

Diary on OTN (Oracle Technology Network) – Developer Day Event
14th July 2011, New Delhi

Hi Reader,

Today I happen to attend a OTN(Oracle Technology Network) – Developer Day Event. The event was held in Hotel Intercontinental Eros, New Delhi. It was one day event.

For those of who are not aware of OTN

What is OTN?

The **Oracle Technology Network** is the world's largest community of application developers, database admins, system admins/developers, and architects using industry-standard technologies in combination with Oracle products.

Millions of members collaborate online to share real-world expertise and best practices about how to best design, build, deploy, manage and optimize applications. OTN is also a provider of free developer workshops across the globe, as well as a sponsor of third-party conferences, user group meetings, and events.

About the Event

The event kicked-off by filling up registration form and distribution of agenda followed by breakfast.

Session 1: Development with Oracle DB 11g R2 and Oracle DB 11g XE

This was the first session on latest version of oracle database – Oracle DB 11gR2 and Oracle DB 11g XE. The session was very exhaustive and gave overview of new features of Oracle DB 11g version from the developer and architect perspective.

Session 2: Oracle SQL Developer 3.0

This session focused on the Oracle query tool – Oracle SQL Developer 3.0 and the new features added to it after version 2.1. It's a free tool from Oracle with extensive features. It can be downloaded directly from the oracle website without paying any license fee.

Oracle SQL Developer 3.0 is shipped with Oracle DB 11g release.

Some salient features of Oracle SQL Developer 3.0 highlighted in the session were:

1. PLSQL Unit Tester
2. Extended Tuning support
3. DBA Navigator
4. DBMS Scheduler
5. Database Migration
6. Data Miner
7. Schema Browser
8. Query Builder

This session was followed by a well needed tea/coffee break.

Session 3: Oracle Enterprise Manager 11g Database Management Packs for Developers

This session focused on OEM new features in Oracle 11g for developers. The presenter was innovative and mixed the presentation with demo – showing the OEM interface wherever required.

The salient features touched were:

1. Real Time PL/SQL Monitoring.
2. SQL Monitoring in real time.

This was followed by one hour lunch break.

Post-Lunch session focused mainly on APEX 4.0, PLSQL enhancement in Oracle Database 11g and Interpreting explain plan.

Session 4: Oracle Application Express 4.0

This session dealt with the Oracle Application Express version 4.0. Oracle Application Express is a database centric web application development tool. It's a browser based development and deployment tool and supports web 2.0.

The presenter was principal product manager of APEX 4.0 at Oracle and was keen on giving demo of all the features of APEX 4.0. He highlighted features like

1. Websheets
2. Dynamic Actions
3. Plug-ins
4. Team Development
5. Improved charting including Gantt and Maps.
6. Enhanced Interactive Reports

Oracle Application Express 4.0 is shipped with Oracle DB 11g release.

Session 5: PLSQL enhancement in Oracle Database 11g

This session highlighted the new features in Oracle DB 11g for PLSQL perspective.

The features which were presented were:

1. SIMPLE_INTEGER
2. In-lining
3. SQL Query Result Cache - Hints
4. PLSQL Function Based Result Cache
5. Compound Triggers
6. Security Level in DBMS_SQL
7. Fine Grained Audit Control for UTL_TCP and its cousins – Access Control Lists
8. Regexp_Count
9. Creating Disabled Trigger
10. Firing Order of Trigger
11. WHEN OTHERS THEN NULL – PLSQL Warning
12. Sequence.nextval can directly be assigned to a variable in 11g
13. CONTINUE statement
14. Named notation in SQL select is possible in 11g
15. DBMS_Parallel_Execute – Updating huge table with parallel execution
16. PLSQL Hierarchical Profiler

Session 6: Explaining the Explain Plan: Interpreting the execution of Explain Plan

This being the last session there were very few attendees left in the hall. I held the fort and tried to be attentive. The presenter was solution architect at Oracle and covered the topic well in given time slot.

The features highlighted were:

1. Different ways to see explain plan in Oracle
 - a. Explain Plan command in SQL Plus
 - b. V\$SQL_PLAN
 - c. DBMS_XPLAN package
2. Criteria for plan to be good
 - a. Serial execution – Less cost is good.
 - b. Parallel execution – Faster performance is good.
3. What is cost? Parameters on which we can tune:
 - a. Cardinality – No. of distinct rows
 - b. Access Path – Best way
 - c. Join Order – Correct Data
 - d. Join Type – Right type of Join
 - e. Partitioning Pruning
 - f. Parallelism
4. Updating the statistics using DBMS_STATS and DBMS_STATS.CREATE_EXTENDED_STATS
5. It discussed various kinds of scans viz. Full Table scan, Index unique scan, Index range scan etc.

Overall the event was very informative and gave first hand info on latest technologies in Oracle 11g from developer perspective. I have tried to highlight most of the features showcased in the event.

Hope you find it useful!

Cheers!

Vijay.