

(SS64)

Oracle

Syntax

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Editing SQL scripts in SQL*Plus

To run your operating system's default text editor from the SQL*Plus command-line type Edit:

```
SQL > EDIT
```

The variable `_EDITOR`, can be used to setup a preferred text editor, for example, define `vi` as the SQL*Plus editor:

```
DEFINE _EDITOR = vi
```

or define Metapad.exe as the SQL*Plus editor:

```
DEFINE _EDITOR = Metapad.exe
```

Include an editor definition like the above in your user profile (`login.sql`) or site profile (`$ORACLE_HOME/sqlplus/admin/glogin.sql`) so that it is always enabled when you start SQL*Plus.

To create a new script with a text editor, enter EDIT followed by the name of the new file:

```
SQL > EDIT myscript.sql
```

The new file will be created in the current directory (wherever you started SQL*Plus)
When you save the script with the text editor, it is saved back into the same file.

You must include a semicolon at the end of each SQL command and a slash (/) on a line by itself after each PL/SQL block in the file.

You can include multiple SQL commands and PL/SQL blocks in a script.

In addition to external editors it is also possible to use the (rather limited) set of editing commands within SQL*Plus itself.

`A text` Append *text* at the end of the current line

`C/old/new` Change *old* to *new* in the current line

`C/text` Delete *text* from the current line

`DEL` Delete the current line

`L` List all lines in the SQL buffer

`CLEAR BUFFER` Delete all lines

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