Generating Random Data In Oracle

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Most of the times, production data is not available in development environments. Here, I would like to share a single sql command which can generate random data. But before that, let’s address another issue faced by a lot of new oracle users. We need to generate a sequence of numbers using a sql statement. This will generate a number sequence. Nothing fancy, simplest of sql known :) Here it is:

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| --- |
| SELECT ROWNUM  FROM DUAL  CONNECT BY LEVEL < 10000; |

Now, to generate the random data, the oracle build in package “dbms\_random” comes handy. I am referring to the version 10GR2, there might be additional features available on 11G . Other build in functions can also be used. Here is a sample sql:

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| --- |
| SELECT     LEVEL                                                       empl\_id,             MOD (ROWNUM, 50000)                                         dept\_id,             TRUNC (DBMS\_RANDOM.VALUE (1000, 500000), 2)                 salary,             DECODE (ROUND (DBMS\_RANDOM.VALUE (1, 2)), 1, 'M', 2, 'F')   gender,             TO\_DATE (   ROUND (DBMS\_RANDOM.VALUE (1, 28))                      || '-'                      || ROUND (DBMS\_RANDOM.VALUE (1, 12))                      || '-'                      || ROUND (DBMS\_RANDOM.VALUE (1900, 2010)),                      'DD-MM-YYYY'                     )                                                   dob,             DBMS\_RANDOM.STRING ('x', DBMS\_RANDOM.VALUE (20, 50))        address        FROM DUAL  CONNECT BY LEVEL < 10000; |

You can create a table using this sql and that will give you some random test data to work on. The output looks something like:

EMPL\_ID | DEPT\_ID | SALARY | GENDER | DOB | ADDRESS

1 | 1 | 385433.6 | M | 2/25/1903 | VVGJOPVIHD8HZELHK1SXWQ1RTNK84NT6

2 | 2 | 363024.64 | F | 5/24/2010 | E4IOCU42LM7K2SS36OI0STDOO7A2UZ50L2Q5R1SME07

3 | 3 | 320010.48 | M | 9/26/2009 | 8XM6CG3CSR6UA26PXPUTLPLPQNSQ3OJG7P0CL4XVHBMCVT

4 | 4 | 64230.96 | F | 6/26/1991 | GLKYLEWG4NS0G67W64LF1G5GJPON5L8K93F

5 | 5 | 414134.44 | M | 10/26/1981| QWXIT92XPEYYZZ0A8MR050ER8UJ30NYUHDJAEJHF2M3

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There are numerous functions which can be used to generate randomized data in different ways. Best is to create a wrapper package which can generate number, string, date etc based on the parameter passed and then call that package. I will share it as soon as I am done writing it.