



www.DanHotka.com
Quarterly Newsletter

DHotka@Earthlink.net



Dan Hotka is a Training Specialist who has over 30 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.

S Spring is near and after a near record snowfall for Iowa this season, it cannot come fast enough for me.

The regional user groups are where it is at now folks. I spoke last week at the UTOUG (Utah Oracle Users Group); we had a very interactive session on "All the Free Stuff from Oracle Corp". I spoke at RMOUG in February on a Discoverer topic. Discoverer is still alive and well. RMOUG continues to draw top speakers and record attendance. These regional user groups are drawing good speakers and are great local educational opportunities.

I will be speaking at Collaborate in April. OAUG selected my new "Why is my Oracle10g Database slower than my Oracle9i Database" topic. I've already given this presentation twice. This presentation covers some general indexing guidelines then hits hard on some tablespace features and is complete with a case study.

I hope to speak at the Puget Sound Oracle Users Group in July...check out www.PSOUG.org as they have a lot of useful information to share.

Last year at this time, I could not find a training gig to save my life. Now, I am almost booked up till October (taking into account I block July for RV travel...). I have been pretty busy since last August...no recession in my world yet.

Spring 2008

I have updated [my SQL Performance Tuning](#) course (public offerings in Minneapolis), the [Intro to PL/SQL](#), and the [Advanced PL/SQL](#). I added the PL/SQL profiler (with hands-on lab) along with 10g and 11g topics to each of these. I am writing the [Oracle Analytics/Answers for End Users](#) right now. I will write an [Oracle Analytics/Answers for Administrators](#)...watch for its announcement.

I need your feedback on a new course idea. Check out the Feedback section on page 4.

The popular [Advanced PL/SQL Programming Tips and Techniques](#) is being offered April in Minneapolis. This is a great course to both update your PL/SQL skills and to become familiar with the newer Oracle10g PL/SQL features. Learn by doing...hands-on lab exercises with each section.

My new [Oracle Analytics/Answers for End Users](#) is being offered in Minneapolis in early May and again in August. Mark your calendars.

This newsletter covers some new features in the latest version of TOAD and SQL Developer (learned at RMOUG). I found some useful SQL for Stats Pack reporting at RMOUG.

I have reviewed Robert G. Freeman's new book: [Oracle Database 11g New Features](#). I have

read Roberts past New Features books cover to cover to learn about all the new features of the latest database.

I have an article on numbers for your body...cholesterol, blood pressure, etc.

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

What's in this issue?

Product Review

- TOAD New Features
- SQL Developer New Features

See Page 4

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.

April 1 - 3, 2008 Oracle SQL Performance and Tuning (Minneapolis)

April 4, 2008 TOAD Tips and Techniques (Minneapolis)

April 22 - 24, 2008 Advanced PL/SQL Programming (Minneapolis)

May 5 - 6, 2008 Oracle/Siebel Analytics for End Users (Minneapolis)

August 12 - 13, 2008 Oracle/Siebel Analytics for End Users (Minneapolis)

August 18 - 20, 2008 Oracle SQL Performance and Tuning (Minneapolis)

August 21, 2008 TOAD Tips and Techniques (Minneapolis)

Feedback:

- I'd like your input on a new course idea . Page 4.

User Group Information:

- Check out my new BI topic: **Oracle Analytics/Answers Tips and Techniques**
- See Dan at Collaborate08!
- See page 3 for Dates and Submitted Papers.
- I have several new presentations for User Groups – See New Presentations. A complete list of topics is at www.danhotka.com

Top 15 SQL from Stats Pack

Useful Information from RMOUG. Page 3

Oracle Web Sites

A few recent discoveries full of useful information. Page 5

Useful Human Numbers

Know your normal body numbers. See Page 4.

Book Review

Oracle Database 11g New Features

Check out this useful book by Robert G. Freeman on page 4.

Educational Offerings

- Oracle Analytics/Answers 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.

Featured Presentation

- Oracle Analytics/Answers Tips and Techniques Details on page 5.

The Back Page:

- Bug Update/Bug Event
- Car Dealer Web Sites

Puzzler...

Superman's alter ego was Clark Kent. Lois Lane worked with both Clark and Superman. The cartoon Underdog (a spoof/takeoff from Superman)...what was Underdog's alter ego? What was the name of the female reporter who aided Underdog?

Go to www.DanHotka.com for the answer!

User Group Information

See Dan in 2008 at these events:

Collaborate08 April 13 - 17, 2008 (Denver)

Why is my Oracle10g Database slower than my Oracle9i Database?

www.OAUG.org

OracleDays 2008 July 17 - 18
(Puget Sound, WA)

Discoverer Tips and Techniques

Analytics/Answers Tips and Techniques

www.PSOUG.org

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.

Top 15 SQL from Stats Pack

I attended Dan Fink's presentation on Analytical SQL and Stats Pack at RMOUG. He had a lot of interesting things to say. He has done a considerable amount of work in creating reports that run against the Stats Pack repository. Dan illustrated this SQL script that pulls the top 15 resource-intensive SQL statements from a series of Stats Pack snapshots. The "Top 15 SQL Summary" script produces such a report. This script, the presentation, and other scripts are available on his website. See Oracle Websites for Dan's website location.

The presentation is full of analytical SQL that Dan uses to produce a variety of time-related statistics from the Stats Pack repository.

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/Answers 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.

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/Answers for End Users

Oracle Analytics for Administrators

Oracle Discoverer for End Users

Oracle Discoverer for Administrators

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

Feedback

I need your feedback. I'd like to create an Advanced SQL course that will cover Analytical SQL, regular expressions, ODBC setup and usage, resetting passwords, and simple trouble-shooting. Let me know if a course like this would be of interest to you.

Book Review

Oracle Database 11g New Features

ISBN: 978-0-07-149661-2

By: Robert. G. Freeman

Publisher: Oracle Press/Osborne.

I look forward to acquiring one of these books for each major release of the Oracle database. I read it from cover to cover. Robert does an excellent job with the new features and working examples.

This book starts off with useful migration tips. It contains complete units on ASM, AMM, ADDM, AWR, Scheduler, Parameters, and Resource Manager.

Chapter 3 covers all the new and updated recovery features.

Chapter 4 covers new and updated Advisories. Change management, security, and BI/DW are all covered as well.

I focused on Chapter 8 because it deals with the changes to SQL*Plus, SQL, and PL/SQL.

The Automatic tuning features are covered in depth and there is a

chapter for everything else including XMLDB and Java.

Tom Kyte did the forward and Arup Nanda has featured contributions.

This is a 'must have' book when moving forward with Oracle11g.

Nice job Robert.



Useful Human Numbers

Source: Unknown

I found this article on good/bad cholesterol and other useful human numbers and thought I'd share. Unfortunately, I did not get the source...sorry.

Total Cholesterol: < 200 mg daily

- LDL (bad) :
 - Optimal < 100
 - Near Optimal 100 – 129
 - Borderline high 130 – 159
 - High 160 – 189
 - Very High > 189

- HDL (Good) 50 or more mg/daily
- Triglycerides < 150 mg/daily
- Blood Pressure < 120/80
- Fasting Glucose < 100 mg/daily
- Body Mass Index < 25 (<http://nhlbisupport.com/bmi/> has a BMI calculator!)
- Waist Circumference < 35 inches
- Exercise 30 min most days per week

Product Review

TOAD 9.5 New Features

TOAD 9.5 has been out for a few months now. This new release has some cool new features that include:

- A tighter install wizard
- Stats Pack Browser
 - Data, time-series, and trending data
 - Graphs/exports to Excel, etc
- Oracle11g Hierarchical Profiler
 - Uses new Oracle 11g features to show call tree and times. You can drill into each part for specific times/stats.
- QP5 Parser has full Oracle 10g syntax support
- Additional features include

- more information on the session browser
- Additional Schema browser items, integration and faster execution
- Tighter integration with other Quest Software products

SQL Developer New Features

I sat in on Sue Harper's demonstration of SQL Developer version 1.5. This product is not GA yet and she did not indicate when it would be available.

Key Features I remember include:

- Support for Oracle 11g
- Support for My SQL
- Support for Times Ten
- Support for Applications Express
- Additional code insights information
- Access SQL History with <ctrl> up and down arrows
- Change text case using <ctrl> “
- Java and Queue Support in Connection Navigator
- Schema Copy and Schema Compare
- Export Wizard
- Open Export file in SQL Window
- SQL Worksheet Improvements:

- More drag and drop choices
- Flashback
- Code Templates
- Dockable SQL History

- Updated Database Find
 - Works across schemas
 - Works with all object types
 - Navigates to objects

Things I've discovered:

- PL/SQL Debugger works much better with Oracle 10g+

Oracle Web Sites

<http://www.optimaldba.com/>

This is Dan Fink's website. He is gracious about sharing his knowledge and scripts. I've known Dan for years, we met at RMOUG. The Top 15 SQL featured in "15 Top SQL from Stats Pack" can be downloaded from here as well as several other useful scripts.

Thanks for sharing Dan!

I stumbled across this website, <http://juliandyke.com/>

on a google search. I have not personally met Julian yet. He seems like the kind of person an Oracle professional should get to know.

His site is chucked full of Oracle knowledge, downloadable papers, various tool usage, diagnostics, internals, and more.

His impressive resume is on the initial page.

Check it out.

Featured Presentation

Oracle Analytics/Answers Tips and Techniques

Dan will demonstrate the following features in a live-demo format. This presentation is packed full of tips and techniques for using Oracle Analytics (Oracle BI EE).

Dan will cover these topics using Analytics and Answers:

- Review of the web interface
- Exceptions
- Advanced Conditions
- Adding columns/Formatting data with Calculations
- Graph Review
- Creating and updating a Dashboard!

Free Downloads

Oracle PL/SQL Profiler Paper and Script: Learn how to use this free PL/SQL profiler from Oracle Corp. The paper also covers using the PL/SQL Profiler from TOAD.

Download this paper and script
from www.DanHotka.com.

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.

The Back Page

Bug Update



Redbug received a front-end rebuild. These bugs had king pins until 1966. My dad came over and helped me replace all the steel brake lines as well. We enjoy the tinkering projects.

I also installed a new clutch (more bad parts that were new). It does not try to shake itself apart anymore.

I serviced the engine while it was out of the car and completely greased everything. I am hopeful that I have the brake problem solved.

Blue bug is also ready for the season. It got a complete chassis lubrication (back bearings are a pain to get to but needed the attention). This car also had bent parts on the right front. I discovered my long issue with the struts is that they bend some. I engineered a support that should help keep the strut from bending again in the future.

Remember when redbug looked like this?



Bug Event

The Bi-State VW club (Iowa and Illinois...mostly Eastern Iowa and the Quad Cities) held their annual event this past August in Hampton, Ill.



This is Tom Bruch and his early 50's VW racecar. Tom rebuilt the 36 hp motor for redbug.



This VW Rabbit, although not an air-cooled bug, is unique all the same. It runs on vegetable oil.



Blue bug near a cool VW camper.

Car Manufacturer Websites

This information is from [The Handy Man](#), December/January 2008.

Chrysler/Dodge/Plymouth
newchryslerparts.com
dodgeparts.com

Ford/Mercury/Lincoln
Discountfordpartsat2kford.com

Honda
Hondapartscheap.com

Toyota
Toyotadiscountparts.com

GM/Chevy/Buick/Olds/GMC/Pontiac
Newchevroletparts.com

Nissan
Nissanparts2u.com