the same as physical-reads. Experiment with this setting, start by setting it to 90. This setting could and should be set to the index buffer cache hit ration but 90 is a good place to start. Experiment with this setting by using 'ALTER SESSION SET OPTIMIZER_INDEX_CACHING = 90'. The range for this setting is 0 to 100.

Oracle8 also introduced OPTIMIZER_INDEX_COST_ADJ which is the cost of index access versus full-table scans. This parameter also has a range of 0 to 100 and defaults to 100. This tells the CBO that the cost of indexed scans is about the same as doing full-table scans.

This parameter should be set between 10 and 15 for OLTP type systems and around 50 for DDS type systems. An accurate way of coming up with this parameter setting comes from information in the V\$SYSTEM_EVENT view, in the column AVERAGE_WAIT. Plug in the average of 'db file sequential reads' / 'db file scattered reads'.

```
SELECT EVENT,
AVERAGE_WAIT
FROM V$SYSTEM_EVENT
WHERE EVENT LIKE 'db file
s%';
```

```
EVENT
AVERAGE_WAITS
```

```
=====
=====
```

```
db file sequential reads
.33178629
db file scattered reads
2.190087
```

These parameters were documented with the release of Oracle8i, in the *Oracle8i Server Reference* manual.

The default settings for these parameters are totally unrealistic. Experiment with these parameters in your test or development environments, see if they help your database.

Where Is Your PC Right Now?

I read every now and then where a portable computer was stolen (out of a car/restaurant/hotel room), misplaced, and incredible amounts of sensitive data are compromised.

I receive useful IT news tips from connectITnews.com. Stuart Crawford published *Protecting Your Laptop – inexpensively* on June 26, 2007. Here are some of his comments and suggestions.

Office Security:

- Escort all visitors
- Do not leave unsecured PCs unattended

After Hours Security:

- Who has after-hours access?
- Doors propped open by the cleaning staff?
- Trust the contract people who have access to your offices?

Personal Security:

- Locking cables do not work
- When not using the laptop, take it with you or lock it in a drawer/secured device.

Backup Often!

- You can never have too many backups.

Prevent Access:

- Bios passwords protect access to the computer but the data can still be accessed with the hard drive removed.

Encrypt Your Information:

- Data encryption is available on many business edition of new desktop operating systems
- Keep the encryption key in a separate location

His summary included risk tolerance, time to redevelop lost intellectual property, value of data lost to others, etc. These are inexpensive solutions that will help protect the PC and the data on it.

Product Review

This quarter I reviewed the latest release of both TOAD and SQL Developer.

Excerpts from www.quest.com :

Toad® for Oracle v9.1

A new release of Toad for Oracle is now available. For a full list of new features and bug fixes, please see the release notes.

Major new Features:

Toad Policy Manager – provides project and development managers with

more control over their environments by allowing them to easily manage the access rights of users and groups, and putting standards into place, wherein users can share components like templates and options

Action Recall – enables more consistency and repeatability of processes across a project team by recording the actions or steps that a developer takes and storing them for future reference

Toad Tips – utilizes Help call-outs and pop-up messages to provide users with access to training on Toad as they work through the product, increasing awareness and usage of helpful features

CodeXpert Scheduling – streamlines and automates the process of scheduling code reviews, which improve the quality of code that is delivered to production

Smart Watches in Debugger – lists all the PL/SQL code variables in a program to help developers choose which ones to set watches on

External Debugging – Just-in-Time Debugging is now called External Debugging

SQL Developer v1.2 Release Notes

Excerpts from www.oracle.com:

Oracle SQL Developer 1.2 is known as the "Migration Release". This latest release of SQL Developer includes the *Developer Migration Workbench*, a new, redeveloped tool that greatly extends the functionality and usability offered by the

original Oracle Migration Workbench. Its tight integration with SQL Developer provides users with a single point to browse database objects and data in third party databases, and to migrate from these databases to Oracle.

Additionally SQL Developer 1.2 includes support for Oracle Application Express 3.0.1(Oracle APEX).

- Oracle SQL Developer Migration Workbench
- Full integration with SQL Developer means that users have one tool to browse third party databases, migrate selected objects to Oracle and then work with them.
- Quick Migration Wizard offers least privilege migration i.e No DBA privilege is required.
- Step driven migration offers control at each stage of the migration process.
- Fine grain migration support provides users with the ability to select specific objects for migration.
- Complex object migration supports stored procedures, triggers and views.
- Translation Scratch Editor offers single statement migration.
- Translation Difference Viewer provides side by side comparison by

matching statements and blocks.

- Oracle APEX 3.0.1 (Oracle APEX 3.0.1 is scheduled for release in 2007)
- Connect to and browse all Oracle APEX applications associated with a database schema (At application and page level)
- Run a number of reports that allow users to report on Workspaces, Applications, Pages and Schemas
- Export and Import Oracle APEX applications using a context menu

Cool Websites

Hello Everyone!



It has been a few issues since I have contributed anything for Dan, so I will try to make it up to everyone with a few additional great links below.

Enjoy!

Kevin McGinnis
Senior IT System Specialist

Bluebottle Freemail

<http://www.bluebottle.com>
Bluebottle is a great new free e-mail service that offers very good anti-spam filtering. You can access your free anti-spam

mail via the web or through your e-mail client using POP3 or SMTP.

Microsoft Certified Professional Magazine On-line

<http://mcpmag.com>

This is a great site website for both Certified and Non Certified Microsoft Professionals. Features include a very nice Tech Library, Tech Portal, Certification Career Path Info, Salary Surveys, Monthly Newsletters.....the list goes on and on.

John Barnett's Windows XP Help And Support

<http://xphelpandsupport.mvps.org/>

This is a great website for Windows XP Support and Help! It includes Beginner Guides, Life Savers, XP Faq's.

Dark Reading

<http://www.darkreading.com/default.asp>

Part of the TechWeb Network, the Dark Reading website is a security dashboard for IT professionals who don't have the time or the luxury of combing wirefeeds, multiple bug feeds, or vendor Websites to find out what's new or how well it works. In other words, come for the news, but hang around for the analysis, opinion, and product reviews. (Or come back later, when some sales exec isn't bursting an artery in your doorway because a malware attack has slowed orders on the e-commerce server.)

Free Downloads

SQL Developer: Oracle Corp has a new release (version 1.2) now available on Oracle Technet (www.Oracle.com → Downloads). You can download just SQL Developer and you can download SQL Developer with an installed Java Runtime Environment. This same download page has a white paper on the new features included in this option. Pay attention to Sue Harper and Kris Rice's blogs: always a good source of information on various features of SQL Developer.

JS Tuner: Email DHotka@Earthlink.net and request this tool. This tool will assist you with enhanced explain plans and useful index info/hints/and SQL history at your fingertips.

JS Analyzer: Email DHotka@Earthlink.net and request this tool. This tool makes running the character-mode TKProf and SQL*Plus interface Trace Analyzer a snap. No more typing long trace file names.

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VW Update

Oldbug is just about done. My middle one (Emily) helped me get the top on around the July 4th holiday. There are just a couple of little projects left like the window edging along the top and a little interior work where the headliner meets the car in the back.



I am having all kinds of problems getting a good master brake cylinder for this car. People tell me that this many cannot be bad, and I want to believe that, but I've seen enough bad ones that I know when they are not any good.

The Honda motorcycle did sell. I just never drove it. I found a good home for it.

Air Museum

This air museum is in western Iowa in the small community of Greenfield. They have many cool classics on display, most predate WWII and were donated by local enthusiasts.

This museum had pictures of the Buddy Holly plane crash, showing the musicians lying in the field near the airplane...a little too graphic for

me...glad the press doesn't do this anymore!



Rotary Engine from a 1929 aircraft



1929 Glider



cool toys



One of 6 WWII Trainers, last one in existence.



Picture of the first flight from a ship...local Iowa flyer Eugene Ely who died months after this pic doing stunts



Memorial Rock near Greenfield updated each year by a local artist.