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# PL/SQL static code analysis: Weak "REF CURSOR" types should not be used

2 minutes

Weak `REF CURSOR` types are harder to work with than ones with a return type. Indeed, the compiler's type-checker is unable to make some verifications, which are then delayed till runtime.

When the use of weak `REF CURSOR` is required, it is best to use the `SYS_REFCURSOR` built-in type instead of defining a new one.

This rule's sysRefCursorAllowed parameter can be used to control whether or not the usage of `SYS_REFCURSOR` is allowed.

## Noncompliant Code Example

```
DECLARE
  TYPE dualCursorType IS REF CURSOR;                    -- Noncompliant
  dualCursor dualCursorType;

  otherCursor SYS_REFCURSOR;                            -- Compliant or non-compliant, depending on the "sysRefCursorAllowed" parameter
BEGIN
  otherCursor := dualCursor;                            -- Works
END;
```

```
/
```

## Compliant Solution

```
DECLARE
  TYPE dualCursorType IS REF CURSOR RETURN
DUAL%ROWTYPE;
  dualCursor dualCursorType;

  TYPE otherCursorType IS REF CURSOR RETURN
a%ROWTYPE;
  otherCursor otherCursorType;
BEGIN
  otherCursor := dualCursor;                              -- raises
PLS-00382: expression is of wrong type, which makes
debugging easier
END;
/
```