### **Practice**

# **Configuring Oracle Network Environment**

### **Practice Target**

In this practice you will manage the connections to Oracle databases and network configuration tools.

Specifically, you will perform the following:

- Use Easy Connect and Local Naming Methods
- o Control the allowable connection naming methods
- o Control the Listener using lsnrctl
- o Install the sample application Swingbench
- o Install Oracle instant client

### **Practice Assumptions**

This practice assumes that the virtual machine srv1 is up and running from its CDB snapshot.

### **Using Easy Connect and Local Naming Methods**

In this section of the practice, you will examine the network configuration files in the server, test the Easy Connect configuration, and configure the Local Naming method.

### **Examining the Network Configuration Files**

- 1. Open a Putty session to srv1 as oracle
- 2. Verify the CDB database is up and running.

```
sqlplus / as sysdba
SELECT CDB FROM V$DATABASE;
```

- 3. Exit from SQL\*Plus.
- 4. Check out the Oracle Net configuration files in the server.
  - 4.1. Check if the TNS ADMIN is configured.

```
echo $TNS ADMIN
```

Because the TNS\_ADMIN variable is not set, the Oracle Net Configuration files of the current Oracle database home are located in <code>\$ORACLE\_HOME/network/admin</code>. This applies in Linux and Windows platforms. If the variable is set, the configuration files will be located in the directory pointed by the TNS ADMIN variable value.

4.2. Display the files located in \$ORACLE HOME/network/admin

You should see the Oracle Net configuration files: listener.ora, sqlnet.ora, and tnsnames.ora

```
ls -al $ORACLE HOME/network/admin
```

4.3. Set the TNS\_ADMIN variable in the bash profile file.

Although the network configuration files are located in the default directory, it is still a common practice to set the \$TNS\_ADMIN in the bash profile file, even if it points to the default location. This helps us to quickly change the current directory to the network configuration directory whenever we need to do so.

```
vi ~/.bash_profile
```

```
# add the following line to it:
export TNS ADMIN=$ORACLE HOME/network/admin
```

4.4. Source the bash profile file and verify that variable is set.

```
source ~/.bash_profile
echo $TNS ADMIN
```

5. Display the contents of the Listener configuration file.

Observe that the file defines the network protocol, hostname, and port number. The port number is set to its default value, which is 1521.

cat \$TNS ADMIN/listener.ora

6. Display the contents of the tnsnames.ora file

The file contains one network service name to the root container. The name is the same as the database instance name (ORADB). This naming configuration was added to the file by the dbca.

The file does not contain a connection descriptor name for pdb1.

cat \$TNS ADMIN/tnsnames.ora

### **Using Easy Connect Method**

After we examined the Oracle Net configuration files, let's try the Easy Connect method for connecting to the database from SQL\*Plus.

7. Invoke the following command to list the database services registered in the Listener:

You should observe that among the services registered in the Listener are the following database services:

- oradb.localdomain, which represents the root container
- pdb1.localdomain, which represents the PDB1 container

lsnrctl service

8. Invoke SQL\*Plus and connect to PDB1 as HR using Easy Connect method.

The service name that we should pass to the Easy Connect string must be exactly the same as the one displayed by the <code>lsnrctl service</code> command. If we omit the domain name from the full qualified service name, the connection attempt fails.

This connection example assumes that the Listener is listening to the default port number 1521.

sqlplus hr/ABcd##1234@//srv1/pdb1.localdomain

9. Let's examine connecting to the root container using Easy Connect method.

conn system/ABcd##1234@//srv1/oradb.localdomain
show con name

### **Using Local Naming Method**

In the following steps, you will configure and test the local naming method to connect to the Oracle database service. Naming method is the most common naming methods used to connect to Oracle databases.

**10.** Connect to the root container using the local naming method.

ORADB in the command below does not represent the database service name. It is the network service name defined in the tnsnames.ora file. The dbca utility sets its name the same as the CDB database service name but it can take any name.

conn system/ABcd##1234@oradb

11. Try connecting to the root container as sys using the ORADB network service name.

This connection type uses database username/password authentication to login to the database.

conn sys/ABcd##1234@oradb as sysdba

**12.** Try connecting to the root container as sys using the ORADB connection name but with passing a wrong password.

The connection is refused because the password is wrong. The OS authentication is not used because this is considered as a remote connection.

conn sys/xyz@oradb as sysdba

At the moment, we cannot connect to PDB1 using the local naming method because there is no connection name configured in the tnsnames.ora file for this container service. Let's configure a network service name to PDB1 in the tnsnames.ora file using the netca utility.

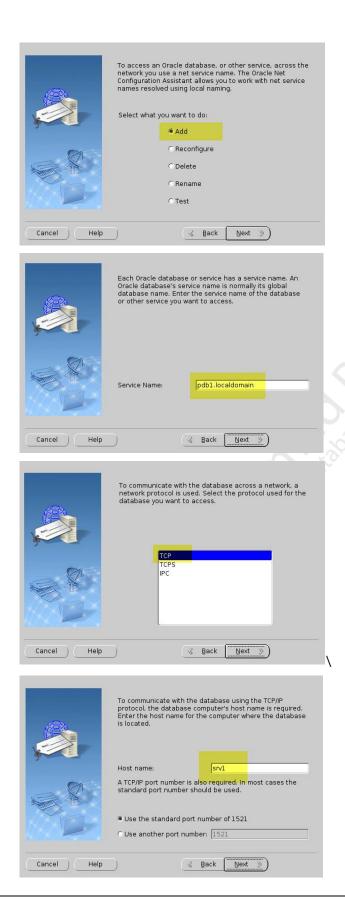
**Note**: We could manually add a connection descriptor to PDB1 in tnsnames.ora file by simply editing the file using any editor. We are using netca over here just to gain some experience on using it.

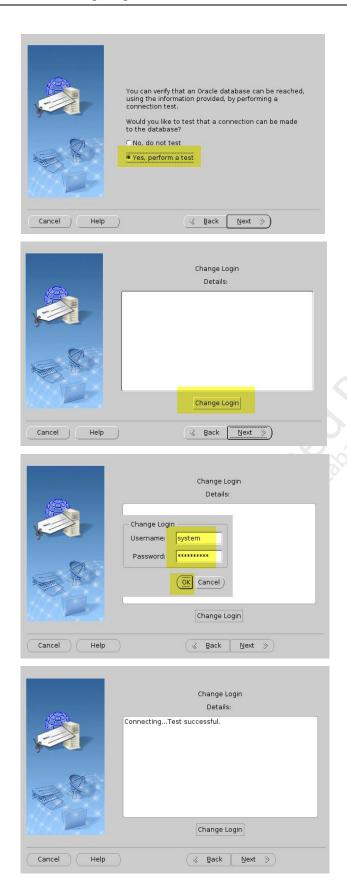
**13.** In the VirtualBox window of srv1, login as oracle, open a terminal window then invoke the netca utility.

netca

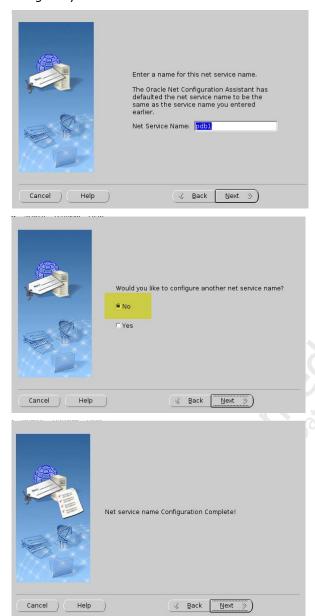
14. Respond to the Wizard as follows:







Although we normally set the Net Service Name the same as the PDB name, technically we can assign any name to it. This is the name we use with the "@" symbol to connect to the database.



**15.** In the Putty session, verify that the PDB1 network service name is added to the tnsnames.ora file. We should see a connection descriptor assigned to the name PDB1.

 ${\tt host}$  is a SQL\*Plus command which allows us to execute an OS command from within the SQL\*Plus command prompt.

SQL> host cat \$ORACLE\_HOME/network/admin/tnsnames.ora

**16.** Using tnsping utility, test if the machine can see the host defined in the added connection name.

The utility just pings the connection hostname but it does not make a connection attempt to the database and it does not verify that the database service isup and running. The ping is executed against the port number stated in the network service name.

host thsping pdb1

17. Try connecting to PDB1 using its connection name in the tnsnames.ora file

The connection should be successful.

conn system/ABcd##1234@pdb1

Although netca provides an easy to use interface to adding a connection descriptor name to the tnsnames.ora file, DBAs normally use an editor to an a connection name by copying and pasting an existing connection name configuration and then changing the pasted connection name and it connection configuration parameter values in it. That is what you will do in the following steps.

**18.** Open the tnsnames.ora file with the vi editor.

In a Windows platform, you could use any editor like the notepad.

host vi \$ORACLE HOME/network/admin/tnsnames.ora

- 19. Highlight the connection configuration of PDB1.
- **20.** Go to the end of the file and paste the code from the clipboard.
- 21. Change the connection name to hppdb
- **22.** Save the changes and exit from the vi editor.
- 23. Try connecting to pdb1 using the new network service name.

The connection should be successful.

conn system/ABcd##1234@hrpdb

24. In thshames.ora file, add a connection descriptor to the database in winsrv.

host vi \$TNS ADMIN/tnsnames.ora

```
ORAWINDB =
  (DESCRIPTION =
    (ADDRESS = (PROTOCOL = TCP)(HOST = winsrv)(PORT = 1521))
  (CONNECT_DATA =
        (SERVER = DEDICATED)
        (SERVICE_NAME = orawindb)
    )
)
```

- **25.** If winsrv is running, test connecting to it from srv1.
  - sqlplus system/ABcd##1234@ORAWINDB
- 26. Exit from SQL\*Plus.



# **Controlling the Allowable Connection Naming Methods**

In this section of the practice, you will disable the Easy Connect method to the database and test this configuration.

27. Display the contents of the sqlnet.ora file

The file has one parameter, which is NAMES.DIRECTORY\_PATH. This parameter defines the allowed naming methods to the database and their priorities. In its current value, the parameter value allows to connect to the database using local naming (TNSNAMES) and Easy Connect (EZCONNECT) methods.

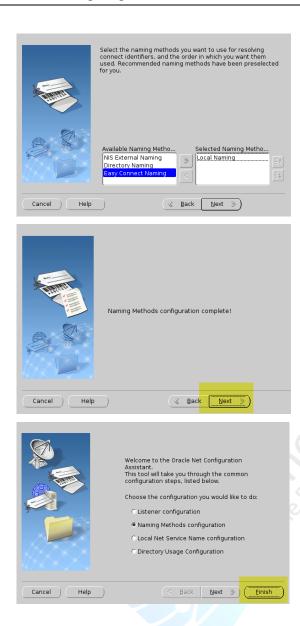
This is not the only parameter that we may configure in the sqlnet.ora file. There are plenty of other parameters and they are used on-need basis.

cat \$ORACLE HOME/network/admin/sqlnet.ora

28. In the VirtualBox window of srv1, invoke the netca and perform the actions as follows:







29. Display the contents of the sqlnet.ora file

The EZCONNECT is removed from the NAMES.DIRECTORY PATH parameter.

Note: We could use an editor to simply remove the EZCONNECT from the parameter list of values.

cat \$ORACLE\_HOME/network/admin/sqlnet.ora

**30.** Try connecting to the database using Easy Connect method.

The connection attempt fails because Easy Connect naming method is disabled. The returned error does not state that the Easy Connect method is disabled.

sqlplus system/ABcd##1234@//srv1/oradb.localdomain

**31.** Open the sqlnet.ora file with the vi editor and add the EZCONNECT value back to the NAMES.DIRECTORY PATH parameter.

vi \$ORACLE HOME/network/admin/sqlnet.ora

NAMES.DIRECTORY\_PATH= (TNSNAMES, EZCONNECT)

**32.** Try connecting to the database using Easy Connect method.

The connection attempt should succeed.

sqlplus system/ABcd##1234@//srv1/oradb.localdomain

33. Exit from SQL\*Plus.

quit

# **Controlling the Listener using Isnrctl**

In this section of the practice, you will practice the common tasks involving in managing the listener using lsnrctl utility.

**34.** Using the lsnrctl utility, check out the status of the Listener.

The command does not clearly specify that the Listener is running but if we see the "Listening Endpoints Summary" returned by the output, then this means the Listener is running.

lsnrctl status

**35.** Using the OS ps command, verify that the Listener process is up and running.

This command could be a better way to check the status of the Listener. In some cases, the Listener is running from a different Oracle home or from a different OS user. In this case, <code>lsnrctl</code> does not return the status of the running Listener because the current OS user is not the owner of the Listener process or the Listener is running from an Oracle Home different than the current Oracle Home. This <code>ps</code> command can detect such cases.

You can tell from the output of this command from which Oracle home the Listener is running and by which OS user.

ps -ef | grep tns

**36.** Stop the Listener.

Stopping the Listener could be needed when we do not want to allow the user applications to connect to the database (probably for maintenance purposes) and yet we want the administrator users be able to connect locally to the database. We also need to stop that listener and start it again when we want to apply changes made on the listener.ora file.

However, stopping the Listener does not disconnect existing sessions.

1snrctl stop

37. Check the status of the Listener.

The command tries to connect to the listening endpoints and displays the message "no listener" for each end point.

lsnrctl status

38. Try connecting to a database service.

You should receive the following error:

ORA-12541: TNS:no listener

sqlplus system/ABcd##1234@pdb1

**39.** Start the Listener then check out its status.

lsnrctl start
lsnrctl status

**40.** Try connecting to a database service. The connection should be successful.

```
sqlplus system/ABcd##1234@pdb1
```

The Listener is listening to an endpoint named EXTPROC\*. This is needed only when we need to call external procedures. As we do not need to call External Procedures in our environment, it is among the best security practices to remove this listening point from the Listener.

**41.** Open the listener.ora file and remove the EXTPROC\* from it.

**Tip**: In vi editor, to delete the current link, double press on [d] key.

vi \$ORACLE HOME/network/admin/listener.ora

```
LISTENER =
  (DESCRIPTION_LIST =
     (DESCRIPTION =
          (ADDRESS = (PROTOCOL = TCP)(HOST = srv1)(PORT = 1521))
     )
    )
)
```

**42.** Reload the Listener configuration and check out whether the EXTPROC end point is not listened by the Listener.

Unfortunately, the listening endpoint is still there.

```
lsnrctl reload
lsnrctl status
```

**43.** Restart the Listener and then check out the status of the EXTPROC endpoint.

The start command displays the status of the Listener after starting the Listener.

**Note**: the command may display the following message:

```
"The listener supports no services"
```

This could happen because the database services need some time to register themselves in the Listener after restarting the Listener. Just wait for a few seconds then try again. If, for any reason, a database service is still not registered in the Listener, we can manually register that database service by logging in locally to the dtabase and issuing the following statement:

ALTER SYSTEM REGISTER;

```
lsnrctl stop
lsnrctl start
lsnrctl status
```

# **Installing the Sample Application Swingbench**

Swingbench is a free sample application developed by <u>Dominic Giles</u>. We will use this application as a sample application in the course practices.

In this section of the practice, you will install Swingbench in your hosting PC and connect it to the database using Easy Connect method.

**44.** In the hosting PC, open a command prompt and issue the following command to check which Java version is installed in your PC.

You should have Java 1.8.x installed in your PC. In my environment, the output looked like the following:

```
java version "1.8.0_271"
Java(TM) SE Runtime Environment (build 1.8.0_271-b09)
Java HotSpot(TM) 64-Bit Server VM (build 25.271-b09, mixed mode)
```

```
java -version
```

- **45.** If the required Java runtime is not installed, download Java installer from this <u>link</u>. Manually download the file titled "Windows Offline (64-bit)". Do not use the online installed because it installs Java the 32-bit.
- **46.** Download the Swingbench installation file from the lecture downloadable resources.
- **47.** In your **hosting PC**, copy the software zip file to the disk drive where you want to install the software. In my case, I copied it to the C: drive.
- **48.** Extract the zip file into the selected drive letter. This folder is referred to in this document as \$SWINGHOME

If you use the installation file attached to the course, the application files should be extracted into a folder named as 'swingbench2.6'.

```
<disk drive letter>:\swingbench2.6
```

**49.** In the Putty session to srv1, verify that the OMF is enabled.

In the next steps, you will create a new tablespace. We want to make sure the OMF is enabled so that we do not need to provide the full name path of the datafile for that tablespace.

```
sqlplus / as sysdba
ALTER SESSION SET CONTAINER=pdb1;
show parameter DB_CREATE_FILE_DEST
```

**50.** In the **hosting PC**, open a new command prompt window and change the directory to \$SWINGHOME\winbin

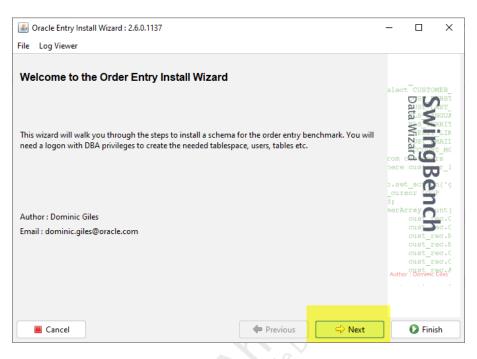
```
cd C:\swingbench2.6\winbin
```

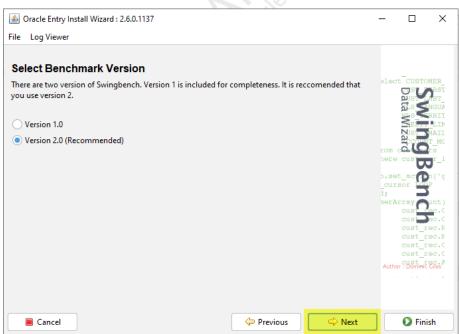
**51.** Start the "Order Entry Wizard".

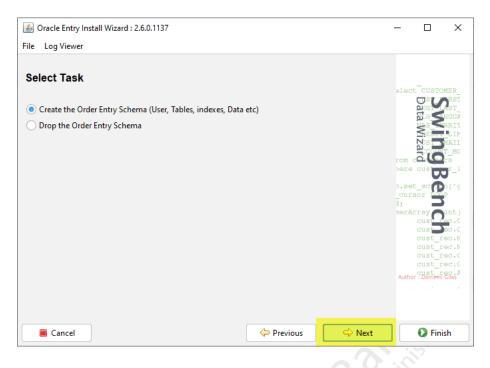
This wizard creates a schema in the database (its name is soe) and fill it with sample data.

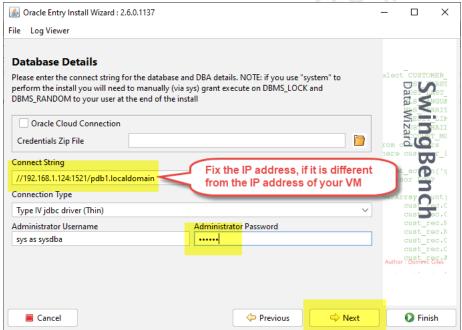
#### oewizard.bat

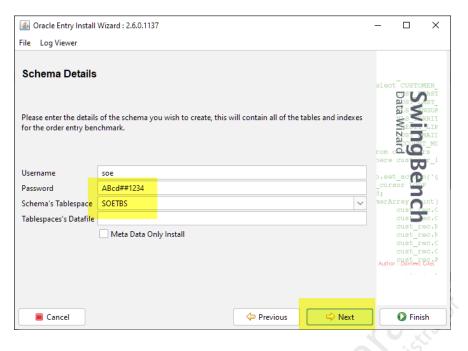
**52.** Respond to the wizard windows as follows to create SOE schema and load data into it.

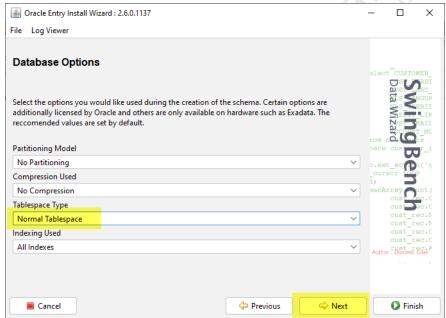


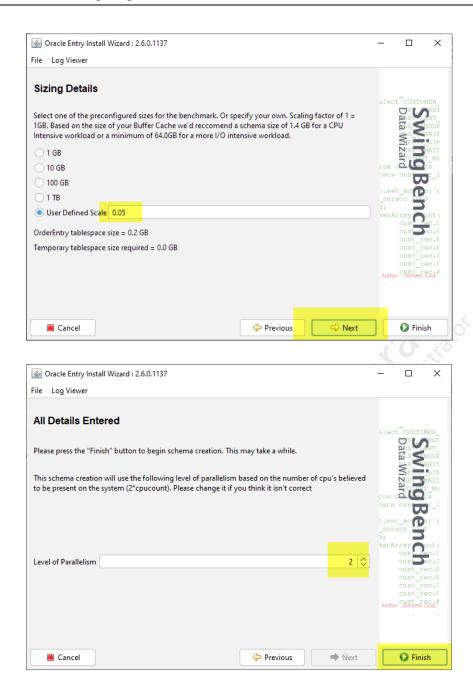




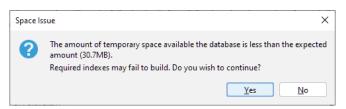




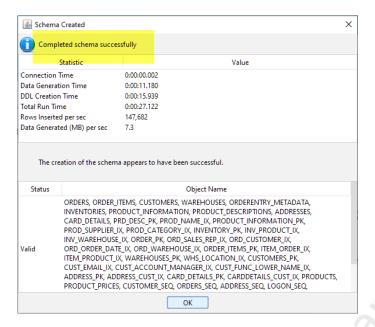




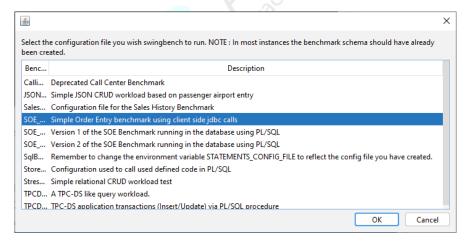
**53.** If you receive this message, click on Yes because the temporary tablespace in our database is auto-extensible.



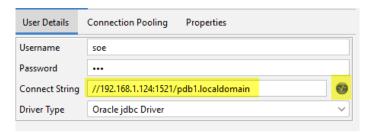
**54.** The process should finish with the message like the following:



- **55.** Click on **OK** button and close the wizard window.
- **56.** Start Swingbench by issuing the following command in the command prompt: swingbench.bat
- 57. When you see the following window, select the option "SOE\_Client\_Side".



**58.** Under the **User Details** tab, set the fields to the values as in the following screenshot. Click on **Test Connection** button.



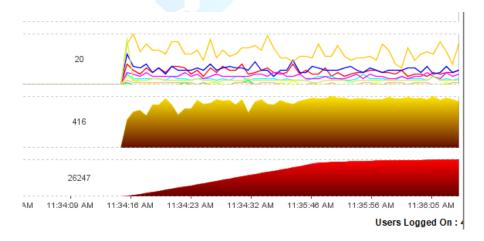
**59.** You should see the following successful message:



60. Click on Start Benchmark Run button:



**61.** Observe that the "**Transactions Per Minute**" chart is increasing by time and it eventually gets saturated.



**62.** Stop the Benchmark Run by clicking on its button.



### **63.** Exit from Swingbench.

We let Swingbench connect to PDB1 using Easy Connect method. In real life, Naming method is more commonly used by applications for connecting to Oracle databases rather than Easy Connect.

# **Installing Oracle Instant Client**

At the moment, we cannot use the Naming method for connecting Swingbench with the database in  $\mathtt{srv1}$  because Oracle Net is not installed in the hosting PC. To enable Swinbench to connect to the database using Naming method, we must install Oracle Net in the PC. The easiest way to install Oracle Net in a machine is by installing Oracle Instant Client. And that is what you're going to do in the following steps.

- **64.** Oracle Instant Client for Windows platform requires to have **Microsoft Visual Studio 2017 Redistributable** installed in your PC. If you do not have this package installed in your PC, download the file **vc\_redist.x64.zip** from the lecture downloadable resources, extract it, and install the package file in it. This file was downloaded from this link.
- **65.** Download the following files from the lecture downloadable resources. They are the files that we need for installing Oracle Instant Client in the hosting PC.

```
instantclient-basic-windows.x64-19.14.0.0.0dbru.zip instantclient-sqlplus-windows.x64-19.14.0.0.0dbru.zip instantclient-tools-windows.x64-19.14.0.0.0dbru.zip
```

**Note**: Those files were originally downloaded from this <u>link</u>.

**Note**: For just connecting to the database, we just need to install the first file. The other two files provide the SQL\*Plus and some other admin tools.

**66.** Extract the file instantclient-basic-windows.x64-19.14.0.0.0dbru.zip into your favorite drive letter. In my case, I extracted the file in the C drive. When I extract the file into the C drive, I will have the following folder:

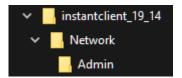
```
C:\instantclient 19 14
```

- **67.** Extract the other two files into the same drive letter. They will automatically be extracted into the same folder.
- **68.** Create the following directory structure **under** the Oracle Instant Client installation folder:

Network\Admin

**Note:** We could create any folder but the directory structure that we created is the default one.

The directory structure should look like the following:



**69.** In the Admin directory created in the preceding step, create the following file:

```
tnsnames.ora
```

- 70. Open the file with Notepad.
- 71. In srv1, open the tnsnames.ora file in it and copy the naming connection for PDB1.

```
host cat $ORACLE HOME/network/admin/tnsnames.ora
```

**72.** Paste the pdb1 connection setting into the tnsnames.ora file in the Oracle Instant Client. Replace the srv1 hostname with its IP address because the hostname srv1 is not defined locally in the PC.

- **73.** Add the Oracle Instant Client installation folder C:\instantclient\_19\_14 to the PATH environment variable:
  - 73.1. Open the File Explorer
  - 73.2. Right-click on the This PC icon
  - 73.3. Select Properties
  - 73.4. Click on the Advanced system settings link on the right side
  - 73.5. On System Properties window, Click on Advanced tab
  - 73.6. Click on **Environment Variables** button
  - 73.7. Under **System Variables** panel, double click on **Path** variable
  - 73.8. Click on New button
  - 73.9. Add the Oracle Instant Client directory to it
  - 73.10. Click on **OK** button

- **74.** Add a new environment variable named as TNS\_ADMIN and make its value the full directory name of the tnsnames.ora file.
  - 74.1. Under **System Variables** panel, click on **New** button
  - 74.2. Set the Variable Name to TNS\_ADMIN
  - 74.3. Set the Variable value to C:\instantclient 19 14\Network\Admin
  - 74.4. Click on **OK** button and close all the opened windows
- **75.** In the hosting PC, open a new command prompt window and issue the following command to make sure that the TNS ADMIN variable is set.

We need to open a new command prompt window so that the variable values changes take effect.

echo %TNS ADMIN%

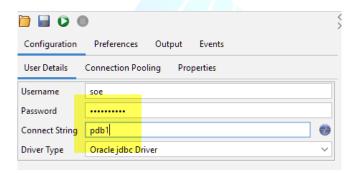
76. Run the following code to verify that the installation and the network configuration work fine.

sqlplus system/ABcd##1234@PDB1

- 77. Exit from SQL\*Plus.
- 78. Go to the Swingbench bin folder and run Swingbench again. Open the SOE Client side option.

cd C:\swingbench2.6\winbin
swingbench.bat

79. Try connecting to the database using the network service name defined in the tnsnames.ora file.



80. Click on **Test** Connection button to test the connection.

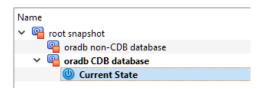
The test should succeed. This connection attempt used the naming connections defined locally.

- **81.** Run Swingbench sessions to test further that everything is going well.
- **82.** Close the sessions and exit from Swingbench.

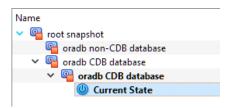
# Saving the srv1 Current State Snapshot

We want to save the changes that we made so far on srv1 in its snapshot. Therefore, in this section of the practice, you will create a new "**oradb CDB database**" snapshot and delete the existing one.

**83.** In Oracle VirtualBox manager, make sure the Current State is pointed under the "oradb CDB database" snapshot as follows:



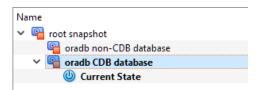
**84.** Click on **Take** button and name the snapshot as "oradb CDB database". you should have the snapshot structure as follows:



**85.** Select the **old** "oradb CDB database" snapshot then click on **Delete** button, as follows:



- **86.** Click on **Delete** button on the confirmation message.
- **87.** The Snapshot structure should now look like the following:



### **Summary**

- Easy Connect method allows us to connect to Oracle database with no Oracle Net configuration on the client side. But it must be enabled in the database side.
- Using netca utility or by directly editing the tnsnames.ora file, we can manage the naming connection names in the tnsnames.ora file at the database side.
- Using netca utility or by directly editing the sqlnet.ora file, we can control which connection method is available in the database side.
- Using lsnrctl, we can control and manage the Oracle Net Listener
- We installed Swingbench in the hosting PC to use it as a sample application in this course.
- If a client application wants to connect to an Oracle database using Naming method, it should have the Oracle Net installed in the client machine. The easiest way to have Oracle Net in a machine is by installing the Oracle instant client.