Oracle PL/SQL Performance Tuning Tips & Techniques

Oracle PL/SQL Performance Tuning Tips & Techniques
Best Practices for Improving Overall Speed, Reliability, and Security

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**Synopsis**

Proven PL/SQL Optimization Solutions In Oracle PL/SQL Performance Tuning Tips & Techniques, Oracle ACE authors with decades of experience building complex production systems for government, industry, and educational organizations present a hands-on approach to enabling optimal results from PL/SQL. The book begins by describing the discovery process required to pinpoint performance problems and then provides measurable and repeatable test cases. In-depth coverage of linking SQL and PL/SQL is followed by deep dives into essential Oracle Database performance tuning tools. Real-world examples and best practices are included throughout this Oracle Press guide. Follow a request-driven nine-step process to identify and address performance problems in web applications. Use performance-related database tools, including data dictionary views, logging, tracing, PL/SQL Hierarchical Profiler, PL/Scope, and RUNSTATS. Instrument code to pinpoint performance issues using call stack APIs, error stack APIs, and timing markers. Embed PL/SQL in SQL and manage user-defined functions. Embed SQL in PL/SQL using a set-based approach to handle large volumes of data. Properly write and deploy data manipulation language triggers to avoid performance problems. Work with advanced datatypes, including LOBs and XML. Use caching techniques to avoid redundant operations. Effectively use dynamic SQL to reduce the amount of code needed and streamline system management. Manage version control and ensure that performance fixes are successfully deployed. Code examples in the book are available for download.

**Book Information**

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This (relatively) thin book had been sitting on my desk unread, taunting me since it arrived this summer. Now the leaves have turned, the book has been read, and I can move it to my bookshelf as it certainly deserves a spot next to my collection of Steven Feuerstein’s classic PL/SQL works.

Let’s start with what Oracle PL/SQL Performance Tuning Tips & Techniques is not. This book is not a step-by-step primer on how to tune PL/SQL. It does not provide a guide for analyzing trace output and diagnosing the cause of wait events in the database. Instead, authors Rosenblum and Dorsey start by describing the many vectors by which performance problems can arise in modern multi-tiered architectures. They then describe tools and techniques that can be applied to instrument code and measure performance. Once this groundwork has been laid, they proceed in a most interesting direction. Rather than chapter after chapter of tried-and-true techniques for making incremental improvements to performance based on the results of timed executions and traces, the reader instead finds, as the subtitle promises, "Best Practices for Improving Overall Speed, Reliability and Security". The authors are both Oracle ACEs with years of experience developing applications using a "thick database" paradigm. Most of the book describes the techniques that they have developed to allow the database to efficiently do the heavy lifting, minimizing the work that needs to be done by the application server or client. These techniques support the development of efficient, scalable applications, which do most of the work on the most powerful component of the multi-tier architecture, the database server. The book includes many techniques that I’ve used myself and quite a few that were new to me.

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