



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.

I It is fall here in Iowa and along with the cooler weather comes a new release of the Oracle database. Oracle 11g will be GA soon and comes with a host of new and updated features. I was able to participate in the beta cycle of this new release and keep my Oracle knowledge current.

I will be updating my popular Oracle SQL Tuning course (next public offering in Minneapolis December 3 - 5 followed by 1-day of TOAD Tips and Techniques on Dec 6) to reflect new tuning features of 11g.

This tuning course covers Oracle9i and Oracle10g extensively. It is not too late for anyone within easy travel distance to Minneapolis to attend.

The other public course on my schedule is again in Minneapolis and is the popular Advanced PL/SQL Programming Tips and Techniques. 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.

Training tends to slow down with the approaching holidays. IT departments are focused on completing year-end projects. I use this time to create new courseware, such as my Oracle Analytics/Answers for End Users,

Winter 2007

which should be available by year's end.

The main component of Oracle Analytics (Oracle BI EE) is a tool called Answers. I am in the process of building a 2-day on-site course for this exciting new BI tool.

This newsletter contains new information on a free PL/SQL Profiler provided by Oracle Corp. I even illustrate a cool SQL*Plus script useful to print the profiler output. This script contains some useful SQL*Plus programming techniques as well. I am providing a white paper and this script for the asking.

I have a new presentation for user groups: [Why is my Oracle10g Database Slower than my Oracle9i Database?](#) I cover a variety of Oracle10g internal topics that can point to certain index issues, issues that did not exist in Oracle9i.

I have reviewed Rich Niemiec's new book: [Oracle Database 10g Performance Tuning Tips and Techniques](#). I gain insights to the latest Oracle tuning tips and features from this book.

I discovered another good article on protecting your identity while shopping on-line. I find these articles from www.connectitnews.com useful. I hope you do too.

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

What's in this issue?

Product Review

- Free PL/SQL Profiler from Oracle Corp, page 4
- Available white paper and script to format/print output.

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.

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

December 6, Minneapolis
TOAD Tips and Techniques

January 15 - 17, 2008
Minneapolis Advanced PL/SQL Programming Tips and Techniques

User Group Information:

- Check out my new database topic: **Why is my Oracle10g Database slower than my Oracle9i Database?**
- See Dan at RMOUG and Collaborate08!

- See page 2 for Dates and Submitted Papers.
- Speaking topics for User Group – www.danhotka.com

10 Security Tips for On-line Shopping

Tips on protecting your credentials while shopping on-line. Page 4.

Book Review

Oracle Database 10g Performance Tuning Tips and Techniques

Check out this useful book by Richard Niemiec on page 3.

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

Why is my Oracle10g Database slower than my Oracle9i Database? Details on page 5.

The Back Page:

- Old Threshers Reunion, Mt Pleasant, Iowa annual event.
- Pizza Soup Recipe

Puzzler...

What was the first computer that the Oracle RDBMS ran on?

Go to www.DanHotka.com for the answer!

User Group Information

See Dan in 2008 at these events:

RMOUG February 13 - 14, 2008

Submitted Papers:

Why is my Oracle10g Database slower than my Oracle9i Database?

Oracle Discoverer Tips and Techniques

Oracle Analytics Tips and Techniques

All The Free Stuff from Oracle Corp

www.RMOUG.org

Collaborate08 April 13 - 17, 2008 (Denver)

Submitted Papers

Why is my Oracle10g Database slower than my Oracle9i Database?

Oracle Discoverer Tips and Techniques

Oracle Analytics Tips and Techniques

All The Free Stuff from Oracle Corp

www.OAUG.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.

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

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

Book Review

Oracle Database10g Performance Tuning Tips and Techniques

ISBN: 0-07-226305-9

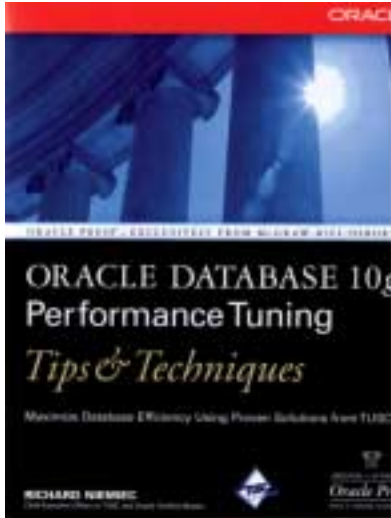
By: Richard J. Niemiec

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. Rich and his crew keep this book current with useful information about the new database release. Their topics are always supplemented with useful tools and valuable scripts that either find a particular problem or solves a particular problem. This book covers the new features of the Oracle10g database, things people working with the database should know. The book has units on indexing, init.ora parameters that deal with performance issues, the basics of tuning SQL (including the basics on the explain plan and using hints), to finding complex problem SQL. This book also covers advanced topics such as tuning RAC and problem discovery using the V\$ and X\$ tables. This book also covers valuable tools such as Statspack and AWR. One of my favorite chapters has to be chapter 15: Performing a Quick System Review. Capturing this information gives the tuner a benchmark to track progress in overall Oracle database tuning.

This is a 'must have' book for anyone doing Oracle tuning.

Nice job Rich.



10 Security Tips for On-line Shopping

1 November, 2007
By Mark Cox

I condensed this article, the entire text can be viewed at:
<http://www.connectitnews.com/usa/story.cfm?item=1378>

Online holiday sales are projected to increase 21 percent in 2007, according to Forrester Research. But while consumers continue to increase their use of holiday shopping, there is also widespread fear that they will be the victims of identity theft. That's why Huntington Bank has developed ten tips that shoppers can follow to make for a safe and secure holiday season.

Make your list, check it twice and follow Huntington's ten cyber shopping tips:

1. Check your accounts daily for any activity you did not initiate.

2. Do business with companies you know and trust. Research a company before revealing personal or financial information online. If you get an email or pop-up message from the seller while you're browsing that asks for financial information, don't reply or click on the link in the message. Legitimate companies don't ask for this information via email or pop-ups.

3. Watch out for fake "look-alike" sites. Some con artists disguise their Web site as a well-known company's site. Check your browser's address bar to make sure you're always using the correct Web site address

4. Check a company's privacy policy before doing business with it.

5. Only provide personal information if you're on a secure Web site. Once you are logged in, make sure the Web address starts with "https" ("s" means it's secure). For added safety, check for a site certificate before submitting information on a secure page. Confirm the owner of the certificate by clicking on the padlock icon at the bottom of most browsers. You should see the owner listed as well as the site address. This address should match the Web site address at the top of the page; if they do not match, you may be at a fraudulent Web site.

6. Never respond to emails asking you to "confirm" recent transactions after you shop. These likely are "phishing" scams sent to lure private information from you.

7. Maintain a paper trail. Print and save records of your online transactions.

8. Do not share your passwords with anyone and never provide your

social security number, birth date, or mother's maiden name in an email.

9. Make sure all of your security software is up-to-date before you do your online shopping.

10. Use a separate email account for your online shopping. You can set up a free email account online through several different services.

Product Review

The Oracle PL/SQL profiler allows one to see how much time was spent on each and every line of PL/SQL code. Why is this important? When tuning PL/SQL, it is important to see where time is being spent. Without the ability to profile PL/SQL, one is simply guessing as to where the time was spent.

The PL/SQL Profiler has been around since Oracle8i, it is easy to install and easy to use.

Ask me for my white paper on "Using the Oracle PL/SQL Profiler". This paper has complete details on installing and using this feature.

When in use, three tables get populated with the run information:

```
PLSQL_PROFILER_RUNS  
PLSQL_PROFILER_UNITS  
PLSQL_PROFILER_DATA
```

The profiler session is initiated with a 'DBMS_PROFILER.START_PROFILER'. The PL/SQL package, procedure, and/or function is then executed. When the profiling

session is complete, a DBMS_PROFILER.STOP_PROFILING' command is issued. During the profiling session, data is being collected and populated into the three above-mentioned tables.

PLSQL_PROFILER_RUNS has information about each time the profiler is started, including the comment entered when the profiler session was initiated. The PLSQL_PROFILE_UNITS contains information about the PL/SQL code executed during the run. Each procedure, function, and package will have its own line in this table. The PLSQL_PROFILE_DATA contains the executed lines of code, code execution time, and more. Link this table with USER_OBJECT to get the actual text code associated with the profiling information.

My white paper covers SQL used to extract and organize the profiling information into useable data. I have written the PROFILER_RPT.sql that combines this SQL into a useful report.

Ask me for this white paper and the profiler_rpt.sql script, or, go to the downloads section of my website.

Featured Presentation

Why is my Oracle10g Database slower than my Oracle9i Database?

Have you migrated your business applications to Oracle10g from prior versions to have them suffer from unexplained performance issues? Do you notice that the explain plans have changed and indexes that were previously used in the prior database environment are now not being selected?

If so, then this is a must-see presentation. Dan will discuss a little-known index statistic and the impact that it has on new tablespace features now available in Oracle10g. Dan will even provide a script that will help identify if your database environment is suffering from this issue.

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.

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.

The Back Page

Old Threshers Reunion

Every Labor Day weekend, the Old Threshers Reunion meets in Mt Pleasant, Iowa. I attended this year with a good friend. They have all kinds of engines and machines from yesteryear. The huge steam engines are always fascinating. Many of these got scrapped during WWII.



These are Maytag gasoline motors. These motors powered washing machines. My grandmother had one of these washers...they have not really changed much for 50+ years! Maytag has since closed their plant in Newton, IA...where all of these motors and washers were once built.



They had it all...a Cosley vehicle/engine display, a steam train that circled the event, street cars that took you to another part, engines of all kinds, belt driven wood working, belt driven print linotypes, old printing presses, old power plant engines/generators (amazing how little they used to produce!). I remember reading how builders were still putting gas pipe in walls as late as 1920 because everyone thought electricity was a passing fad!

They had a working steam shovel this year.



My Dad had one of these lawnmowers...he made a go-cart from it that I enjoyed for years.



Pizza Soup

Sid Jackson was a heck of a nice guy. He served in WWII in the Royal Canadian Air Force with honor. He was best known here in Des Moines for his art...sketches/water colors/etc. He made this soup that he called Petza Soup. The local grocery store was so fascinated in it that they used to make and sell it in their deli.

4 cans Minestrone Soup
1 lb Italian sausage (browned and drained)
1 can diced tomatoes with basil, garlic, and oregano

Cook the sausage first; get it into as small of pieces as possible. Mix in the soup and the tomatoes. Add water to desired thickness.

Serve with grated mozzarella cheese on top!