Creating a Simple Autonomous Database Application in Oracle APEX



Tutorial: Creating a Simple Database Application in Oracle APEX

Topic	Details
Overview	In this tutorial, you will create a simple database application in Oracle APEX using App Builder.
Key Concepts	 Create an application using the Application Wizard Create additional pages using the Page Wizard Use existing sequences to populate primary key columns Create Lists of Values to populate foreign key columns. Create Master Detail Forms Upload an image file to display on a page in the application
Difficulty	Intermediate
Duration	Approximately 90 minutes
	Note : Learners will require access to an active APEX account with tables and data uploaded from the SQL schema script file (which can be accessed from Course Resources of either database course). This tutorial was built using APEX 22.2

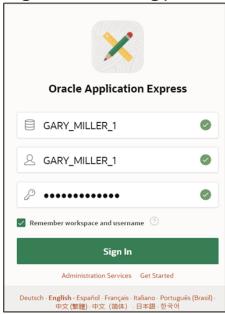
Part 1: Introduction and Getting Started

This tutorial will demonstrate how to create a database application using the App Builder component of Oracle Application Express (APEX) on a Cloud Autonomous Database.

The application created in this tutorial will allow end-users to add, modify and delete data in the existing Jobs, Employees and Departments tables without the need to run SQL queries.

Step 1: Log on to APEX

1. Log on to APEX using your Autonomous Database APEX credentials.



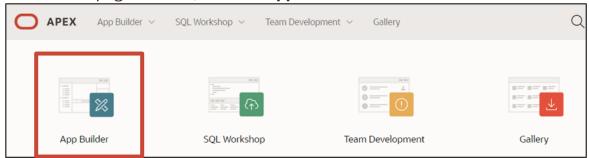
2. By default, APEX is in "Dark Mode". The screenshots in this lab are displayed in "Light Mode". You can select your chosen mode by clicking your workspace name from the top right of APEX home page and clicking your choice.





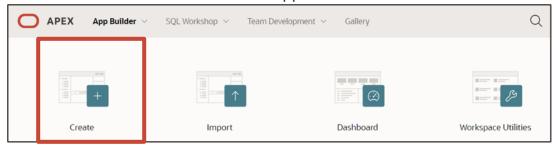
Step 2: Accessing Application Builder

1. In the home page of APEX, click the **App Builder** icon.

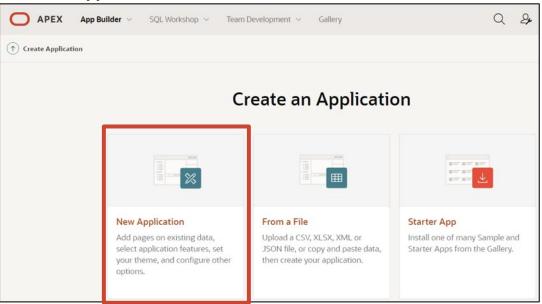


Step 3: Create a New Application

1. Click the **Create** icon to create a new application.



2. Click **New Application**.



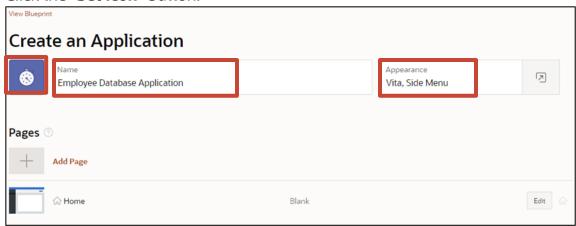
Step 4: Name the Application

Follow the steps below to continue creating the application:

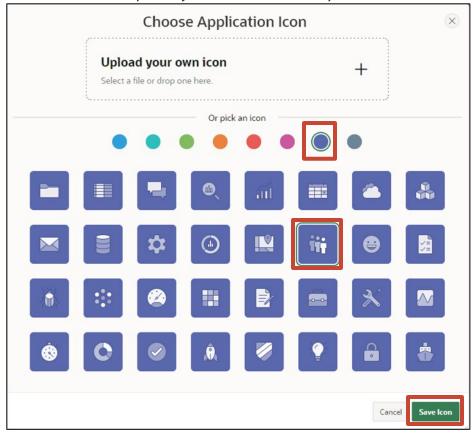
1. Name: Employee Database Application

Appearance: Accept default Vita theme

Click the "Set Icon" button.



2. Select an icon and its color to use for your application, then click **Set Application** Icon. (You can also upload an image to use as the app icon by dragging an image file from your local machine to the "Upload your own icon" area.) Click **Save Icon**.





3. Scroll down to confirm the **Settings** options:

Application ID: Do not change the application number. APEX creates an application number by default, and it is recommended that you do not change this number.

Schema: your schema workspace will be displayed by default.

Authentication: Oracle APEX Accounts



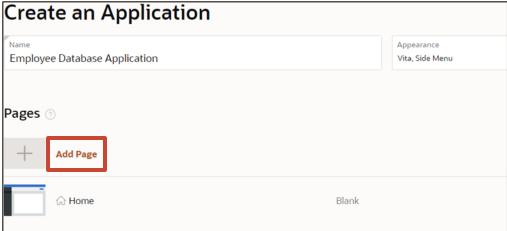
Note: Do **NOT** click Create Application at this time.

Step 5: Add a Page to the Application

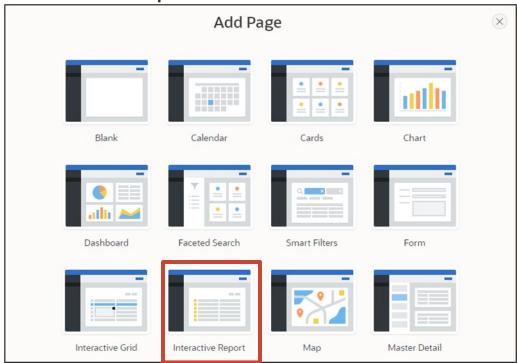
A "Home" page is added automatically to your application, this will be the parent page for any other page that we add.

In this step, we will add a page that will display the data in the jobs table.

1. Scroll up to the **Add Page** link and click it.



2. Select Interactive Report.



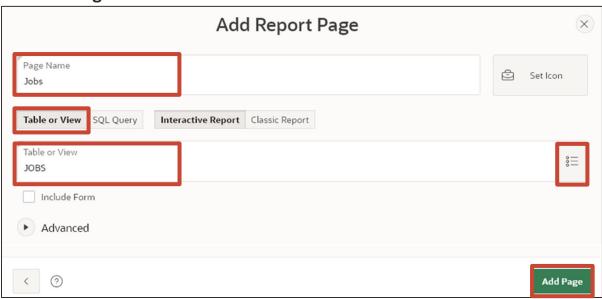
3. In the **Add Report Page**, enter the following:

Page Name: Jobs

Table or View: Click the list icon, find the Jobs table, and click it.

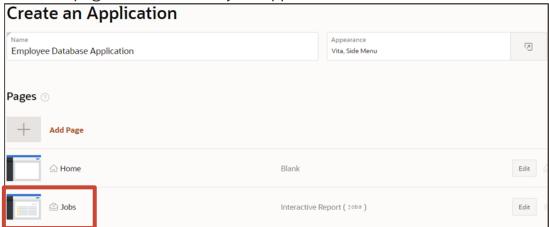
Click **Set Icon** and select the icon you want to use for the page. (The example below uses the fa-briefcase icon).

Click Add Page.

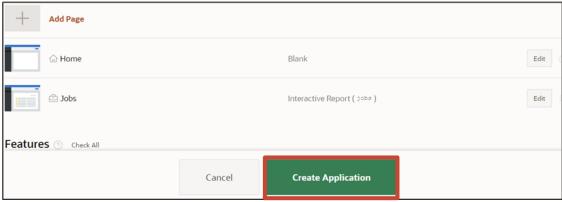




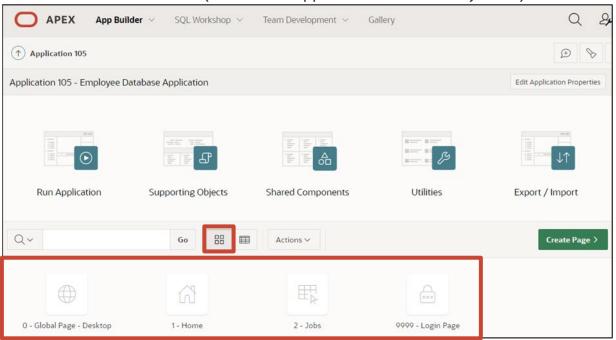
4. The Jobs page should show in your application.



5. Click the **Create Application** button.

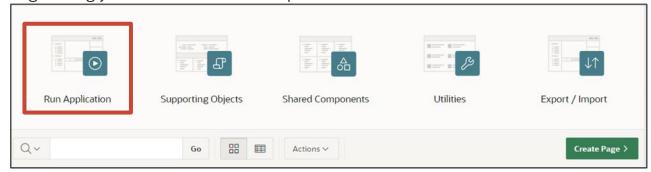


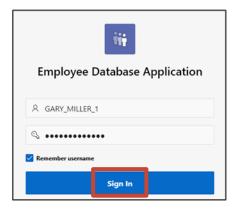
6. You will see your application and the pages it contains. If your pages are displayed as a list, click the **view icons** button. (**Note**: The "Application" number may differ)



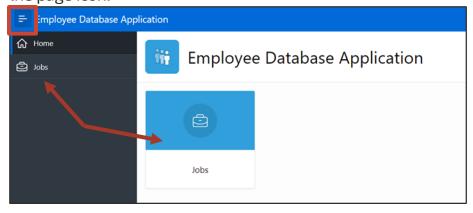
Step 6: Run and Test Application

1. Click the **Run Application** icon. Your application will open in a new browser window (or tab). Login using your APEX username and password.

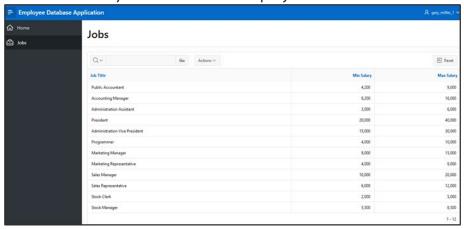




2. Once the app is displayed in the browser, click the **Navigation Menu** icon to expand the navigation pane, then select the **Jobs** page from the navigation pane on the left or by clicking the page icon.



3. The data in the jobs table will be displayed.



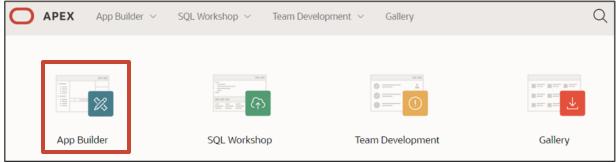
4. Close the browser tab (or window) showing the running application.

Part 2: Add an Employees Page Using the Create Page Wizard

Step 1: Edit the Application and Start the Page Wizard

In APEX, you can access your application at any time by clicking the App Builder tab or icon to return to Application Builder home page.

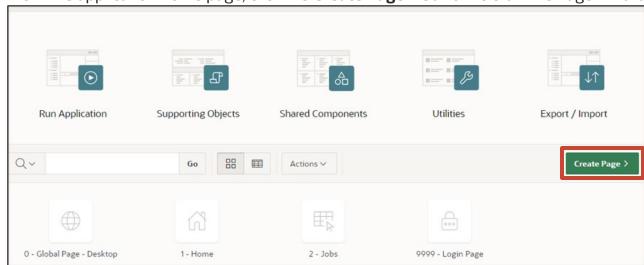
1. If your application home page is not displayed, click the **App Builder** icon.



2. Click the **Employee Database Application** Icon.

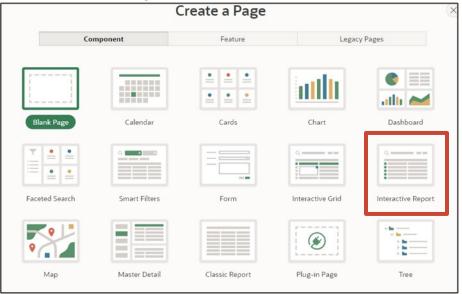


3. From the application home page, click the **Create Page >** button to start the Page Wizard.



Step 2: Edit Select Page Type

1. Click Interactive Report.



2. Enter the following properties for the Page Definition:

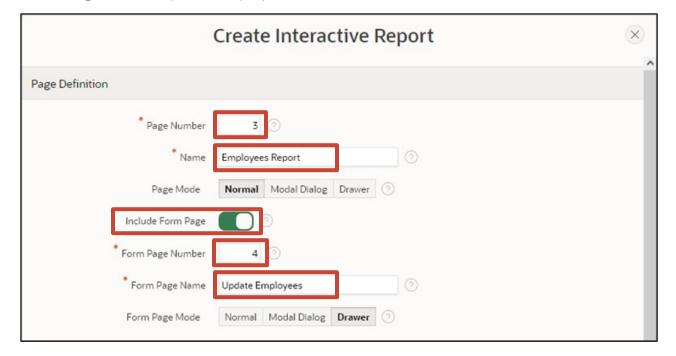
Page Number: 3

Page Name: Employees Report

Include Form Page: Move the slider to make it green (on position)

Form Page Number: 4

Form Page Name: Update Employees



Step 3: Select Data Source

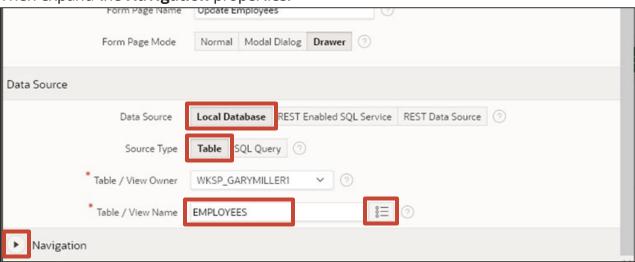
1. Scroll down to the **Data Source** properties and enter the following properties:

Data Source: Local Database

Source Type: Table

Table / View Name: Click the list icon and select the **EMPLOYEES** table

Then expand the **Navigation** properties.



Step 4: Add Navigation

1. Scroll down to the Navigation properties and check the following properties are selected:

Use Breadcrumb: Move the slider to make it green (on position)

Breadcrumb Parent Entry: empty

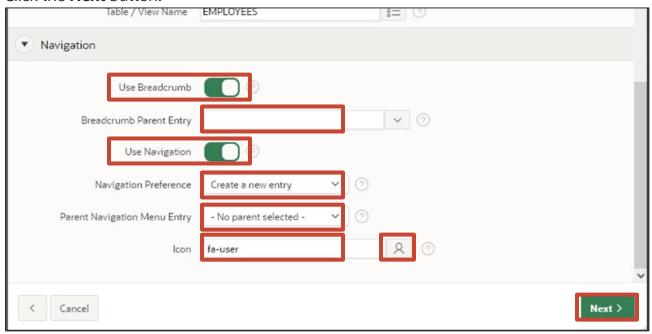
Use Navigation: Move the slider to make it green (on position)

Navigation Preference: "Create a new entry"

For Parent Navigation Menu Entry: - No Parent Selected -

You can select a page icon by clicking the **Select Icon** button

Click the **Next** button.

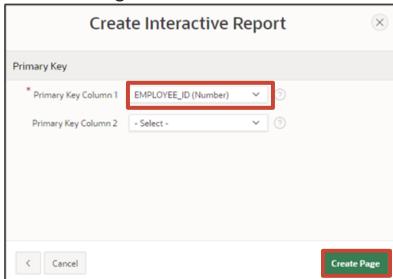


Step 5: Select Primary Key

1. Check the following properties:

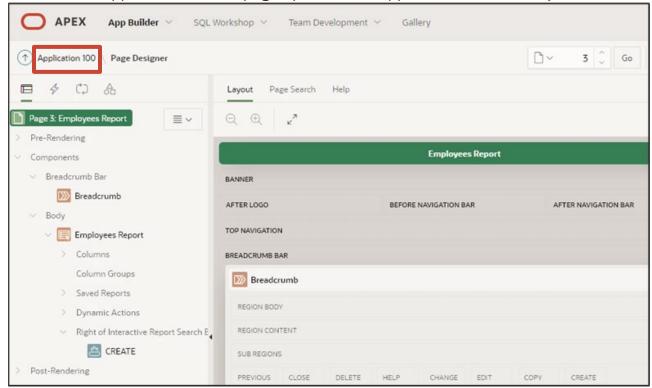
Primary Key Column 1: EMPLOYEE_ID (Number)

Click Create Page.

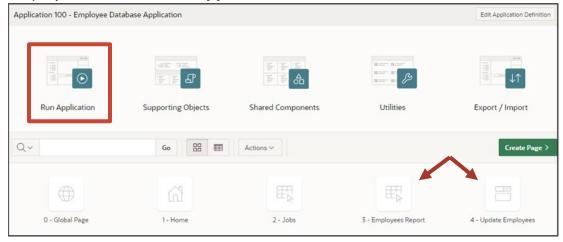




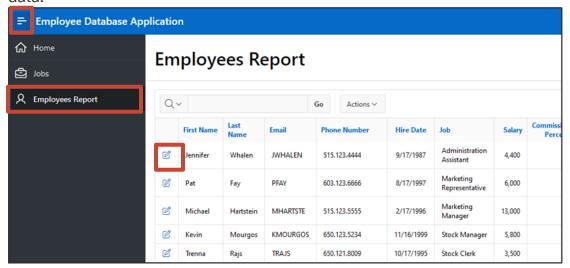
2. The Employees Report will open in the **Page Designer** view. Click the **Application** *Number* to return to the application's home page. (**Note**: Your application number may look different.)



3. You will see that two new pages have been added to your app, Employees report and Update Employees. Click the **Run Application** icon.



4. Login with your APEX username and password if prompted, click **Employees Report** from the **Navigation Menu**, and you will see all employees displayed. Click the edit icon in a row of data.



5. The Update Employees Form is displayed, which allows employee details to be edited. Do not attempt to modify or insert records at this time. Close the Update Employee form by either clicking one of the pages in the Navigation Menu on the left of the window or scroll down the Update Employee form and click the Cancel button.

Part 3: Include Lists of Values on the Update Employees page

The employees table has three foreign key columns. In order to successfully insert or update a record, valid values must be used for these columns that already exist in the parent tables. Using values that are not present in the parent tables will result in an integrity constraint error when attempting to insert or update a record.

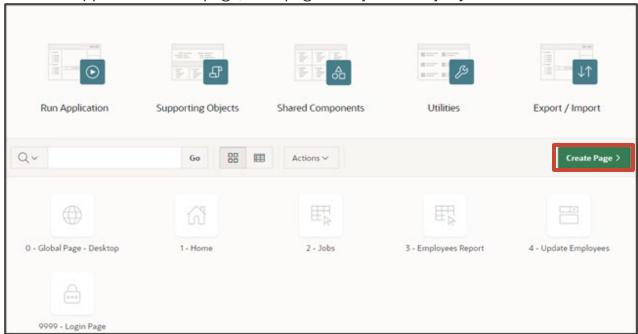
By default, the **Job Id**, **Manager Id**, and **Department Id** fields are of type **Select List**, which use an automatically created **List of Values** to allow the user to select existing values from the parent table.

The **Manager Id**, **Select List**, picks up all employees regardless of whether they are manager or not, and only displays the first name.

To address this, we can create a **List of Values** (LOVs) manually, that forces the user to select only valid values, employees that are managers. We can also display both first and last name.

Step 1: Open the Update Employees Page for Editing

1. From the application home page, Click page 4 – Update Employees.

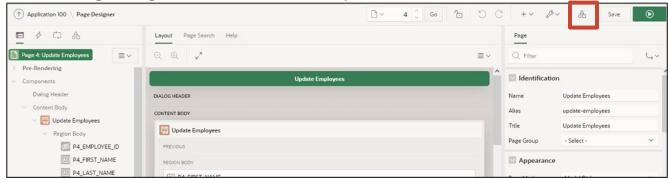


2. The page will open in Page Designer view.

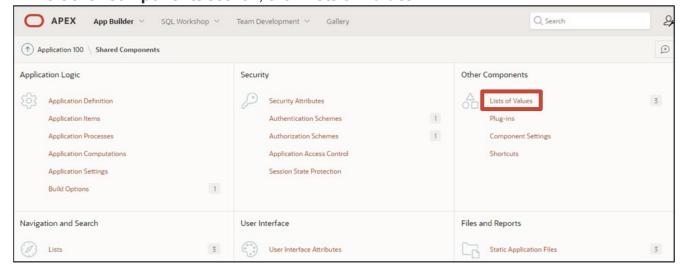
Step 2: Create a Shared List of Values

We will now create a new **List of Values** (LOV) to use for the manager_id field. Later in this Lab, we will create a page to view and modify the departments table, which also has a manager_id column. To save duplication of work, we can create the LOV as a **Shared Component**, and access it from both pages.

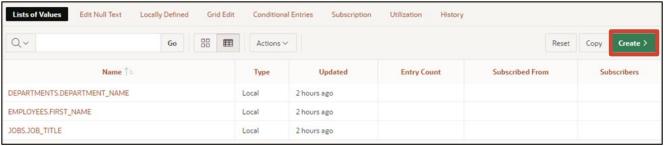
1. From the Page Designer, click the **Shared Components** icon.



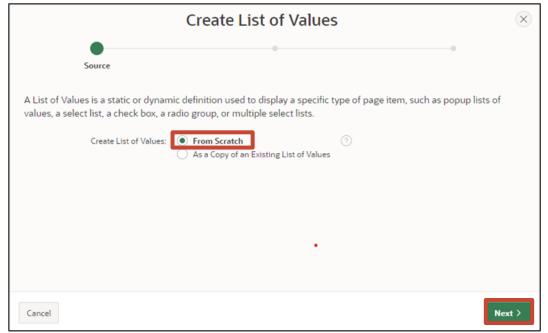
2. In the Other Components section, click Lists of Values.



3. To create an LOV manually, click the **Create** button. (**Note**: The 3 existing LOVs that were automatically created.)



4. For **Source**, select **From Scratch**, then click **Next**.

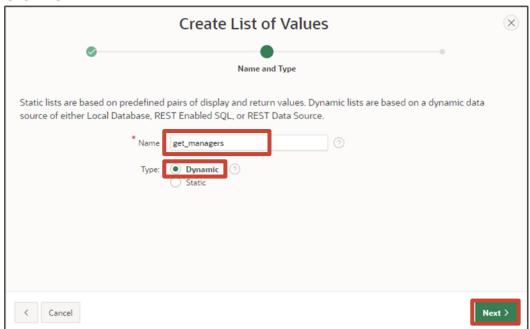


5. Enter the following:

Name: get_managers

Type: Dynamic

Click Next.



6. The SQL statement for this LOV has two functions to complete. Firstly, we want to display both the manager first name and last name. As these are two different columns in the table, we need to use the concatenation operator (two "pipe" symbols | |) to display the manager full name as if it were a single column.

We also need to add a WHERE clause as, only employees with a job id of AD_PRES, AD_VP or employees with the text MAN or MGR in their job id can be managers.

For Source Type: Select SQL Query

Enter the following code in the Code Editor:

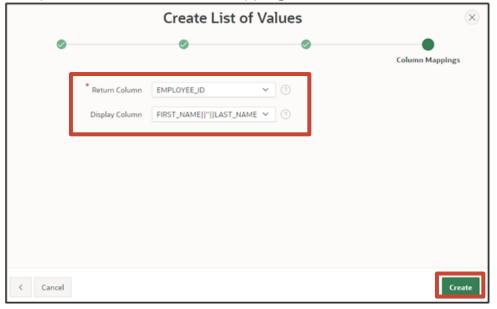
```
SELECT first_name ||' '|| last_name, employee_id
FROM employees
WHERE job_id IN ('AD_PRES', 'AD_VP')
OR job_id LIKE '%_MAN'
OR job id LIKE '% MGR';
```



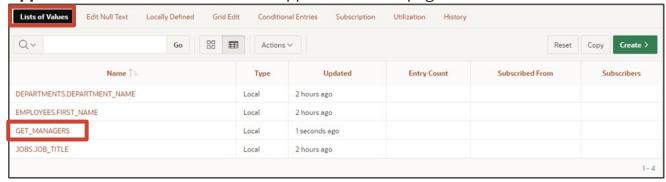
7. Once the statement is entered, click the **Validation** icon (a tick inside a circle). Once you receive a validation successful message, click **Next**.



8. Accept the values for Column Mappings and click Create.



9. The **Lists of Values** will be displayed on the Shared Component's LOV page. Click the **Application** *Number* to return to the application home page.

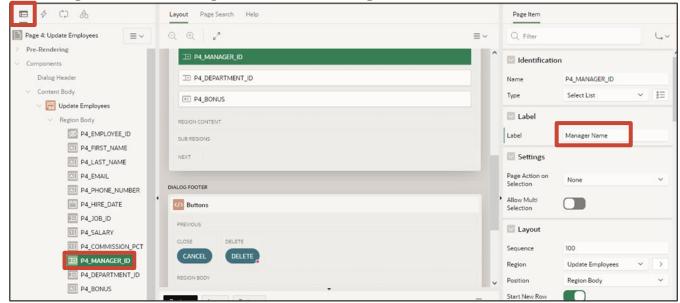


Step 3: Use the Shared List of Values in the Update Employees Page

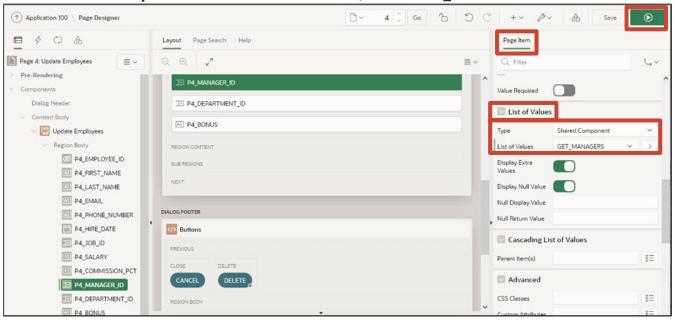
From the application home page, click page **4 – Update Employees** to open the page in Page Designer.

1. From the Rendering tab, select P4_MANAGER_ID by left mouse clicking it. (**Note**: If the items are not listed, you may need to expand **Components**, **Content Body** and **Region Body**).

In the Page Item area, change the Label to Manager Name.



2. Continuing in the **Page Item** area, scroll down to see the **List of Values** settings. For **Type**, select **Shared Component** and for **List of Values**, select **GET_MANAGERS**. Click **Save**.



3. Run the application to test. If you have coded your SQL statement correctly, the LOV for **Manager Name** should show only the seven employees that can be managers. (**Note**: Do not attempt to insert a new record at this time.)



Part 4: Use a Sequence to Manage Primary Key Values on the Update Employees Page

If you tried to insert a new employee on the **Update Employee** page, you would receive an error message. The <code>employee_id</code> item is hidden by default, so the user cannot enter a value for the primary key of the table. One solution would be to edit the page and change the <code>employee_id</code> item's type from **Hidden** to **Number Field**, and users could then enter a value for the <code>employee_id</code>.



It is, however, unrealistic to expect end users to know what value to use for the primary key, especially if the table is large and has many rows.

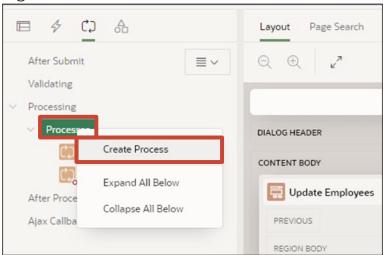
We can create a process that will use a sequence, <code>employees_seq</code> (which was created in your schema when you ran the script to create and populate the tables) to automatically add values for the <code>employee id</code> column in the table.

Step 1: Create a New Process

1. Open page **4 - Update Employees** in Page Designer view as before and click the **Processing** tab.



2. Right click on **Processes** and select **Create Process**.



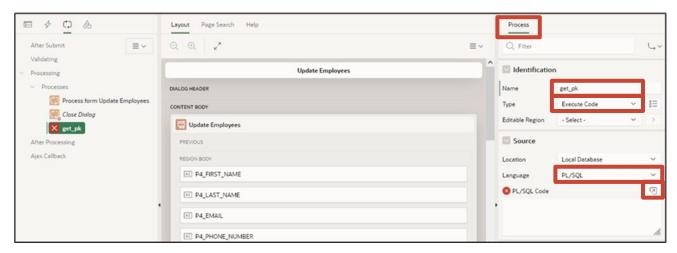
Step 2: Enter Code for the Process

1. Enter the following for **Process**. In the **Identification** area, enter:

Name: get_pk

Type: Execute Code

In the **Source** area, set **Language** to PL/SQL, then click the **Code editor** icon.



2. Enter the following code in the code editor:

```
BEGIN

IF :P4_EMPLOYEE_ID IS NULL

THEN

SELECT employees_seq.NEXTVAL

INTO :P4_employee_id

FROM dual;

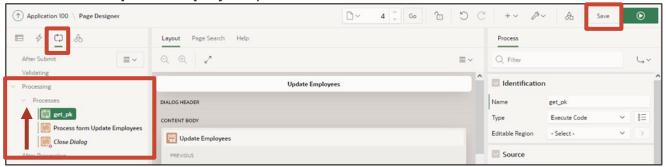
END IF;

END;
```

3. Once the statement is entered, click the **Validation** icon (a tick inside a circle), and if you receive a validation successful message, click **OK**.

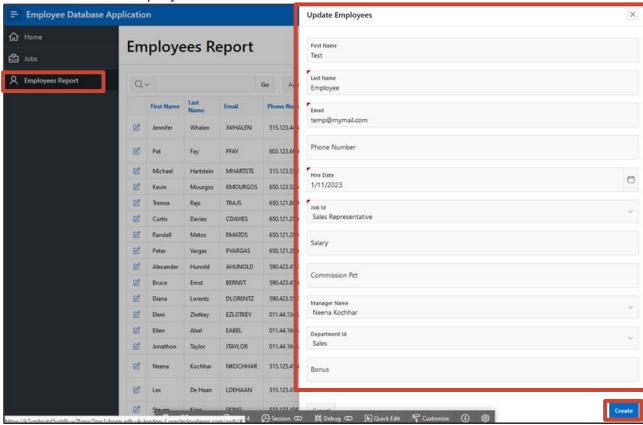


- 4. The new get_pk process must run before the other process to ensure that employee_id has a value before the insert is processed.
- 5. In the processes tab, left mouse click and drag the new <code>get_pk</code> process so that it is above the **Process form Update Employees** process. Click **Save**.

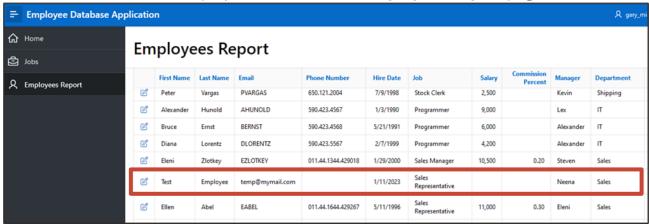


Step 3: Run and Test

1. Run the application to test. Open the **Employees Report** and click the **Create** button. Enter values for a new employee and click **Create**.



2. You should see the new employee included in the **Employees Report** page.



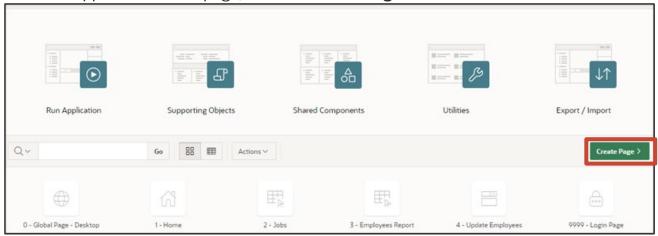
Part 5: Add a New Page to View Departments and their Employees

In this section, we will add a **Master Detail** form, which will display departments, and the employees that are assigned to each department on a separate page. The page will also allow the user to update, add and delete departments.

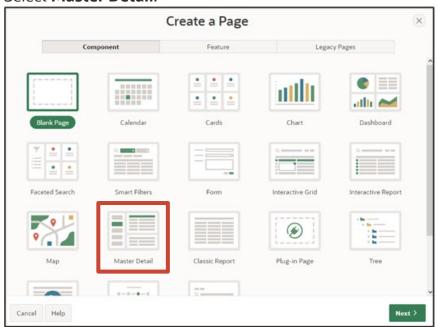
Master Detail refers to the relationship between the two tables. The employees table has a foreign key relationship with the departments table, so the departments table is known as the master table, and employees as the detail table.

Step 1: Run the Page Wizard to Create the New Forms

1. From the application home page, click the **Create Page >** button.

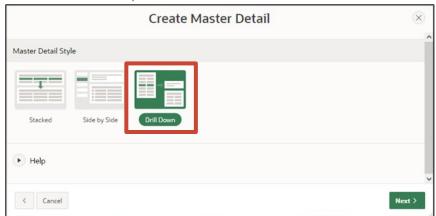


Select Master Detail.





3. Select **Drill Down**, click **Next**.



4. For Master Page Definition, enter:

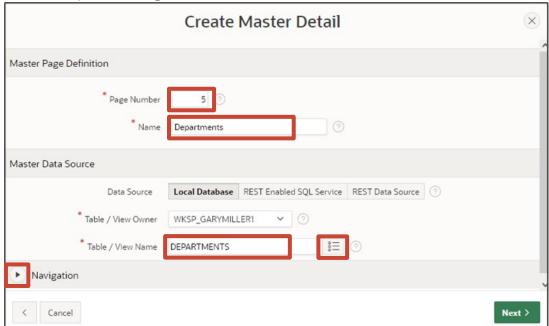
Page Number: 5

Name: Departments

For Master Data Source,

Table / View Name: Click the list icon and select DEPARTMENTS

Click to expand Navigation.



Step 2: Apply Navigation Menu Settings

1. Scroll down to the **Navigation** properties and check the following properties are selected:

Use Breadcrumb: Move the slider to make it green (on position)

Breadcrumb Parent Entry: empty

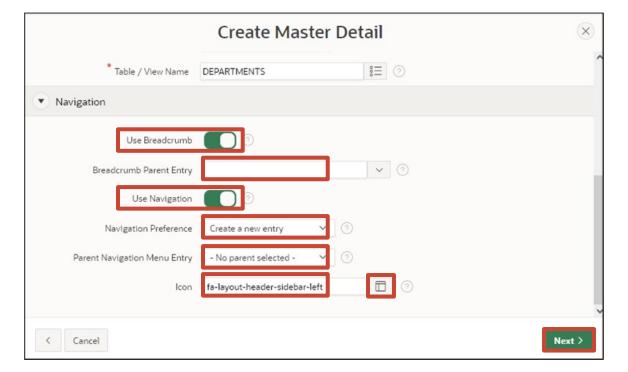
Use Navigation: Move the slider to make it green (on position)

Navigation Preference: Create a new entry

Parent Navigation Menu Entry: - No Parent Selected -

You can select a page **icon** by clicking the **Select Icon** button.

Click the **Next** button.



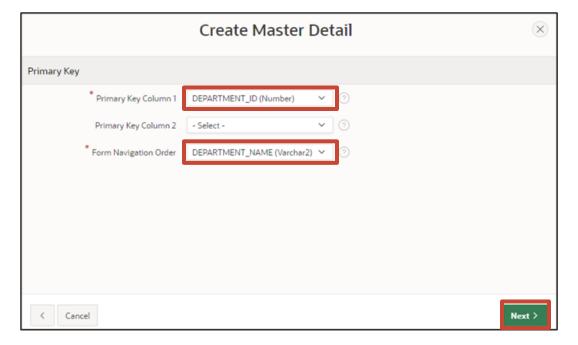
Step 3: Select Primary Key

1. Check the following properties for **Primary Key**:

Primary Key Column 1: DEPARTMENT ID (Number)

Form Navigation Order: DEPARTMENT NAME (Varchar2)

Click Next.



Step 4: Select Detail Table and Primary Key

1. Check the following properties for **Detail Page Definition**:

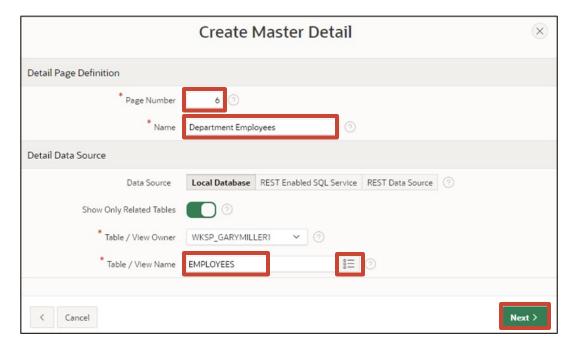
Page Number: 6

Name: Department Employees

Check the following properties for **Detail Data Source**:

Table / View: EMPLOYEES

Click Next.



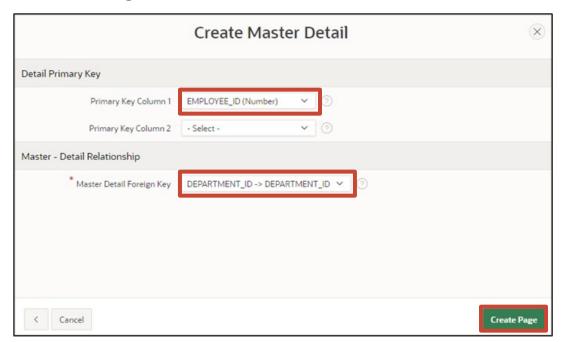


2. Check the following **Detail** properties:

Primary Key Column 1: EMPLOYEE ID (Number)

Master Detail Relationship: DEPARTMENT_ID -> DEPARTMENT_ID

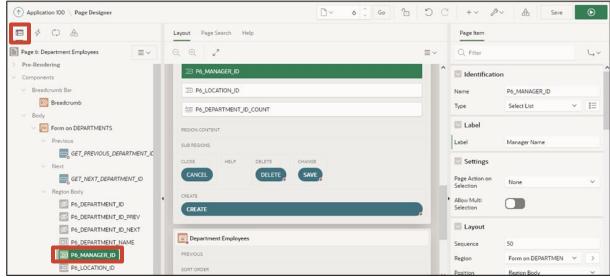
Click Create Page.



Step 5: Use LOV for manager_id Foreign Key Column

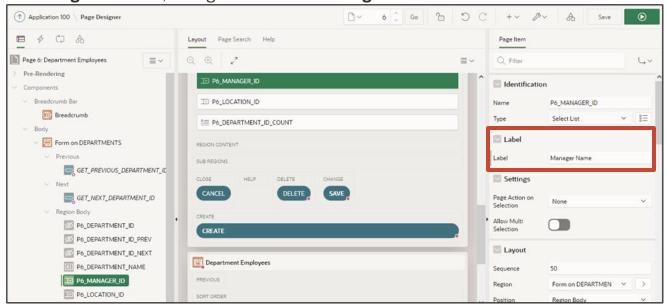
Ensure page 6 – Department Employees is open in Page Designer.

 From the Rendering tab, select P6_MANAGER_ID by left mouse clicking it. (If the items are not listed, you may need to expand Components, Body, Form on Departments and Region Body).

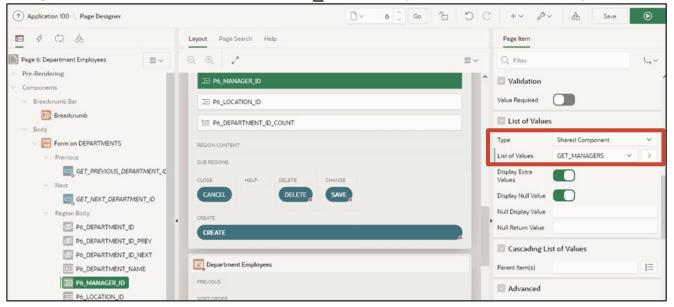




2. In the **Page Item** area, change the **Label** to **Manager Name**.



3. In the **Page Item** area, scroll down to see the **List of Values** settings. For **Type**, select **Shared Component**, for **List of Values**, select **GET MANAGERS** (which we created earlier). Click **Save**.



Step 6: Edit LOV for location_id Foreign Key Column

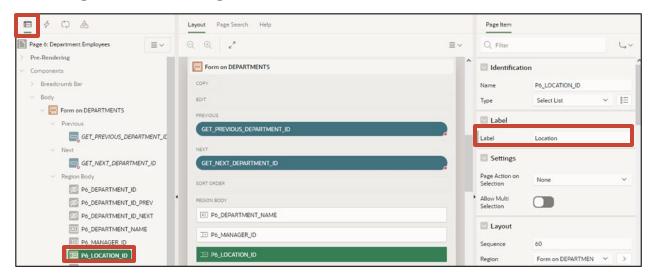
By default, the <code>location_id</code> foreign key uses the automatically generated shared LOV that displays street address. In this step, we will change this to display both <code>city</code> and <code>street</code>, using a SOL statement instead of the default LOV.

Ensure page 6 – Department Employees is open in Page Designer.

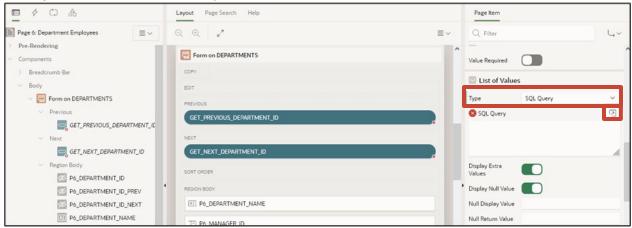


 From the rendering tab, select P6_LOCATION_ID by left mouse clicking it. (If the items are not listed, you may need to expand Components, Body, Form on Departments, Region Body).

In the **Page Item** area, change the **Label** to **Location**.



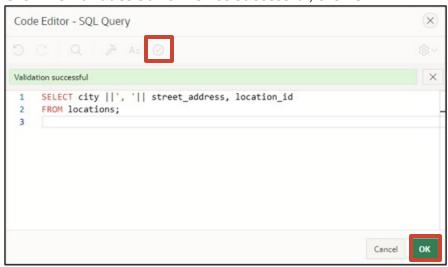
2. In the **Page Item** area, scroll down to see the **List of Values** settings. For **Type**, select **SQL Query** and click the **icon** to open the code editor:



3. Enter the following code in the code editor:

```
SELECT city ||', '|| street_address, location_id
FROM locations;
```

4. Click the Validate button. Once successful, click OK.

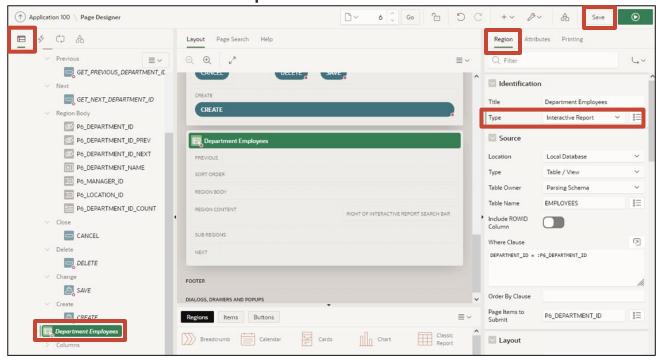


5. Click **Save** when returned to **Page Designer** view.

Step 7: Set Employee Details to be View Only

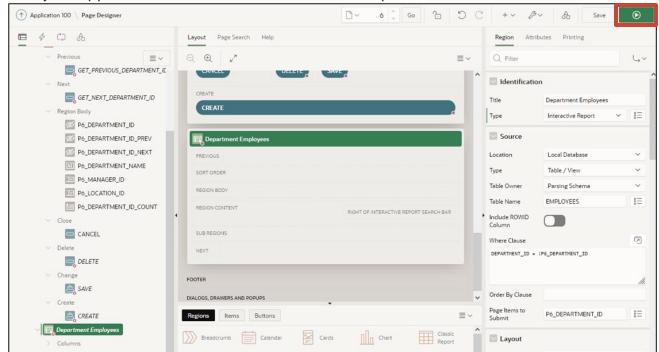
By default the employees are displayed in an editable interactive grid, which allows users to update employee records. We want users to manage employee records on the existing **Update Employee** page. Ensure **Page 6 – Department Employees** is open in **Page Designer**.

 From the rendering tab, scroll down to **Department Employees** (it is near the bottom of the rendering tab) and left click to select the form. In the **Region** tab, change **Type** from **Interactive Grid** to **Interactive Report**. Click **Save**.





2. **Run** your application to test. Do not create a new department at this time.

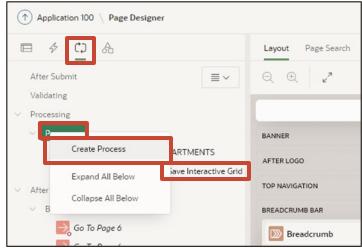


Part 6: Use a Sequence to Manage Primary Key Values on the Update Departments Page

In this step, we will create a new process to automatically generate primary key values using an existing sequence when creating a new department the same way we did earlier for the <code>employee id primary key</code>.

Step 1: Create a New Process

1. Right click on **Processes** and select **Create Process**.



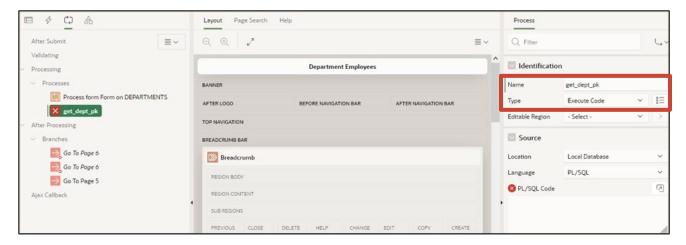


Step 2: Enter Code for the Process

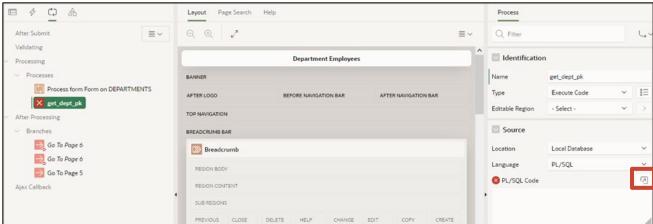
1. Enter the following for **Identification**:

Name: get dept pk

Type: Execute Code



2. Ensure the following for **Source** details. Then click the icon to open the code editor.



3. Enter the following code in the code editor:

```
BEGIN

IF :P6_DEPARTMENT_ID IS NULL

THEN

SELECT departments_seq.NEXTVAL

INTO :P6_department_id

FROM dual;

END IF;
```

END;

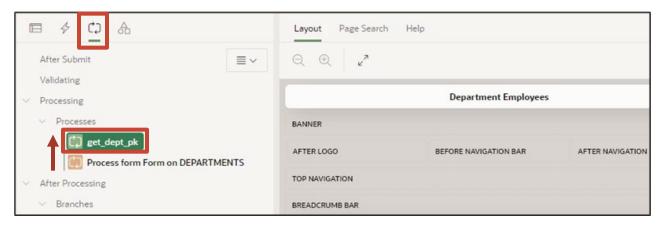


4. Once the statement is entered, click the **Validation** icon. Once successful, click **OK**.



5. The new get_dept_pk process must run before the other process to ensure that department_id has a value before the insert is processed.

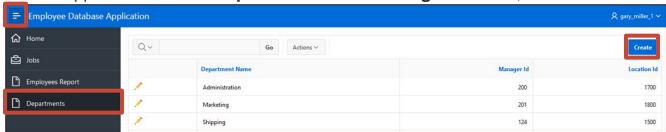
In the processes tab, left mouse click and drag the new <code>get_dept_pk</code> process so that it is above the **Process form Form on DEPARTMENTS**.



6. Save the page.

Step 3: Run and Test

Run the application and click Departments from the Navigation Menu, then click Create.

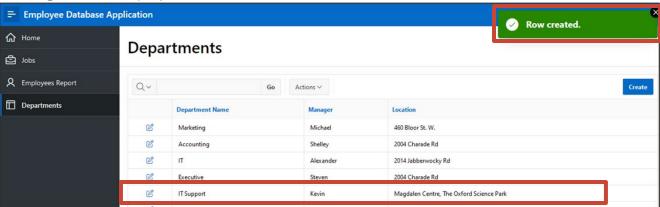




2. Enter values for a new department, then click **Create**.



3. The new department should be displayed in the Department Report, and a **Row created** message will be displayed.

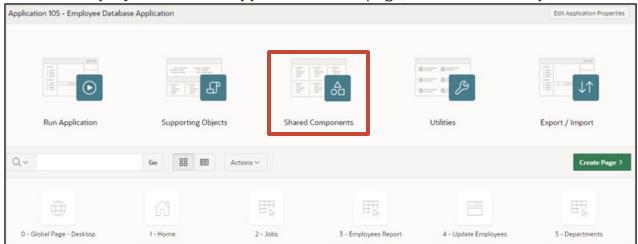


Part 7: Improve Appearance of Home Page and Navigation Menu

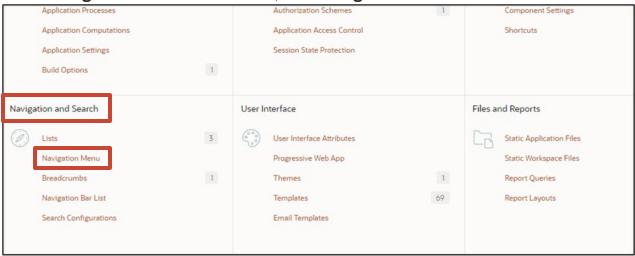
You can change the menu item icon to better match the menu item purpose. In the example below, the default icon was accepted when the page was created. In this section, we will update **Navigation Menu** icons, and add tiles to the home page for the other pages also.

Step 1: Change the Navigation Menu Icons

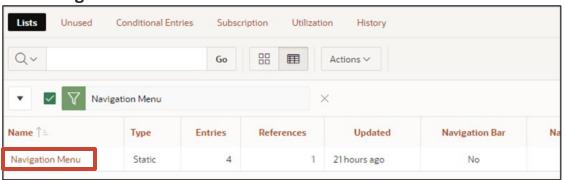
1. From the Employee Database Application home page, click Shared Components.



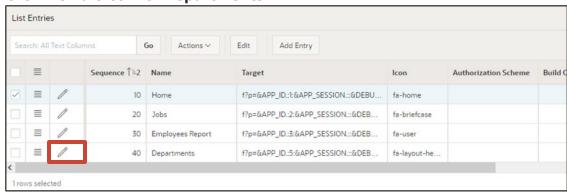
2. In the Navigation and Search section, click Navigation Menu.



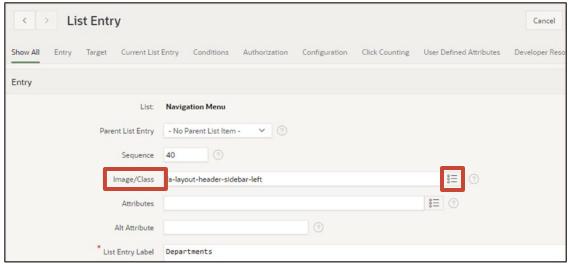
3. Click Navigation Menu.



4. Click the **Edit** icon for **Departments**.



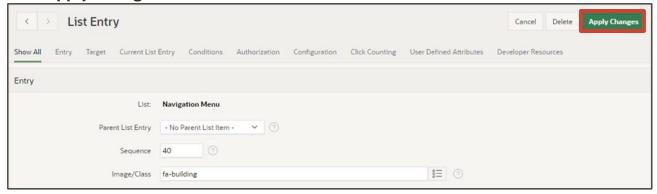
5. For Image/Class, click the List icon.



6. Scroll down through the icons and left click the **fa-building** icon.



7. Click Apply Changes.



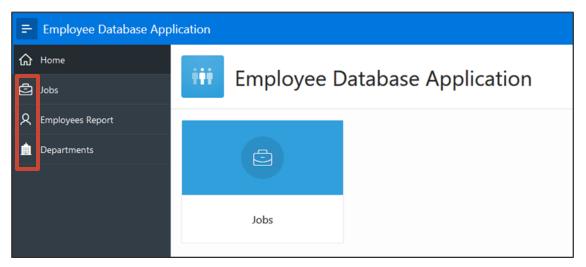
8. Follow the same process to change any other icons as required. The example below uses:

Jobs: fa-briefcase

Employee Report: fa-user

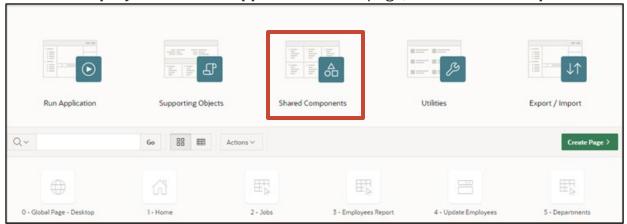
Departments: fa-building-o

Run the application to test. The new icons will now be shown in the **Navigation Menu**.

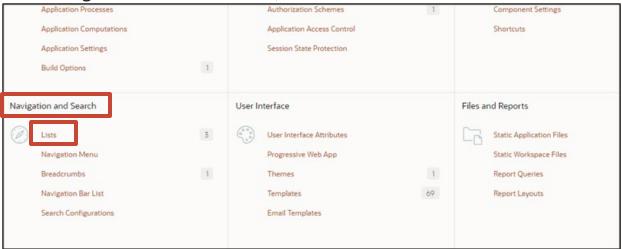


Step 2: Add Navigation Tiles to the Home Page

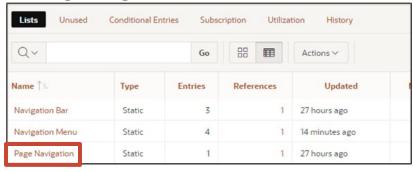
1. From the Employee Database Application home page, click Shared Components.



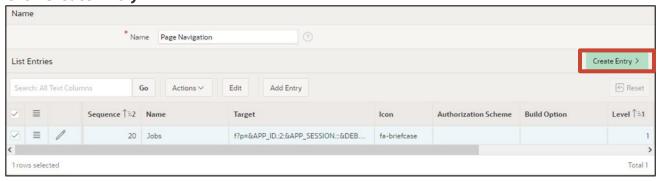
2. In the Navigation and Search section, click Lists.



3. Click Page Navigation.



4. Click Create Entry.



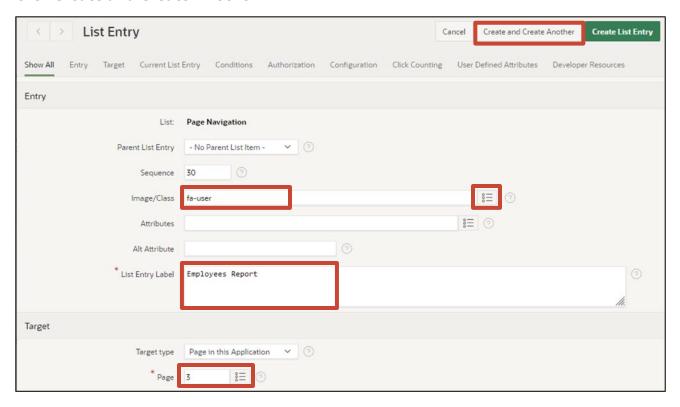
5. Enter the following properties:

Image/Class: fa-user

List Entry Label: Employees Report

Page: 3

Click Create and Create Another.



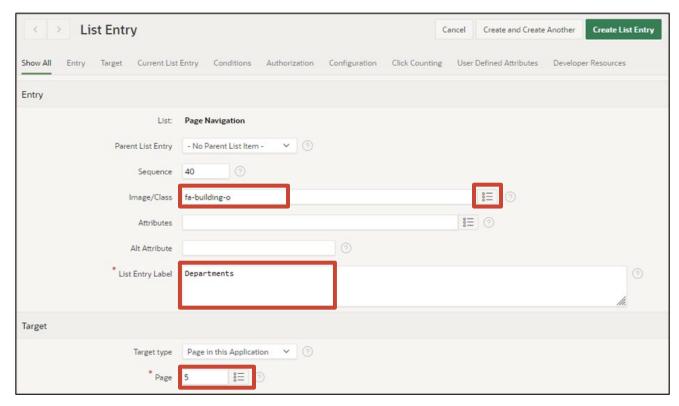
6. Enter the following properties:

Image/Class: fa-building-o

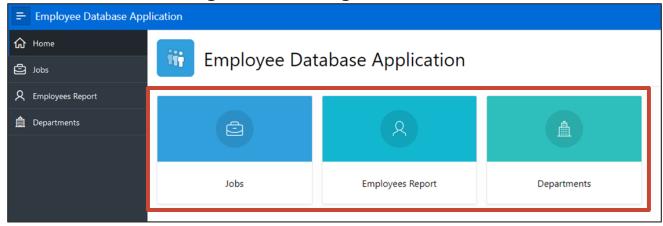
List Entry Label: Departments

Page: 5

Click Create List Entry



7. Return to the **Employee Database Application** home page and run the application to test. There should now be 3 navigation tiles showing.

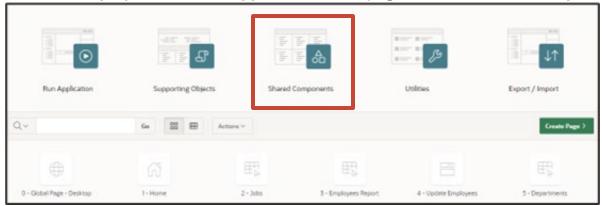


Part 8: Add an Image to the Home Page

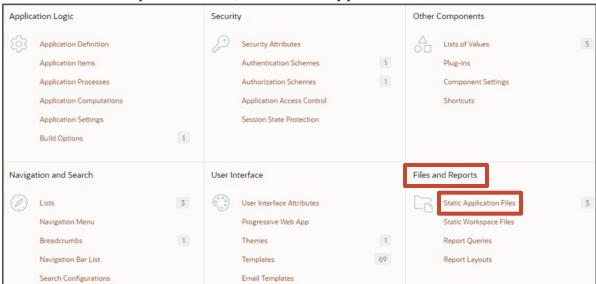
First find an image you want to use on the home page, and save locally on your PC, noting its location. Make sure the image is not too large, as we want it to fit on screen without the user having to scroll across the page. The size should be no more than 450 pixels wide, and 200 pixels high.

Step 1: Upload the Image

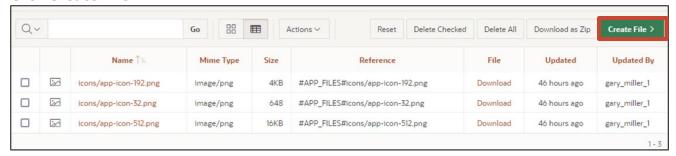
1. From the **Employee Database Application** home page, click the **Shared Components** icon.



2. In the Files and Reports section, click Static Application Files.



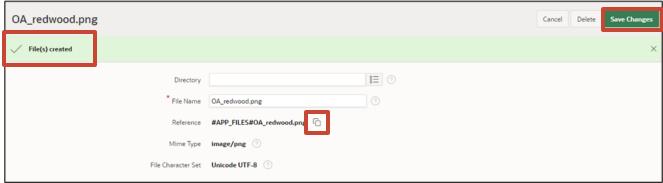
3. Click Create File.



4. Locate the image you want to use on your local machine and drag and drop it into the **Content** area. Click **Create**.

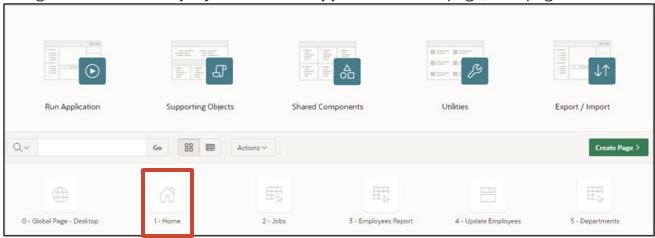


5. Your file will be created. Copy the reference into a text document (click the **Copy** icon) as this is how your application will locate the file from the home page. Click **Save Changes**.

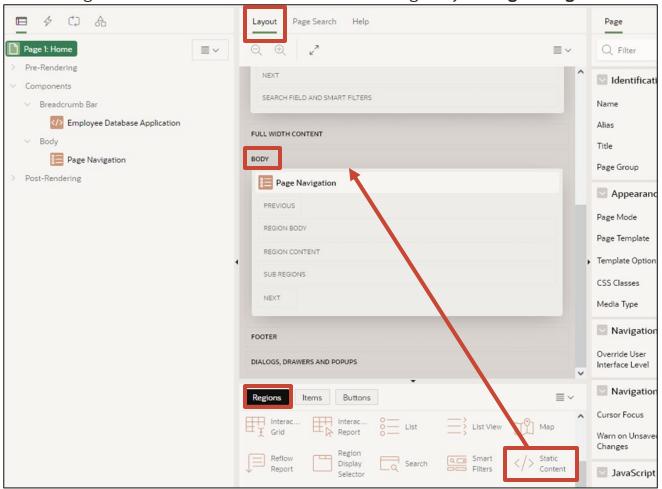


Step 2: Add a Region to the Home Page Content Body

1. Navigate back to the **Employee Database Application** home page, click page **1 – Home**.



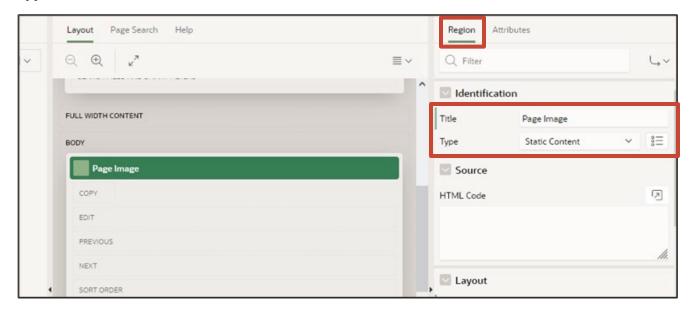
2. In the **Layout** section, scroll down to locate the **BODY** section. Locate and click the **Regions** tab. In the **Regions** section, scroll down to see the **Static Content** region. Drag the **Static Content** region into the content **BODY** above the existing entry for **Page Navigation**.



3. The new region will be shown directly below the **BODY** section. In the **Region** tab, enter the following properties:

Title: Page Image

Type: Static Content

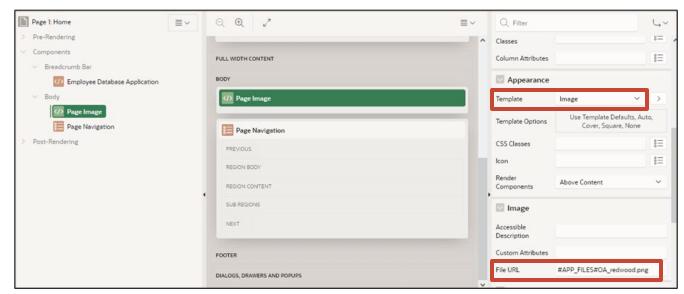


4. Still in the **Region** tab, scroll down to the **Appearance** section. Ensure the following properties:

Template: Image

File URL: Copy the file reference from Part 1

To clear the error, **save** the page.



Step 3: Test the Application

1. Run the application to test. Your home page should now display your image, similar to the example below.

