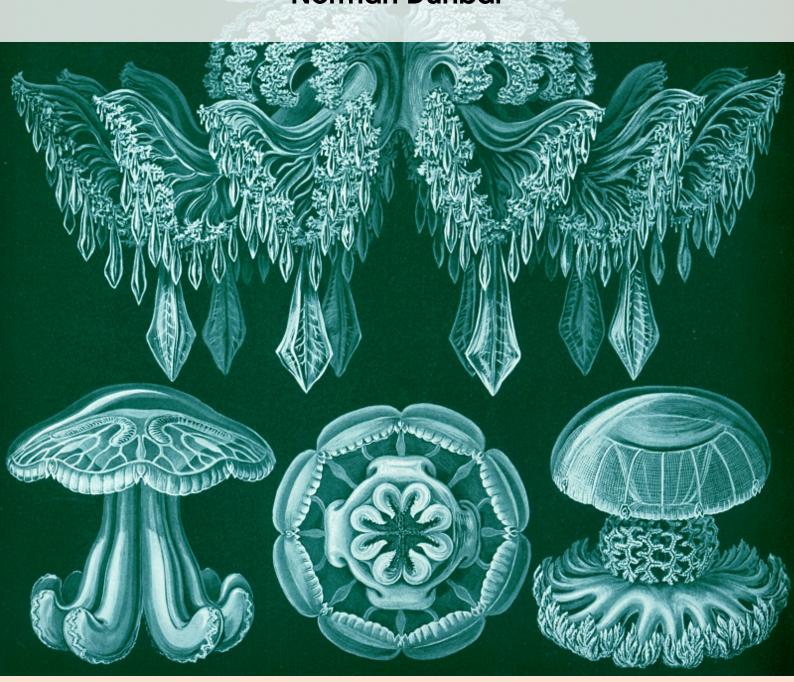


Oracle Trace Files Explained

Attempting to Document the Internals of an Oracle Trace File

Norman Dunbar



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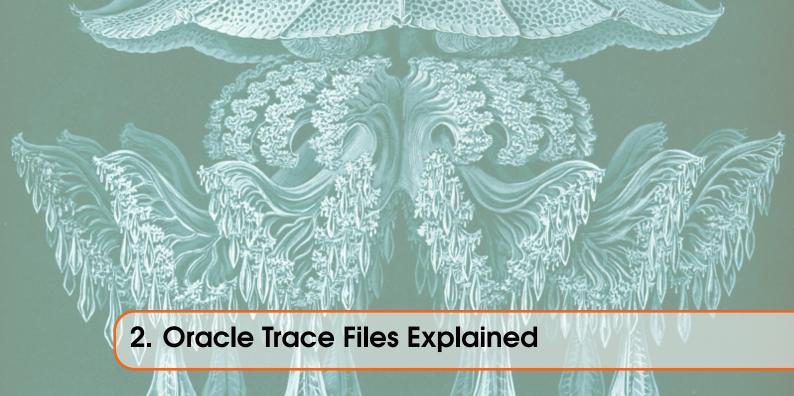
Oracle trace files are not greatly documented. This document is an attempt to do so. It is *not* official in any way and is based on a good few years of reading these files to help diagnose various database problems.

A trace file is really the best way to delve into what Oracle is doing, or to discover why something is taking so long - it shows you exactly what happened during the period that the session was being traced.

Even better, when you extract an Explain Plan from a trace file, it is showing you exactly how Oracle retrieved the data from the tables, and exactly where the time was spend in doing so. Running an Explain Plan for ... statement in, etc tells you what Oracle *might* do. The two are not always the same.

The trace files used and abused in this eBook were all self contained, and extracted from a dedicated session on the database. If you are using shared sessions, then you have the unfortunate problem of having bits of your session trace spread over any number of different trace files. Not fun.

From Oracle 10g onwards, a utility has been supplied, named *trcsess*. This allows you to collect together all the separate files and merge them into one, ready for analysis. Even better, it apparently can also merge Oracle 9i shared server session trace files. Bonus!



2.1 Trace File Sections

The trace file is made up of two main sections, the header and the trace details.

2.1.1 The Header

The header is the top of the file and consists of a few lines of text giving details of where the trace file came from, which server (operating System) it was created on, various details about the server and the database and so on.

The following is an example of a trace file created on a Windows server, running Oracle 11.2.0.4. Server, database and other potentially sensitive information has been obfuscated to protect the guilty, me!

```
Trace file C:\ORACLEDATABASE\diag\rdbms\cfg\cfg\trace\
   Oracle Database 11g Enterprise Edition Release 11.2.0.4.0 - 64bit
   → Production
Windows NT Version V6.2
                   : 8 - type 8664, 8 Physical Cores
CPU
                   : 0x0x00000000000000000
Process Affinity
Memory (Avail/Total): Ph:29917M/57343M, Ph+PgF:24634M/65535M
Instance name: orcl
Redo thread mounted by this instance: 1
Oracle process number: 373
Windows thread id: 27680, image: ORACLE.EXE (SHAD)
*** 2017-06-27 13:56:36.872
*** SESSION ID:(1017.1085) 2017-06-27 13:56:36.872
*** CLIENT ID:() 2017-06-27 13:56:36.872
*** SERVICE NAME:(ORCLSRV) 2017-06-27 13:56:36.872
```

```
*** MODULE NAME: (TOAD background query session) 2017-06-27 13:56:36.872

*** ACTION NAME: () 2017-06-27 13:56:36.872
```

Listing 2.1: Trace File Header

The last line, consisting of equals signs, is the separator between the header and the following trace details.

Timestamp Lines

One line that you should be interested in is this one from the above:

```
*** 2017-06-27 13:56:36.872
```

Listing 2.2: Time Stamp Line

This is the first timestamp line in the trace file and sets the baseline for all the tim fields (these will be explained below) that follow, however, briefly, the tim values are in microseconds (millionths of a second) from a specific "epoch" - which depends on the operating system - and there isn't a consistent, operating system independent, method of converting tim values from a huge number of microseconds to an actual date and time that humans will understand.

There are usually a few timestamp lines written to the trace file, depending on how long it has been processing for, and these mean that we can, with a bit of fiddling, relate a tim value to an actual time on the clock.

2.1.2 Trace Details

The majority of the trace file consists of the full trace details for the session that was traced. There are numerous lines of text here, each different, each with their own fields of one kind or another.

These are explained in the following sections.



Remember, when Oracle writes a line to the trace file, it is done at the *end* of the process that was indicated by the written line. For example, if you see a FETCH line in the trace file, that was written at the tim (tim) that the FETCH completed. The trace file should be considered a list of things *that happened* and not *things that are about to happen*.

Recursive SQL

Your SQL statements are normally executed as top-level statements, but Oracle might need to execute some (a lot!) of recursive SQL statements, in order that your statement can be processed.

If, for example, you drop a user in a database with the drop user xxx cascade statement, Oracle goes off and executes hundreds of separate SQL statement to find out what objects the user owns, or has privileges to, and undoes all of those before finally dropping the contents of the user and finally the user itself.

Top-level SQL statements are identified by having a depth of zero. This can be seen in many of the trace file lines as dep=0 in the various lines of the trace file.

Recursive statements, executed in the background, have a depth greater than zero, and some of these require recursive statements of their own, and so on.

2.2 Trace File Details

This recursion leads to a foible in the trace file, your statement appears last and all the possibly nested, recursive statements will normally appear first. This is simply because in order for your statement to be executed, the recursive statements have to run to completion *first*.

For example, in a trace file I have open in front of me, the first statement with a dep=0 occurs at line 709 in the file. Everything prior to that runs at dep=3, dep=2 or dep=1 and complete before I can see my own SQL statement.

Under normal circumstances, a statement that is parsed (executed etc) at dep=n has been called recursively, to facilitate a statement, that will follow in the trace file, that is itself parsed (executed etc) at dep=n-1.

Waits

WAIT lines in a trace file are similar, in that the WAIT must complete, and so is written to the trace file *before* the statement that incurred the wait. For example, a FETCH that had to wait for db file scattered read events, will appear later in the trace file that the individual WAIT lines that the FETCH suffered from.

Cursor Ids

Every time you see a '#' followed by a number, you are looking at a cursor ID. In previous versions of Oracle, these were simply an ever increasing number, starting from 1 and increasing by 1 for each new cursor.

In Oracle 11g, the cursor *appears* to be an address in memory¹, and *will be reused* as cursors are closed and new ones opened. You cannot assume, therefore, that a cursor with a specific ID at the end of the trace file, relates to any other lines with that same ID previously written to the trace file, without checking for any intervening CLOSE lines with the same ID - that's just how it is now!

Active or Inactive

You might want to look in the STATUS column in V\$SESSION to determine if the session is active doing *something* - or not. However, you must be aware that the STATUS column only gives an active reading when the statement is in a PARSE, EXEC or FETCH phase of execution. If the statement is in a WAIT, for example, it will show as inactive - but it is actually still processing the current statement. Something to bear in mind.

2.2 Trace File Details

¹But don't quote me on this, I saw it written down somewhere on the Oracle Support web site, but now that I need it, I cannot find it again. Sigh!



3.1 PARSING IN CURSOR

This is *usually* the first line you will see for a cursor. It shows the full SQL statement between the PARSING IN CURSOR line and the END OF STMT line. The SQL is displayed exactly as the user (or application) entered it. However, if the statement is invalid, or cannot be parsed, you will not see this, or the PARSE line in the trace file, you will only see a PARSE ERROR line instead.

This is not the actual PARSE for the cursor though, that normally follows on later, usually!

As an example, here is the PARSING IN CURSOR line for the SQL query that Toad runs in the background to extract the free space used in the database by various tablespaces, including temporary ones. However, I'm not showing the SQL here:

```
PARSING IN CURSOR #3220341128 len=3081 dep=0 uid=0 oct=3 lid=0 tim

→ =3520788574727 hv=3219027813 ad='7ffcb6778350' sqlid='7

→ bwtj5azxwxv5'
```

Listing 3.1: Parsing In Cursor Line

The various fields defined, and their descriptions can be seen in the table below.

Code	Description
#nnnn	The cursor ID. This may be reused if for future cursors if this one is closed, and another opened.
len	The size, in bytes? Characters? of the SQL statement.
dep	Recursion level. 0 = Top-level, user, SQL.
uid	The user id of the user parsing the statement.
oct	Oracle Command Code of the SQL Statement. (See
	Appendices.)
lid	Unknown.

Table 3.1: Parsing in Cursor - Fields...continues on next page

Code	Description
tim	Time, in microseconds, for this statement to be parsed. This is not the time it took!
hv	Hash Value for the statement.
ad	Cursor address in memory?
sqlid	The SQL ID for the statement.

Table 3.1: Parsing in Cursor - Fields

The uid field references the column USER_ID in the views DBA_USERS, ALL_USERS and USER_USERS.

The lid field is unknown at present. It's probably an ID of some kind, but for what?

As mentioned, the cursor ID field has a value that may (or may not) be an address in memory. However, that's not the same as the ad field, which is (I think) an address in memory for the cursor.

The sqlid field is the same as the SQL_ID column in V\$SQL. The hv field is the hash value that Oracle used to determine if this statement was to be found in the cache or not. It matches the SQL_HASH_VALUE (and PREV_HASH_VALUE) column in V\$SESSION and also the HASH_VALUE column in V\$SQL.

Sometime Oracle will not write these lines to the trace file. If the cursor has been parsed, and subsequently coded, then re-parsed, you will see a PARSE line but not a new PARSING IN CURSOR for the statement. This *appears* to be only on those occasions where the statement is re-parsed *immediately* after being closed. I have not seen this "feature" when the cursor ID was used by a different statement in between.

3.2 PARSE

Normally, after the PARSING IN CURSOR lines, you will see a PARSE line for the same cursor ID. This is not always the case, for example, if you started the trace after the statement had been parsed, Oracle will write the PARSING IN CURSOR lines, but not the PARSE, to the trace file.

A typical PARSE line will look like this:

```
PARSE #491311368: c=0, e=452, p=0, cr=0, cu=0, mis=1, r=0, dep=0, og=1, p1h
 \hookrightarrow = 1388734953, tim=97734887542
```

Listing 3.2: Parse Line

Code	Description
#nnnn	The cursor ID. This may be reused if for future cursors if this
	one is closed, and another opened.
c	Elapsed CPU time. Microseconds.
e	Elapsed wall clock time, also in microseconds.
p	The number of physical reads (blocks) that were necessary in
-	order to carry out this PARSE.
cr	The number of consistent reads (blocks) that were necessary in
	order to carry out this PARSE.
cu	The number of current reads (blocks) that were necessary in
	order to carry out this PARSE.

Table 3.2: Parse - Fields...continues on next page

3.2 PARSE 19

Code	Description
mis	Whether this statement was found in the cache (0) or not (1).
	Indicates whether or not a hard parse was required. Seeing a 1 is
	bad, usually.
r	Rows processed.
dep	Recursion level. 0 = Top-level, user, SQL.
og	Optimiser goal. 1 = ALL_ROWS, 2 = FIRST_ROWS, 3 =
	RULE, 4 = CHOOSE. Depending on your version of Oracle,
	you may not see some of the above.
plh	Execution plan hash value.
tim	Time, in microseconds, when the parse for the statement
	completed. Not the time it took.

Table 3.2: Parse - Fields

The plh value is a value that corresponds to the column PLAN_HASH_VALUE in V\$SQL_PLAN, V\$SQL_PLAN_STATISTICS_ALL and V\$SQLSTATS. (There may be other views where this value appears, depending on the Oracle version in use.)

The p, cr and cu statistics are the usual ones for block reads, viz:

- Physical reads occur when Oracle must read a block, from disc, into the buffer cache. This indicates also an additional cr as the block will be used unchanged.
- Consistent reads are the number of blocks of UNDO that Oracle applied to one or more blocks, in order to return the data in those blocks, to the state they were in when the "query" started. The query in this case, would be any or all recursive queries necessary to facilitate the PARSE.
- Current Reads are blocks that Oracle used without needing to roll them back to the start of the "query".

The fields for an PARSE are the same as those for an EXEC and a FETCH - see below.

The r field is *interesting*. Surely only a FETCH would process some rows? I thought so too, and in all the trace files I've come across, I have yet to see (ok, yet to *notice*) a PARSE line with anything other than r=0. I wonder why Oracle have it as part of the PARSE? Maybe, because they use the same format of line for the PARSE and EXEC they decided just to use the same one, and set the row count for a PARSE to zero?

3.2.1 PARSE ERROR

If a PARSE goes wrong for some reason, the trace file will show something like the following:

```
PARSE ERROR #491311368:len=26 dep=0 uid=755 oct=3 lid=755 tim

→ =97734836031 err=1031

SELECT LIVE_DEV FROM SITE
```

Listing 3.3: Parse Error Line

There will not normally be a PARSING IN CURSOR or a PARSE shown in the trace file for this statement.

¹We may never know!

Code	Description
#nnnn	The cursor ID. This may be reused if for future cursors if this
	one is closed, and another opened.
len	The length of the SQL statement in bytes, maybe characters
	depending on your characterset.
dep	Recursion level. 0 = Top-level, user, SQL.
uid	The user id of the user parsing the statement.
oct	Oracle Command Code of the SQL Statement. (See
	Appendices.)
lid	Unknown.
tim	Time, in microseconds, when this parse error was detected.
err	The Oracle error code that caused the parse to fail.

Table 3.3: Parse Error - Fields

In this case, there was an error ORA-01031: insufficient privileges as the user parsing the statement did not have the required privileges to see the table in question.

The uid field references the column USER_ID in the views DBA_USERS, ALL_USERS and USER_USERS.

3.3 EXEC

The EXEC phase of a statement's execution is when Oracle dives into the database to build a result set of the desired data. It need not be the complete result set though, so beware of that.

A typical EXEC will resemble the following:

```
EXEC #3220341128: c=0, e=101, p=0, cr=0, cu=0, mis=0, r=0, dep=0, og=1, p1h
\hookrightarrow =2215247290, tim=3520788606189
```

Listing 3.4: Exec Line

Bear in mind, however, that the EXEC elapsed times do not necessarily bear any resemblance to the entire time it took for the user to get a response. That response time includes the PARSE, EXEC, all the FETCHes and all the WAITs that were encountered.

The fields in an EXEC are as follows:

Code	Description
#nnnn	The cursor ID. This may be reused if for future cursors if this
	one is closed, and another opened.
c	Elapsed CPU time. Microseconds.
e	Elapsed wall clock time, also in microseconds.
p	The number of physical reads (blocks) that were necessary in
	order to carry out this PARSE.
cr	The number of consistent reads (blocks) that were necessary in
	order to carry out this PARSE.
cu	The number of current reads (blocks) that were necessary in
	order to carry out this PARSE.

Table 3.4: Exec - Fields... continues on next page

3.4 FETCH 21

Code	Description
mis	Whether this statement was found in the cache (0) or not (1).
	Indicates whether or not a hard parse was required. Seeing a 1 is
	bad, usually.
dep	Recursion level. 0 = Top-level, user, SQL.
r	Rows processed.
og	Optimiser goal. 1 = ALL_ROWS, 2 = FIRST_ROWS, 3 =
	RULE, 4 = CHOOSE. Depending on your version of Oracle,
	you may not see some of the above.
plh	Execution plan hash value.
tim	Time, in microseconds, for this statement to be executed. This is
	not the time it took!

Table 3.4: Exec - Fields

The fields for an EXEC are the same as those for a PARSE (and FETCH - see below).

The r field is *interesting*. Surely only a FETCH would process some rows? Not necessarily. Normally, when EXECing a statement, the number of rows processed is indeed zero, but some PL/SQL, for example, returns a row count of 1. In my demonstration trace file I see 4 statements whose EXEC has r=1 and all of them are of the format:

```
begin
do_something();
end;
```

Listing 3.5: PL/SQL Exec Example

The "do_something()" call is to DBMS_MONITOR.START_TRACE, DBMS_MONITOR.STOP_TRACE and calls to DBMS_OUTPUT.GET_LINE. These statements have no FETCH calls.

You may wish to refer back to the details on the PARSE line, above, for details of the p, cr and cu block statistics in the EXEC line.

3.4 FETCH

After processing the EXEC call, and any associated WAITs, Oracle may FETCH some, or all, of the rows returned by the query. A FETCH line may resemble the following:

```
FETCH #3220341128: c=1812500, e=28665431, p=11137, cr=50774, cu=316, mis=0, r
\Rightarrow =30, dep=0, og=1, p1h=2215247290, tim=3520817271640
```

Listing 3.6: Fetch Line

And anyone paying close attention will notice that the time it took to FETCH 30 rows was a little excessive at 28.66 seconds. In case you are wondering, this is a query against DBA_FREE_SPACE on an 11.2.0.4 database, and it is taking so long as it is hitting the *never to be solved* Bug 19125876 which affects 11.20.4 on AIX on Power Systems. Unfortunately, *this* trace file is from a Windows server. The bug was logged on 30th June 2014, last updated on 26th June 2017, *and is not yet fixed!*

Code	Description
#nnnn	The cursor ID. This may be reused if for future cursors if this
	one is closed, and another opened.
c	Elapsed CPU time. Microseconds.
e	Elapsed wall clock time, also in microseconds.
p	The number of physical reads (blocks) that were necessary in
	order to carry out this FETCH.
cr	The number of consistent reads (blocks) that were necessary in
	order to carry out this FETCH.
cu	The number of current reads (blocks) that were necessary in
	order to carry out this FETCH.
mis	Whether this statement was found in the cache (0) or not (1).
r	Rows processed.
dep	Recursion level. 0 = Top-level, user, SQL.
og	Optimiser goal. 1 = ALL_ROWS, 2 = FIRST_ROWS, 3 =
	RULE, 4 = CHOOSE. Depending on your version of Oracle,
	you may not see some of the above.
plh	Execution plan hash value.
tim	Time, in microseconds, that this one fetch was completed.

Table 3.5: fetch - Fields

The fields for a FETCH are also the same as those for a PARSE and EXEC.

The mis field is *interesting*. Surely only a PARSE would indicate a miss in the cache? Again, I think Oracle are using the same format of a trace line for PARSE, EXEC and FETCH and simply ignoring or defaulting certain, non-applicable, fields.

You may wish to refer back to the details on the PARSE line, above, for details of the p, cr and cu block statistics in the EXEC line.

3.5 WAIT

This is the meat of the trace file, usually. Under normal circumstances, it's usual for the various phases of execution (PARSE, EXEC and FETCH) to encounter some WAIT events. And I would say, personally², that these WAIT states are where the vast majority of the total response time is encountered.

A WAIT line in the trace file will resemble the following example, up until Oracle 9i at the latest:

```
WAIT #3220341128: nam='db file sequential read' ela= 2769 p1=37 p2 \hookrightarrow =12931 p3=1
```

Listing 3.7: Wait Line - Oracle 9i

Code	Description
#nnnn	The cursor ID. This may be reused if for future cursors if this one is closed, and another opened.
Table 3.6: Wait - Fields for Oracle 9i continues on next page	

²Beware of small sample sizes!

3.5 WAIT 23

Code	Description
nam	The name of the wait event encountered.
ela	Elapsed wall clock time, in microseconds.
p1	Event parameter 1.
p2	Event parameter 2.
p3	Event parameter 3.

Table 3.6: Wait - Fields for Oracle 9i

The p1, p2 and p3 parameters are different depending on the wait event name. You may require to loom them up in V\$EVENT_NAME to understand what they refer to. For the event above, we see the following:

- p1 is the file number;
- p2 is the (starting) block number;
- p3 is the number of blocks requested.

You may wish to use the following query to determine the various parameters for the WAIT events seen in the trace file:

```
1  select name, parameter1, parameter2, parameter3
2  from    v$event_name
3  where    name = 'db file sequential read';
```

Listing 3.8: Extracting Event Names for Oracle 9i

Substitute the appropriate event name for your particular WAIT event of course. And, don't forget, it *is* case sensitive - Oracle are seriously inconsistent when it comes to naming events!

In Oracle versions 10g onwards, the format is much easier to understand as the generic p1, p2 and p3 have been replaced by something more meaningful, as follows for the same WAIT event:

```
WAIT #3220341128: nam='db file sequential read' ela= 1023 file#=3 block \rightarrow #=12 blocks=1 obj#=-1 tim=3520817183625
```

Listing 3.9: Wait Line - Oracle 10g Onwards

Code	Description
#nnnn	The cursor ID. This may be reused if for future cursors if this
	one is closed, and another opened.
nam	The name of the wait event encountered.
ela	Elapsed wall clock time, in microseconds.
file#	For this wait, the file number.
block#	For this wait, the (starting) block number.
blocks	For this wait, the number of blocks requested.
obj#	If appropriate, the object in question.
tim	Time, in microseconds, that this one wait was completed.

Table 3.7: Parse - Fields for Oracle 10g Onwards



The above is an example of one particular WAIT event. Other events will have different parameters, as appropriate for the particular event. At least, from 10g onwards, we don't have to look up V\$WAIT_NAME every time we find a new event in our trace file. Oracle 11g added its own fields too.

The obj# refers to a specific object, where one is involved. In the above example, the value is -1, so there is no particular object in this WAIT. We are waiting for a block off of the disc, which *may* be part of an index or a table, etc, but for the sake of this WAIT, Oracle considers that there is not a specific object involved.

Where an obj# is not -1, then the value refers to the OBJECT_ID in the DBA_OBJECTS view.

3.6 ERROR

If an error is detected while tracing a session, the trace file may show something like the following:

ERROR #275452960: err = 31013 tim = 1075688943194

Listing 3.10: Error Line

Code	Description
#nnnn	The cursor ID. This may be reused if for future cursors if this
	one is closed, and another opened.
err	The Oracle error code that caused the error.
tim	Time, in microseconds, when this error was detected.

Table 3.8: Error - Fields

In this example, the error relates to ORA-31013: Invalid XPATH expression and indeed, is what the user saw on their terminal at the time - and was the reason I traced it because the application wasn't good enough in explaining which object caused the problem!

3.7 STAT

In order to see the STAT lines in your trace file, the TIMED_STATISTICS parameter for the database must be set to TRUE.

In Oracle 9i, there are no execution statistics or timings displayed in the op field. These are only present from 10g onwards.

The STAT lines show you *exactly* how Oracle went about getting the data back to you. It is possible for this to be different for the plan displayed by the EXPLAIN PLAN FOR ... statement. In a trace file, it shows what happened, as opposed to what *might* happen!

A typical STAT output could resemble the following:

```
STAT #5141189408 id=1 cnt=1 pid=0 pos=1 obj=20 op='TABLE ACCESS BY

→ INDEX ROWID ICOL$ (cr=4 pr=0 pw=0 time=26 us cost=2 size=54 card

→ =2)'

STAT #5141189408 id=2 cnt=1 pid=1 pos=1 obj=42 op='INDEX RANGE SCAN
```

3.7 STAT 25

\hookrightarrow I_ICOL1 (cr=3 pr=0 pw=0 time=22 us cost=1 size=0 card=2)'

Listing 3.11: Stat Line

Code	Description
#nnnn	The cursor ID. This may be reused if for future cursors if this one is closed, and another opened.
id	The identifier for this row of the explain plan may be referred to
	by the pid field, in nested STAT lines. Allows a hierarchy to be built.
cnt	The number of rows processed by this step in explain plan.
pid	The parent ID for this step on the plan. Should be zero on the id=1 line.
pos	The position of this step, within the parent steps in the plan.
obj	The object identifier.
op	The operation performed by this step. This will include additional statistical and timing figures from 10g onwards. 9i is sadly deficient in this matter!

Table 3.9: Stat - Fields for Oracle 9i

Although the example STAT lines above show only a couple of lines, it is possible for more than one to be present under a single parent step. In this case, the pid would be the same, but the pos would be different.



Pos *should* be a sequentiality increasing number, showing which step was executed when in order to facilitate the parent step, however, I have seen trace files where there have been more than one row with the same pid *and* the same pos. This is *a bad thing* when trying to figure out what happened when!

In 10g and above, the additional fields in the op field itself, are as follows:

Description
The number of consistent reads.
The number of physical reads.
The number of physical writes.
The elapsed time in microseconds.
The cost of this step, as determined by the Cost Based
Optimiser.
Form 11g, an estimate of the size, in bytes, of the data returned
by this step.
The number of rows processed. 11g onwards.

Table 3.10: Stat - Fields for Oracle 10g Onwards

3.8 CLOSE

An example of a CLOSE line from a trace file is as follows:

```
CLOSE \#3220452784: c=0, e=13, dep=0, type=0, tim=3520822918452
```

Listing 3.12: Close Line

Code	Description
#nnnn	The cursor ID. This may be reused if for future cursors if this one is closed, and another opened.
c	Elapsed CPU time. Microseconds.
e dep	Elapsed wall clock time, also in microseconds. Recursion level. 0 = Top-level, user, SQL.
type	Close type.
tim	Time, in microseconds, that this statement was closed. This is the time it was actually closed not when the close started.

Table 3.11: Close - Fields

This line is written when a cursor used for an SQL statement, is no longer required and has been closed. The elapsed times relate to the time it took to close the cursor.

The type field is used to determine how the cursor was closed. It takes the following values:

- 0 if the cursor was hard closed. This indicates that the cursor was not saved in the server side closed cursor cache for later reuse. This can be because:
 - The statement is a DDL statement. DDL statements are never cached.
 - SESSION_CACHED_CURSORS is set to zero, and no caching is permitted.
 - The statement could be cached, but as it has not been executed often enough (three times minimum), then it has not yet been cached.
- 1 if the cursor has been cached, as opposed to properly closed, in an empty slot in the cache.
- 2 if the cursor was cached, but caused another cursor to be aged out as there were no free slots.
- 3 if the cursor remains in the cache.

A cursor ID that has been closed may be re-used by a subsequent opening of a new cursor, which can be for a different statement, or for this one again.

3.9 XCTEND

This line in a trace file indicates the end of a transaction. Sometimes you will see this:

```
PARSING IN CURSOR #398131288 len=6 dep=1 uid=90 oct=44 lid=90 tim

→ =1484913807072 hv=255718823 ad='0' sqlid='8ggw94h7mvxd7'

COMMIT

END OF STMT

PARSE #398131288:c=0,e=4,p=0,cr=0,cu=0,mis=0,r=0,dep=1,og=0,plh=0,tim

→ =1484913807071

XCTEND rlbk=0, rd_only=1, tim=1484913807100

EXEC #398131288:c=0,e=27,p=0,cr=0,cu=0,mis=0,r=0,dep=1,og=0,plh=0,tim

→ =1484913807121
```

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CLOSE #398131288: c=0, e=0, dep=1, type=3, tim=1484913807132

Listing 3.13: Commit Statement with Xctend Line

You can see here the entire PARSE, EXEC and CLOSE for the statement. Sometimes, you don't see the COMMIT (or ROLLBACK) statement being parsed, all you see is the XCTEND line in the trace file. Why? I have no idea - it's an Oracle thing!

You should notice in the above, that the transaction was completed *before* the EXEC completed. remember that the trace file shows things after they have finished. So the EXEC of the COMMIT statement had to wait for the transaction to end before it could complete.

The fields you will see in an XCTEND line are as follows:

Code	Description
rlbk	0 indicates COMMIT, 1 is for ROLLBACK.
rd_only	Whether or not the transaction was read only (1) or read write
	(0) regardless of COMMIT or ROLLBACK being executed to end it.
tim	Time, in microseconds, at which the transaction ended.

Table 3.12: Xctend - Fields

3.10 BINDS

To see the bind details in a trace file, you need to have enabled at least trace level 4 (for a 10046 event), or set binds => true for DBMS_SUPPORT and DBMS_MONITOR calls to start tracing. You should also be *using* binds in your SQL statement too of course!

There is a *lot* of information in the binds section of a trace file. For 9i, the following data are listed:

Code	Description				
dty	Data type code. (See Appendices.)				
mxl	Maximum length of the bind variable value. (private maximum				
	length in parentheses.)				
mal	Array length.				
scl	Scale. Only for numeric binds.				
pre	Precision. Only for numeric binds.				
oacflg	Special flag indicating bind options.				
oacflg2	Second part of oacfig.				
size	Amount of memory to be allocated for this chunk of the bind.				
offset	Offset into this chunk for this bind buffer.				
bfp	Bind address.				
bln	Bind buffer length.				
avl	Actual value length. A value of zero = NULL, or a PL/SQL				
	OUT bind - if the cursor's command is 47 for PL/SQL				
	Execution.				
flg	Bind status flag.				
value	Value of the bind variable.				

Table 3.13: Binds - Fields for Oracle 9i

While for 10g upwards, we would expect to see the following:

Code	Description				
oacdty	Data type code. (See Appendices.)				
mxl	Maximum length, in bytes, of the bind variable value. (Used				
	length in parentheses.)				
mxlc	Maximum length, in characters, of the bind variable value.				
	(Used length in parentheses.)				
mal	Array length.				
scl	Scale. Only for numeric binds.				
pre	Precision. Only for numeric binds.				
oacflg	Special flag indicating bind options.				
fl2	Second part of oacfig.				
frm	Unknown.				
csi	Identifier code for the database's default or national character				
	set. (See Appendices.) Only used in character/string binds.				
siz	Size of memory to be allocated for this chunk.				
off	Offset into the chunk of the bind buffer.				
kxsbbbfp	Bind address.				
bln	Bind buffer length.				
avl	Actual value length. A value of zero = NULL, or a PL/SQL				
	OUT bind - if the cursor's command is 47 for PL/SQL				
	Execution.				
flg	Bind status flag.				
value	Value of the bind variable, or a memory dump. This field will				
	only be shown for any bind that has a non-NULL value.				

Table 3.14: Binds - Fields for Oracle 10g Onwards

Binds always number from left to right in an SQL statement. This means that the first bind found in the statement, will be listed in the trace file as BIND#0 regardless of its actual name or number in the statement.

If a bind, for example :3, is used more than once in the *same* SQL statement, then it will appear *once* in the binds list - as BIND#2, however, the statement itself will refer to it correctly as :3 each time it is used.

The oacdty values are listed in the appendices for reference. There are quite a few of these, and you should note that experience has shown that the Oracle documentation doesn't always seem match up to the reality of a trace file.

Always be aware, however, that just because a bind is defined to be a VARCHAR2, oacdty=01, for example, it doesn't mean that the column in the table it relates to is also a VARCHAR2. Some people write code that passed VARCHAR2 values to a DATE column - this negating the ability to ever use an index (unless a function based index is created) on that DATE column!

The mxl fields shows how big the buffer assigned to this bind variable is, and how much of it has been used. This is measured in bytes. The mxlc shows, where applicable, the buffer size and used size in characters³. This will depend on the character set in use. If the character size is not

³At least, that's what *I* think it shows!

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appropriate, then mxlc will be zero.

3.10.1 Examples

The following is an 11g example of the binds section for the following (recursive) SQL statement:

```
select o.owner#, o.name, o.namespace, o.obj#, d.d_timestamp,
2
         nvl(d.property,0), o.type#, o.subname, d.d_attrs
3
         dependency$ d, obj$ o
  from
4
  where
         d.p.obj#=:1
5
         (d.p_timestamp=nvl(:2,d.p_timestamp) or d.property=2)
  and
6
  and
         o.owner#=nv1(:3, o.owner#)
  and
         d.d_obj\#=o.obj\#
  order by o.obj#
```

Listing 3.14: Example of Recursive SQL Statement

The binds section, extracted from the trace file, looks as follows:

```
BINDS #741210192:
 Bind#0
  oacdty=02 mx1=22(22) mx1c=00 ma1=00 sc1=00 pre=00
  oacflg=00 fl2=0001 frm=00 csi=00 siz=56 off=0
  kxsbbbfp=2c2d4c58 bln=22 avl=04 flg=05
  value = 104305
 Bind#1
  oacdty=12 \text{ mxl}=07(07) \text{ mxlc}=00 \text{ mal}=00 \text{ scl}=00 \text{ pre}=00
  oacflg=11 f12=0001 frm=00 csi=00 siz=0 off=24
  kxsbbbfp=2c2d4c70 bln=07
                               av1=07 f1g=01
  value = "6/26/2017 9:58:26"
 Bind#2
  oacdty=02 mx1=22(22) mx1c=00 mal=00 sc1=00 pre=00
  oacflg=01 fl2=0001 frm=00 csi=00 siz=0 off=32
  kxsbbbfp=2c2d4c78 bln=22 avl=00 flg=01
```

Listing 3.15: Binds Lines

Looking specifically at the above, we can see the following:

- We have two NUMBER binds, and one DATE;
- Neither of the NUMBERs have a scale or precision;
- The last bind, BIND#2, is a NUMBER and is NULL (av1=00) and so has no value clause;
- Because these binds are of specific types, where the storage is always exactly as indicated by the mxl field, the private storage used for the value is always the same length. In other words, NUMBER data types are always 22 bytes while DATEs are 7;
- There are no character sets applicable to NUMBER or DATE data types (csi=00).

Character (VARCHAR2, CHAR etc) binds take the following form:

```
Bind#1
oacdty=01 mxl=32(04) mxlc=00 mal=00 scl=00 pre=00
oacflg=10 fl2=0001 frm=01 csi=31 siz=0 off=24
kxsbbbfp=610cd550 bln=32 avl=04 flg=01
value="DUAL"
```

Listing 3.16: Bind Example - VARCHAR2 with WE8ISO8859P1 Characterset

Here we can see that:

- csi=31 is listed so checking with the character set list, in the appendices of this document, we see that this means that the bind is using the WE8IS08859P1 character set;
- The value can be easily read form the trace file. Had this been in a different character set, ALUTF16 for example (csi=2000), then the value would most likely have been dumped in hexadecimal, as follows:

```
value = 0 44 0 55 0 41 0 4C
```

Listing 3.17: Bind Example - VARCHAR2 with ALUTF16 Characterset

• We can also see that although the maximum size of the buffer for this bind is 32, (mx1=32), only 4 bytes are in use (mx1=32(04)).

A REF_CURSOR bind, will resemble the following. It has an oacdty of 102, which appears to confuse the value field a little, as it implies that it cannot handle a data type of 102. Hmmm.

```
Bind#3
oacdty=102 mxl=04(04) mxlc=00 mal=00 scl=00 pre=00
oacflg=01 fl2=1000000 frm=00 csi=00 siz=0 off=176
kxsbbbfp=c2a91548 bln=04 avl=04 flg=01
value=Unhandled datatype (102) found in kxsbndinf
Dump of memory from 0x00000000C2A91548 to 0x00000000C2A9154C
0C2A91540 00000000 [....]
```

Listing 3.18: Bind Example - REF_CURSOR

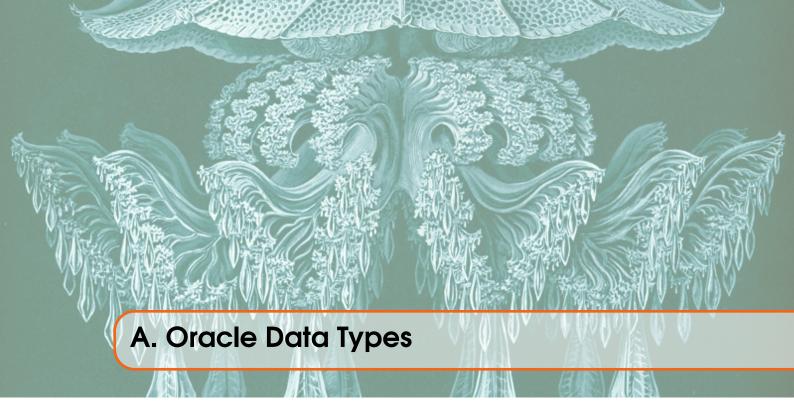
3.11 UNMAP

Not often seen any more. It was used when a disc based sort, currently running, was interrupted by the user typing CTRL-C.

UNMAP trace lines, if you ever see one, are identical to those of PARSE, EXEC and FETCH as described above. They are, apparently, related to cleaning up the sort segments whose details can be seen in V\$SORT_USAGE. I have not seen an UNMAP line in any trace file for many years, although I do remember trying to figure them out back in my 8i (or possibly 9i) days!

Appendices

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Bind Data Types

The oacdty parameter in a bind variables details determines the data type of that bind variable. This is not necessarily the data type of the column in a table that it may be being INSERTed or UPDATEd into, or compared against.

The following data are taken from the *Internal Data Types* section of the *Data Types* chapter in the 12cR2 *Oracle Call Interface* manual.

Listed data types are:

Code	Data Type				
1	VARCHAR2 or NVARCHAR2				
2	NUMBER				
8	LONG				
11	ROWID ¹				
12	DATE				
23	RAW				
24	LONG RAW				
25	Unhandled data type				
29	Unhandled data type				
69	ROWID				
96	CHAR or NCHAR				
100	BINARY_FLOAT				
101	BINARY_DOUBLE				
102	REF_CURSOR ²				

Table A.1: Bind Variable data Types... continues on next page

¹Code 11 is not officially listed by Oracle, but I have seen it in a trace file of my own for a ROWID data type.

²Code 102 is not officially listed by Oracle, but I've seen REF CURSORs with this code in my own trace files.

Code	Data Type
108	User-defined type -object type, VARRAY, nested table)
111	REF
112	CLOB or NCLOB
113	BLOB
114	BFILE
123	VARRAY ³
180	TIMESTAMP
181	TIMESTAMP WITH TIME ZONE
182	INTERVAL YEAR TO MONTH
183	INTERVAL DAY TO SECOND
208	UROWID
231	TIMESTAMP WITH LOCAL TIME
	ZONE

Table A.1: Bind Variable data Types

However, various other sources on the internet, and in books, seem to disagree with some of what the above table shows. In addition, I have come across at least one Oracle Trace where a ROWID was code 11 and not code 69, also, I have seen VARRAY as code 123 and not as code 108. Consistency? Who mentioned consistency?

³Code 123 is not officially listed by Oracle, but I have seen it in a trace file of my own for a VARRAY data type.



Command Codes

The oct parameter in a PARSING IN CURSOR line in an Oracle trace file, determines the command that is being parsed in the SQL statement. Why we should need this, I have no idea, as the SQL text for the command will - obviously - show what command is being parsed. However...

The following (large) table outlines the various command codes and was extracted from an Oracle 12.1.0.2 database.

Code	Command	Code	Command	Code	Command
0	UNKNOWN	53	DROP USER	111	DROP PUBLIC
					SYNONYM
1	CREATE TABLE	54	DROP ROLE	112	CREATE PUBLIC
					DATABASE LINK
2	INSERT	55	SET ROLE	113	DROP PUBLIC
					DATABASE LINK
3	SELECT	56	CREATE SCHEMA	114	GRANT ROLE
4	CREATE	57	CREATE CONTROL	115	REVOKE ROLE
	CLUSTER		FILE		
5	ALTER	59	CREATE TRIGGER	116	EXECUTE
	CLUSTER				PROCEDURE
6	UPDATE	60	ALTER TRIGGER	117	USER COMMENT
7	DELETE	61	DROP TRIGGER	118	ENABLE TRIGGER
8	DROP CLUSTER	62	ANALYZE TABLE	119	DISABLE TRIGGER
9	CREATE INDEX	63	ANALYZE INDEX	120	ENABLE ALL
					TRIGGERS
10	DROP INDEX	64	ANALYZE CLUSTER	121	DISABLE ALL
					TRIGGERS

Table B.1: Oracle Command Codes...continues on next page

Code	Command	Code	Command	Code	Command
11	ALTER INDEX	65	CREATE PROFILE	122	NETWORK ERROR
12	DROP TABLE	66	DROP PROFILE	123	EXECUTE TYPE
13	CREATE SEQUENCE	67	ALTER PROFILE	128	FLASHBACK
14	ALTER SEQUENCE	68	DROP PROCEDURE	129	CREATE SESSION
15	ALTER TABLE	70	ALTER RESOURCE COST	130	ALTER MINING MODEL
16	DROP SEQUENCE	71	CREATE MATERIALIZED VIEW LOG	131	SELECT MINING MODEL
17	GRANT OBJECT	72	ALTER MATERIALIZED VIEW LOG	133	CREATE MINING MODEL
18	REVOKE OBJECT	73	DROP MATERIALIZED VIEW LOG	134	ALTER PUBLIC SYNONYM
19	CREATE SYNONYM	74	CREATE MATERIALIZED VIEW	135	DIRECTORY EXECUTE
20	DROP SYNONYM	75	ALTER MATERIALIZED VIEW	136	SQL*LOADER DIRECT PATH LOAD
21	CREATE VIEW	76	DROP MATERIALIZED VIEW	137	DATAPUMP DIRECT PATH UNLOAD
22	DROP VIEW	77	CREATE TYPE	138	DATABASE STARTUP
23	VALIDATE INDEX	78	DROP TYPE	139	DATABASE SHUTDOWN
24	CREATE PROCEDURE	79	ALTER ROLE	140	CREATE SQL TXLN PROFILE
25	ALTER PROCEDURE	80	ALTER TYPE	141	ALTER SQL TXLN PROFILE
26	LOCK	81	CREATE TYPE BODY	142	USE SQL TXLN PROFILE
27	NO-OP	82	ALTER TYPE BODY	143	DROP SQL TXLN PROFILE
28	RENAME	83	DROP TYPE BODY	144	CREATE MEASURE FOLDER
29	COMMENT	84	DROP LIBRARY	145	ALTER MEASURE FOLDER
30	AUDIT OBJECT	85	TRUNCATE TABLE	146	DROP MEASURE FOLDER
31	NOAUDIT OBJECT	86	TRUNCATE CLUSTER	147	CREATE CUBE BUILD PROCESS

Table B.1: Oracle Command Codes...continues on next page

33 E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E	CREATE DATABASE LINK DROP DATABASE LINK CREATE DATABASE ALTER DATABASE CREATE ROLLBACK SEG ALTER ROLLBACK SEG DROP ROLLBACK SEG CREATE	91 92 93 94 95 96	ALTER VIEW CREATE FUNCTION ALTER FUNCTION DROP FUNCTION CREATE PACKAGE ALTER PACKAGE DROP PACKAGE	148 149 150 151 152 153	ALTER CUBE BUILD PROCESS DROP CUBE BUILD PROCESS CREATE CUBE ALTER CUBE DROP CUBE CREATE CUBE CREATE CUBE DIMENSION
33 E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E	LINK DROP DATABASE LINK CREATE DATABASE ALTER DATABASE CREATE ROLLBACK SEG ALTER ROLLBACK SEG DROP ROLLBACK SEG CREATE	92 93 94 95	ALTER FUNCTION DROP FUNCTION CREATE PACKAGE ALTER PACKAGE	150 151 152	DROP CUBE BUILD PROCESS CREATE CUBE ALTER CUBE DROP CUBE CREATE CUBE
33 E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E E	DROP DATABASE LINK CREATE DATABASE ALTER DATABASE CREATE ROLLBACK SEG ALTER ROLLBACK SEG DROP ROLLBACK SEG CREATE	92 93 94 95	ALTER FUNCTION DROP FUNCTION CREATE PACKAGE ALTER PACKAGE	150 151 152	PROCESS CREATE CUBE ALTER CUBE DROP CUBE CREATE CUBE
34 C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C	DATABASE LINK CREATE DATABASE ALTER DATABASE CREATE ROLLBACK SEG ALTER ROLLBACK SEG DROP ROLLBACK SEG CREATE	92 93 94 95	ALTER FUNCTION DROP FUNCTION CREATE PACKAGE ALTER PACKAGE	150 151 152	PROCESS CREATE CUBE ALTER CUBE DROP CUBE CREATE CUBE
34 C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C	LINK CREATE DATABASE ALTER DATABASE CREATE ROLLBACK SEG ALTER ROLLBACK SEG DROP ROLLBACK SEG CREATE	93 94 95	DROP FUNCTION CREATE PACKAGE ALTER PACKAGE	151 152	CREATE CUBE ALTER CUBE DROP CUBE CREATE CUBE
34 C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C	CREATE DATABASE ALTER DATABASE CREATE ROLLBACK SEG ALTER ROLLBACK SEG DROP ROLLBACK SEG CREATE	93 94 95	DROP FUNCTION CREATE PACKAGE ALTER PACKAGE	151 152	ALTER CUBE DROP CUBE CREATE CUBE
35 A 36 C 8 37 A 38 E	DATABASE ALTER DATABASE CREATE ROLLBACK SEG ALTER ROLLBACK SEG DROP ROLLBACK SEG CREATE	93 94 95	DROP FUNCTION CREATE PACKAGE ALTER PACKAGE	151 152	ALTER CUBE DROP CUBE CREATE CUBE
35 A C R S S A R S A R R R R R R R	ALTER DATABASE CREATE ROLLBACK SEG ALTER ROLLBACK SEG DROP ROLLBACK SEG CREATE TABLESPACE	94 95	CREATE PACKAGE ALTER PACKAGE	152	DROP CUBE CREATE CUBE
36 C R 37 A 8 38 E	DATABASE CREATE ROLLBACK SEG ALTER ROLLBACK SEG DROP ROLLBACK SEG CREATE TABLESPACE	94 95	CREATE PACKAGE ALTER PACKAGE	152	DROP CUBE CREATE CUBE
36 C R 37 A R 38 E R	CREATE ROLLBACK SEG ALTER ROLLBACK SEG DROP ROLLBACK SEG CREATE TABLESPACE	95	ALTER PACKAGE		CREATE CUBE
37 A R 38 E R	ROLLBACK SEG ALTER ROLLBACK SEG DROP ROLLBACK SEG CREATE TABLESPACE	95	ALTER PACKAGE		CREATE CUBE
37 R 38 D R	ALTER ROLLBACK SEG DROP ROLLBACK SEG CREATE TABLESPACE			153	
38 E	ROLLBACK SEG DROP ROLLBACK SEG CREATE TABLESPACE			153	
38 E	DROP ROLLBACK SEG CREATE FABLESPACE	96	DROP PACKAGE		DIMENSION
R	ROLLBACK SEG CREATE FABLESPACE	96	DROP PACKAGE		101011
	CREATE FABLESPACE			154	ALTER CUBE
39 C	TABLESPACE				DIMENSION
		97	CREATE PACKAGE	155	DROP CUBE
Т			BODY		DIMENSION
40 A	ALTER	98	ALTER PACKAGE	157	CREATE
	TABLESPACE		BODY		DIRECTORY
41 E	OROP	99	DROP PACKAGE	158	DROP DIRECTORY
Т	TABLESPACE		BODY		
	ALTER SESSION	100	LOGON	159	CREATE LIBRARY
	ALTER USER	101	LOGOFF	160	CREATE JAVA
	COMMIT	102	LOGOFF BY	161	ALTER JAVA
			CLEANUP		
45 R	ROLLBACK	103	SESSION REC	162	DROP JAVA
	SAVEPOINT	104	SYSTEM AUDIT	163	CREATE OPERATOR
	PL/SQL	105	SYSTEM NOAUDIT	164	CREATE
	EXECUTE				INDEXTYPE
	SET	106	AUDIT DEFAULT	165	DROP INDEXTYPE
	ΓRANSACTION				
	ALTER SYSTEM	107	NOAUDIT DEFAULT	166	ALTER INDEXTYPE
	EXPLAIN	108	SYSTEM GRANT	167	DROP OPERATOR
	CREATE USER	109	SYSTEM REVOKE	168	ASSOCIATE
					STATISTICS
52 C	CREATE ROLE	110	CREATE PUBLIC	169	DISASSOCIATE
		110	SYNONYM	107	STATISTICS
170 C	CALL METHOD	199	PURGE	218	CREATE
170		1,,,	TABLESPACE	210	FLASHBACK
			17 IDEEOTT CE		ARCHIVE
171 C	CREATE	200	PURGE TABLE	219	ALTER FLASHBACK
	SUMMARY	200	TOROL MIDEL		ARCHIVE
	ALTER	201	PURGE INDEX	220	DROP FLASHBACK
	SUMMARY	201	I OROL INDUM	220	ARCHIVE
	OROP	202	UNDROP OBJECT	225	ALTER DATABASE
	SUMMARY	202	ONDROL ODJECI	223	LINK

Table B.1: Oracle Command Codes...continues on next page

Code	Command	Code	Command	Code	Command
174	CREATE	204	FLASHBACK	226	CREATE
	DIMENSION		DATABASE		PLUGGABLE
					DATABASE
175	ALTER	205	FLASHBACK TABLE	227	ALTER PLUGGABLE
	DIMENSION				DATABASE
176	DROP	206	CREATE RESTORE	228	DROP PLUGGABLE
	DIMENSION		POINT		DATABASE
177	CREATE	207	DROP RESTORE	229	CREATE AUDIT
	CONTEXT		POINT		POLICY
178	DROP CONTEXT	208	PROXY	230	ALTER AUDIT
			AUTHENTICATION		POLICY
			ONLY		
179	ALTER	209	DECLARE REWRITE	231	DROP AUDIT
	OUTLINE		EQUIVALENCE		POLICY
180	CREATE	210	ALTER REWRITE	232	CODE-BASED
	OUTLINE		EQUIVALENCE		GRANT
181	DROP OUTLINE	211	DROP REWRITE	233	CODE-BASED
			EQUIVALENCE		REVOKE
182	UPDATE	212	CREATE EDITION	238	ADMINISTER KEY
	INDEXES				MANAGEMENT
183	ALTER	213	ALTER EDITION	239	CREATE
	OPERATOR				MATERIALIZED
					ZONEMAP
190	PASSWORD	214	DROP EDITION	240	ALTER
	CHANGE				MATERIALIZED
					ZONEMAP
192	ALTER	215	DROP ASSEMBLY	241	DROP
	SYNONYM				MATERIALIZED
					ZONEMAP
197	PURGE	216	CREATE ASSEMBLY	_	Lots Missing Here!
	USER_RECYCLER	IN			
198	PURGE	217	ALTER ASSEMBLY	305	ALTER PUBLIC
	DBA_RECYCLEB	N			DATABASE LINK

Table B.1: Oracle Command Codes

The exact list of commands for your particular database version can be extracted using the following SQL command:

There are 212 different commands in Oracle 12c (12.1.0.2) while Oracle 11g (11.2.0.4) has only (!) 181.



Bind Charactersets

Some data types use different character sets. These are coded in the csi field in the bind details lines of the trace file. Typical values that you may see here are as follows:

Code	Character Set
1	US7ASCII
31	WE8ISO8859P1
46	WE8ISO8859P15
170	WE8MSWIN1250
178	WE8MSWIN1252
871	UTF8
873	AL32UTF8
2000	AL16UTF16

Table C.1: Bind Variable Character Sets



D.1 Why this Book?

This eBook originally started as a collection of useful notes, scripts, etc which I had come across, written or deduced, over the years of playing with Oracle Trace Files and various Trace File Analysis tools.

Eventually, I collected them all together in one place so that I could have all the useful information, in one easy to find place¹.

There are many places on the internet, people I have met or worked with, books which I have bought (or had bought for me) and read, to whom I will always be grateful as they have taught me many things. Maybe I can help others as I have been helped.

As Isaac Newton is thought to have said, "I have stood on the shoulders of giants" - me too.

D.2 Creating the Book

The book was created in plain text files, originally in ReStructuredText mode, written (and edited) on both Windows², or on Linux - which I use for all my personal and business needs at home.

These RST files were simply a quick way to gather notes. They were then later enhanced by adding more detail and/or example code, and converted to LATEX by judicious use of the Pandoc text conversion utility, which I *highly* recommend.

The converted LATEX files were then further enhanced, indexed, tidied up, etc using TexStudio which runs on both Windows and Linux, so I had the same development environment in both locations. Handy.

¹I'm getting old, every day it seems. I am starting to forget things I knew - they are ageing out of the cache! I now appear to have the memory capacity of a small newt, so I need to have things written down!

²At work, in my lunch hour

The book itself, was created using a LATEX template called [the] Legrand Orange Book Template created by Mathias Legrand. It is thanks to him that you get this book for free, because the licence terms of the book template specify no commercial use. I'm happy with that myself.

The front cover image on this book is taken from the book *Kunstformen der Natur* by German biologist Ernst Haeckel. The book was published between 1899 and 1904. The image used is of various *Discomedusae* which are a taxonomic group of jellyfish.

You can read about them on Wikipedia and there is a brief overview of the above book, also on Wikipedia, which shows a number of other images taken from the book. (Some of which I considered before choosing the current one!)

*Discomedusae*³ have absolutely nothing to do with Oracle or Trace Files - but I liked the image, and decided that it would make a good cover for the book and a decent enough chapter heading image too.

³DiscoMedusae? Sounds like dancing jellyfish to me!



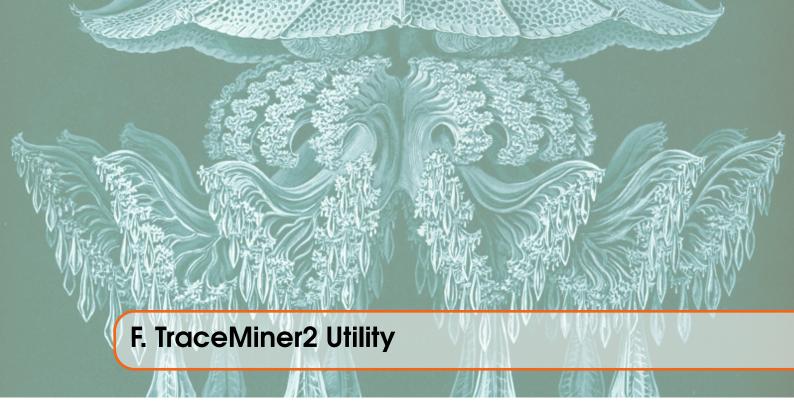
TraceAdjust Introduction

TraceAdjust is a utility that I wrote to help me process the myriads of trace files that I come across in my DBA work. You can get the source code from github in my TraceAdjust repository and compile it on Windows or Linux/Unix with any decent C++ compiler.

It reads a normal trace file and writes out an adjusted one, as follows:

- The tim values are converted to seconds, by inserting a decimal point in the appropriate position;
- It adds a delta to each tim line. The delta is the number of microseconds between the tim on this line, and the tim on the previous (appropriate) trace line. This allows me to see how long passed between the previous tim and this one. Occasionally useful.
- It adds a dslt to each tim line. This is the "delta since last timestamp" and simply counts up the number of microseconds that have passed since the trace file last produced a timestamp line similar to the one in the header. Again, occasionally useful.
- It adds a local to each tim line. This is a conversion of the tim value on the line, to an actual date, in the current local timezone. The time part is resolved down to microsecond level. This is usually very useful!

Running a trace file through TraceAdjust will create a new trace file, which some trace analysing utilities cannot cope with due to the additional fields that I have introduced. The Trace File Browser, in Toad, on the other hand, copes with my trace files quite happily and simply ignores the additional data as appropriate.



TraceMiner2 Introduction

So, you have a trace file, chock full of statements with lots of bind variables in use. You *need* to read through it to find out which execution of any of the statements used which actual bind values. How is this easily done?

*TraceMiner*2¹ is another utility that I wrote to help me process the myriads of trace files that I come across in my DBA work.

You can get the source code from github in my TraceMiner2 repository and compile it on Windows or Linux/Unix with any decent C++ compiler.

It reads a trace file and writes out an HTML report showing various details of the SQL in the file, showing:

- The line number of the file where the SQL statement was found at (PARSING IN CURSOR);
- The line number of the file where the PARSE statement was found at;
- The line number of the file where the BINDS details were found at;
- The line number of the file where the EXEC statement was found at;
- The depth (dep) of the statement when parsed etc.

You can choose to ignore statements over any given depth, so if you only want top-level and dep=1 statements, just request -depth=1 on the command line.

The default HTML report appears as follows:

¹There will be no more unashamed plugs in this document, I promise.

TraceMiner2

Processing Trace File: test2.trc

EXEC Line	PARSE Line	BINDS# Line	SQL Line	DEP	SQL Text
44	27	28	25	1	select obj#,type#,ctime,mtime,stime, status, dataobj#, where owner#=90 and name='PK_RECONCILE_CAPSIL_UV' and linkname is null and subname is null
60	53	54	51	1	select audit\$,options from procedure\$ where obj#=90851
76	69	70	67	1	<pre>select owner#,name,namespace,remoteowner,linkname,p_time (property,0),subname,type#,d_attrs from dependency\$ d,p_obj#=obj#(+) order by order#</pre>
98	91	92	89	1	select order#,columns,types from access\$ where d_obj#=
125	108	109	106	1	select /*+ index(idl_sb4\$ i_idl_sb41) +*/ piece#,length

However, you can, if you have a standard report format at your company, configure the generated css file to match that of your format. *TraceMiner2* will not overwrite the css file if one exists in the output folder.



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С	Kunstformen der Natur
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