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www.dbaOnline.org

Email: admin@dbaOnline.org

Editor of Current Edition: April Cai



News Letter

*DBA Online – On the front line of database administration
 DBA Online powers Oracle DBA*

DBA Online

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DBAOnline’s Another Successful Seminar

After raining non-stop for a whole week, on Saturday, 07/17/04, it finally lightened up with blue sky and white cloud. It was a perfect day. American DBAOnline successfully held its second general meeting in the year 2004 at the Clarion Hotel & Towers in Edison, New Jersey . Over one hundred Oracle professionals from the tri-state area attended the seminar, which was proudly sponsored by VERITAS and Embarcadero.



The seminar was hosted by Mr. John Zhong, who serves on the American DBAOnline committee. The president of American DBAOnline - Mr. David Wang gave the opening remarks. He also briefly introduced the new features of Oracle 10g.

Mr. Qi Wang, who’s a senior principal consultant at Oracle corporation, gave an in-depth presentation on how to build a data warehouse using the tool *Oracle Warehouse Builder*, which is a separately purchasable component of the Oracle software. Mr. Qi Wang has worked in the IT industry for over 20 years. He is a very experienced, seasoned Oracle DBA and architect. As we all

probably know, building and managing a data warehouse is different from and pose more challenges than building and managing a regular OLTP database, simply given the volume of data involved with a data warehouse. For example, it might be a piece of cake to create an index on a table in an OLTP environment, but in a warehouse situation, it may not be as easy as it might seem. Sometimes for a humongous table, it may take hours or even days to finish the task, if you're lucky not running out of temporary tablespace or encounter some other issues. Today's market trend seems to be more data volume. From a job security point of view, a vanilla DBA doesn't seem to well prepare you for a great future. Putting data warehousing skills under your belt will definitely help make you more marketable and hotly sought after. Combined his knowledge accumulated over the years and personal experiences with his projects on hand, Mr. Qi Wang stepped the audience through *Oracle Warehouse Builder* to build a data warehouse in a short time.

VERITAS is a dominant market player in the O/S management and high availability arena. As a DBA, we know how important it is to



have the O/S knowledge in order to achieve the optimal performance for our databases or simply troubleshoot and fix a seemingly database problem stemmed from the O/S level. Mr. Stephan Kwiatkowski is a senior system engineer at VERITAS. He gave a presentation titled *Practical Foundation Performance for Oracle*, and covered topics of optimal disk layout considerations, file system tunings, direct

I/O vs. Async I/O vs. Sync I/O, volume manager tuning and diska array considerations. He also briefly presented on another VERITAS product – Precise. Precise is a non-intrusive performance monitoring & analyzing tool. It has a quite graphical user interface. Basically, it takes snapshots of SGA at a frequent interval instead of logging into a database and then analyzes what's going on within the database. Mr. Stephan Kwiatkowski is a second-time presenter and sponsor on behalf of VERITAS to American DBAOnline seminars. Coming along with Stephan to show their generous support to DBAOnline is their account executive Mr. Tom McNallen from Philadelphia, PA.

As we know, there're many Oracle-related third-party tools out there on the market. Which ones are good and more appropriate to your environment? You may want to hear some peer experiences and feedback. American DBAOnline seminars may serve as a third-party tool peer-to-peer evaluation forum. What made this time different is that our member gave the demo on behalf of the vendor based upon personal experiences. Ms. Yan Zhang, who's a senior Oracle DBA

at Brown Borthers, demo'ed *DBArtisan* on behalf of Embarcadero engineers. Ms. Zhang's company purchased this product. She uses this tool on a daily basis. Its ease of use and wide spectrum of functionality have made her daily life as an Oracle DBA easier and more productive. She personally likes the tool and volunteered to give a demo on the product. By the way, Embarcadero was a sponsor of this great event. Ms. Zhang's presentation was a successful story and initiative. American DBAOnline committee would like to encourage our members to follow suit with permission from the vendor if you find a product that you use worthwhile to be introduced to our audiences.

We were also glad to have a renowned speaker – Mr. Indy Johal who gave a presentation on *Oracle 9i/10g DataGuard – Implementing Logical Standby Database*. Mr. Johal is the Oracle DBA manager at PR Newswire. He has published numerous articles on various magazines including the famous Oracle Magazine. He is also an active speaker at various large-scale technical seminars nationwide. Standby database has been improved and renamed to Data Guard since Oracle 9i. Besides physical standby databases, Oracle can also have logical databases which are open for reading and writing. Mr. Johal differentiated the physical and logical standby databases in depth, and went through the configuration and setup for both types of standby database in detail. His presentation is not only theoretical, but also practical.

The 5-hour seminar was mid-pointed with a technical quiz hosted by the committee member Ms. Carol Sheng. The audience showed an



outburst of enthusiasm. Both sponsors – VERITAS and Embarcadero held raffles. Besides T-shirts, one lucky winner took home a Porsche from Embarcadero, a remote controllable toy car this time; four lucky winners took home a sleek portable memory card from VERITAS. And, the rest of us took home some knowledge in our heads and some fun in our memory piggy bank ...

DBAOnline Committee



ORACLE NEWS

ORACLE OpenWorld Shanghai

Oracle Marks Fifteen Years of Commitment to China by Welcoming More Than 6,000 Customers and Partners to Oracle(R) OpenWorld Shanghai. Virtual Attendees Access Full Conference News, Keynotes, Technical Sessions and Interactive Chat Sessions via Oracle OpenWorld Shanghai Online

July 20 - PRNewswire

Oracle Corporation (Nasdaq: ORCL - News) today welcomed more than 6,000 customers and partners to the Oracle OpenWorld Shanghai 2004 global conference. Oracle's inaugural Shanghai conference will open with keynotes from senior executives at Oracle, Intel, HP and PCCW and will speak on the role of information in business as well as industry-wide trends towards low-cost, computing models. Additionally, Oracle will celebrate the fruits of its fifteen-year investment in China, and long-standing commitment to Asia Pacific.

"Our strategy of commitment, localization and partnership to China and Asia Pacific has stood Oracle in good stead," said Derek Williams, executive vice president for Oracle Asia Pacific. "After fifteen years of growth in China, we find there's never been a more exciting and vibrant time to be a partner to the success and development of the IT industry in this country, and the broader Asia Pacific region. Oracle OpenWorld Shanghai provides a fertile forum for exploring how the power of information, and advances in computing and information technology can add to the growth and success of the region."

Oracle invites virtual attendees to experience the conference online through Oracle OpenWorld Online in both English and Chinese at www.oracle.com/openworld/online. Oracle OpenWorld Online will offer LIVE streaming video of key conference events. Top Oracle executives will deliver keynote speeches, along with other industry leaders. The online conference will also offer the latest product strategy, "how to" advice from experts, and online demos of the latest cutting edge Oracle products. All of the streaming video content is scheduled to be made available on demand.

ORACLE Selects Harry YOU new CFO

July 13 –AP

REDWOOD SHORES, Calif. (AP) -- Business software maker Oracle Corp. named Harry YOU as its new chief financial officer Tuesday, completing a six-month search. YOU replaces Oracle's longtime CFO, Jeff Henley, who announced his plans to relinquish the job in January when the Redwood Shores-based company appointed him as chairman of the board.

Henley gained widespread respect among industry analysts and investors during his 13 years working in the shadow of Oracle's flamboyant CEO, Larry Ellison.

Oracle lured YOU from Accenture, a technology services consulting firm where he had been CFO since 2001. Before joining Accenture, YOU held corporate finance positions at Morgan Stanley and Lehman Brothers.



DBA QUIZ

1. Read-only tablespace backup is not supported for which of the following tablespaces?

- A. SYSTEM tablespace
- B. USERS tablespace
- C. Dictionary Managed TEMP tablespace
- D. INDEX tablespace

2. Which data dictionary view displays the error information related to a data file, when an internal read fails on that file?

- A. V\$DATAFILE
- B. V\$DATAFILE_HEADER
- C. DBA_DATA_FILES
- D. V\$DBFILE
- E. V\$DATAFILE_ERRORS

3. What is the significance of using the START option with the dbverify utility?

- A. It performs integrity checks from the first data file block
- B. It performs integrity checks from the last data file block
- C. It performs integrity checks from the block id specified by this option
- D. It performs integrity checks from the first block of the next extent, which succeeds the specified block id

4. Which Oracle background process is responsible for providing information about the instance name associated with the service handlers and services to the listener?

- A. PMON
- B. SMON
- C. LMON
- D. CKPT

5. You are using RMAN to recover a data file associated with the UNDO tablespace that contains active segments. What must be the status of the database to complete this operation successfully?

- A. OPEN
- B. NOMOUNT
- C. MOUNT
- D. CLOSED

6. In Oracle9i, the default for the `07_DICTIONARY_ACCESSIBILITY` initialization parameter has changed to FALSE. What does using the

default for this parameter provide?

- A. Users logged on AS SYS can access the data dictionary
- B. Users logged on AS SYSDBA can access the data dictionary.
- C. Users logged on AS SYSDBA or AS SYSOPER can access The data dictionary
- D. All users who have the SELECT ANY TABLE privilege can access The data dictionary

7. The user attempts to insert data into a column that would violate a non-deferrable constraint. The user has issued the alter session set constraints = > deferred statement. What happens on insert?

- A. The insert succeeds at the time it is issued, but the transaction will roll back later
- B. The insert fails at the time it is issued and the transaction will end
- C. The insert succeeds at the time it is issued and the transaction will not roll back
- D. The insert fails at the time it is issued, but the transaction will continue

Answers:

- (1) A (2) B (3) C (4) A (5) C (6) B (7) D