

## Lesson-04 : Database Triggers and its Types

What is a Trigger?

An EVENT which leads to ACTION is termed as a TRIGGER.

There are basically TWO types of triggers:

- [1] Application - Triggers when an event occurs in application
- [2] Database - Triggers when an event occurs in a database

What are Database Triggers?

Database triggers are STORED PROCEDURES that are IMPLICITLY executed when an triggering event occurs.

DB Triggers are associated with tables, views or other database objects.

The trigger event could be:

- DML statements on the table
- DDL statements
- System events such as startup, shutdown, and error
- User events such as logon and logoff

Business App Scenarios for Implementing Triggers

Refer PPTs

Available DB Trigger Types

Simple DML triggers:

- BEFORE
- AFTER
- INSTEAD OF

Compound triggers:

- Non-DML triggers
- DDL event triggers
- Database event triggers

Creating DML Triggers ( Parts of a Trigger )

A triggering statement contains:

- Trigger timing
  - For table: BEFORE, AFTER
  - For view: INSTEAD OF
- Triggering event: INSERT, UPDATE, or DELETE
- Table name: On table, view
- Trigger type: Row or statement
- WHEN clause: Restricting condition
- Trigger body: PL/SQL block OR call to a procedure
  - Determines what action is performed

DML Trigger Components

Trigger timing: When should the trigger fire?

- BEFORE: Execute the trigger body before the triggering DML event on a table.
- AFTER: Execute the trigger body after the triggering DML event on a table.

- **INSTEAD OF:** Execute the trigger body instead of the triggering statement. This is used for views that are not otherwise modifiable.

Triggering user event: Which DML statement causes the trigger to execute? You can use any of the following:

- INSERT
- UPDATE
- DELETE

Trigger type: Should the trigger body execute for each row the statement affects or only once?

- **Statement:** The trigger body executes once for the triggering event. This is the default.  
A statement trigger fires once, even if no rows are affected at all.
- **Row:** The trigger body executes once for each row affected by the triggering event.  
A row trigger is not executed if the triggering event affects no rows.

Trigger body: What action should the trigger perform?

The trigger body is a PL/SQL block or a call to a procedure.

Statement-Level v/s Row-Level Triggers

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Refer PPT

Firing Sequence: Single Row Manipulation

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Use the following firing sequence for a trigger on a table, when a single row is manipulated:

DML Statement

```
INSERT INTO departments (department_id, department_name, location_id)
VALUES (400, 'Consulting', 2400);
```

Triggering Action

```

                                <<- BEFORE Statement Trigger
-----
DEPARTMENT_ID DEPARTMENT_NAME          LOCATION_ID
-----
          240 Government Sales              1700
          250 Retail Sales                  1700
          260 Recruiting                    1700
                                <<- BEFORE Row Trigger
-----
          400 Consulting                      2400
-----
                                <<- AFTER Row Trigger
                                <<- AFTER Statement Trigger
```

Firing Sequence: Multi-Row Manipulation

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Refer PPT

## Creating DML Statement Triggers

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Syntax:

```
CREATE [OR REPLACE] TRIGGER trigger_name
    timing
    event1 [OR event2 OR event3]
    ON table_name
trigger_body
```

NOTE: Trigger names must be unique with respect to other triggers in the same schema.

Example:

```
CREATE OR REPLACE TRIGGER secure_emp
    BEFORE -- Trigger Timing
    INSERT -- The event
    ON employees

BEGIN
    IF      (TO_CHAR(SYSDATE, 'DY') IN ('SAT', 'SUN')) OR
           (TO_CHAR(SYSDATE, 'HH24:MI') NOT BETWEEN '08:00' AND '18:00')
    THEN
        RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR(-20500,
                                'You may insert into EMPLOYEES table only during
business hours..');
    END IF;
END; -- End of trigger
```

## Using Conditional Predicates

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Conditional Predicates are names given for certain conditions. They are implicitly defined in the Oracle DB Server.

Example: Refer 'secure\_emp2' trigger

## Creating a DML Row Trigger

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To create a DML row trigger, the syntax is as follows:

```
CREATE [OR REPLACE] TRIGGER trigger_name
    timing
    event1 [OR event2 OR event3]
    ON table_name
    [REFERENCING OLD AS old | NEW AS new]
FOR EACH ROW
    [WHEN (condition)]
trigger_body
```

NOTE: Observe, in the syntax the FOR EACH ROW clause.

The FOR EACH ROW clause, help us in identifying the DB trigger is a Statement-Level trigger or Row-Level trigger.

Example:

Example:

```
CREATE OR REPLACE TRIGGER restrict_salary
    BEFORE                -- Trigger Timing
    INSERT OR UPDATE OF salary  -- The event
    ON employees
    FOR EACH ROW            -- ROW Trigger
BEGIN
    -- The salary is restricted to employees other than
    -- 'AD_PRES' and 'AD_VP'
    IF NOT (:NEW.job_id IN ('AD_PRES', 'AD_VP')) AND (:NEW.salary >
15000)
    THEN
        RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR(-20404,
            'Employee cannot earn this much amount...');
    END IF;
END; -- End of trigger
```

```
SQL> SELECT employee_id, first_name, salary, job_id FROM employees WHERE
department_id = 110;
```

| EMPLOYEE_ID | FIRST_NAME | SALARY | JOB_ID     |
|-------------|------------|--------|------------|
| 205         | Shelley    | 12500  | AC_MGR     |
| 206         | William    | 8300   | AC_ACCOUNT |

```
SQL> UPDATE employees
2 SET salary = 18000
3 WHERE employee_id = 206;
UPDATE employees
*
```

ERROR at line 1:

ORA-20404: Employee cannot earn this much amount...

ORA-06512: at "HR.RESTRICT\_SALARY", line 5

ORA-04088: error during execution of trigger 'HR.RESTRICT\_SALARY'

Using OLD and NEW Qualifiers

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When a row level trigger fires, the PL/SQL run time engine creates and populates two data structures:

- \* OLD: Stores the original values of the record processed by the trigger
- \* NEW: Contains the new values

NEW and OLD have the same structure as a record declared using the %ROWTYPE on the table to which the trigger is attached.

| Operation | Old Value           | New Value          |
|-----------|---------------------|--------------------|
| INSERT    | NULL                | Inserted value     |
| UPDATE    | Value before update | Value after update |
| DELETE    | Value before delete | NULL               |

New and old values of the DML statements can be processed with NEW.column\_name and :OLD.column\_name in the trigger restriction and trigger action.

Example:

Example:

```
CREATE OR REPLACE TRIGGER audit_emp_values
    AFTER                                -- Trigger Timing
    INSERT OR DELETE OR UPDATE          -- The event
    ON employees
    FOR EACH ROW                        -- ROW Trigger
BEGIN
    INSERT INTO audit_emp (user_name, timestamp_id,
        id, old_last_name, new_last_name, old_title,
        new_title, old_salary, new_salary)
    VALUES (USER, SYSDATE, :OLD.employee_id, :OLD.last_name,
        :NEW.last_name, :OLD.job_id, :NEW.job_id,
        :OLD.salary, :NEW.salary);
END; -- End of trigger
```

NOTE: The 'audit\_emp' table needs to be created.

Once the 'audit\_emp' table is created, execute the below SQL statements and observe.

```
SQL> SELECT employee_id, first_name, last_name, salary FROM employees
WHERE department_id = 110;
```

| EMPLOYEE_ID | FIRST_NAME | LAST_NAME | SALARY |
|-------------|------------|-----------|--------|
| 205         | Shelley    | Higgins   | 12500  |
| 206         | William    | Gietz     | 8300   |

```
SQL> UPDATE employees
2  SET last_name = 'Smith', salary = 8800
3  WHERE employee_id = 206;
```

1 row updated.

```
SQL> SELECT employee_id, first_name, last_name, salary FROM employees
WHERE department_id = 110;
```

| EMPLOYEE_ID | FIRST_NAME | LAST_NAME | SALARY |
|-------------|------------|-----------|--------|
| 205         | Shelley    | Higgins   | 12500  |
| 206         | William    | Smith     | 8800   |

```
SQL> SELECT * FROM audit_emp;
```

| USER_NAME | TIMESTAMP  | ID         | OLD_LAST_NAME |
|-----------|------------|------------|---------------|
| HR        | 04-JAN-22  | 206        | Gietz         |
| Smith     | AC_ACCOUNT | AC_ACCOUNT | 8300          |

| NEW_LAST_NAME | OLD_TITLE  | NEW_TITLE  | OLD_SALARY | NEW_SALARY |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Smith         | AC_ACCOUNT | AC_ACCOUNT | 8300       | 8800       |

Restricting a Row Trigger

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To restrict a row trigger, the WHEN clause is used.

Example:

Example:

```
CREATE OR REPLACE TRIGGER derive_comm_pct
    BEFORE                -- Trigger Timing
    INSERT OR UPDATE OF salary    -- The event
        ON employees
    FOR EACH ROW            -- ROW Trigger
    WHEN (NEW.job_id = 'SA_REP') -- Row restriction
BEGIN
    IF INSERTING THEN
        :NEW.commission_pct := 0;
    ELSIF :OLD.commission_pct IS NULL THEN
        :NEW.commission_pct := 0;
    ELSE
        :NEW.commission_pct := :OLD.commission_pct + 0.05;
    END IF;
END; -- End of trigger
```

Now, if we change the salary of any 'SA\_REP', then the commission\_pct will be updated too.

i.e. If the commission\_pct is NULL, then it becomes ZERO. On the other hand if it is not null, then the new commission\_pct will be 5% more than the existing commission\_pct.

INSTEAD OF Triggers

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The INSTEAD OF triggers are associated with VIEWS.

With the INSTEAD OF trigger when we perform a DML, it actually does it with the underlying table.

To create an INSTEAD OF trigger, the syntax is as follows:

```
CREATE [OR REPLACE] TRIGGER trigger_name
    INSTEAD OF
        event1 [OR event2 OR event3]
        ON view_name
    [REFERENCING OLD AS old | NEW AS new]
    [FOR EACH ROW]
    trigger_body
```

Example:

```
CREATE OR REPLACE TRIGGER emp_details_insert
    INSTEAD OF            -- Used on 'emp_details' view
    INSERT ON emp_details
    FOR EACH ROW
BEGIN
    INSERT INTO new_emps (employee_id, last_name, salary, department_id)
    VALUES (:NEW.employee_id, :NEW.last_name, :NEW.salary,
:NEW.department_id);

    UPDATE new_depts
        SET deptsal = (SELECT SUM(salary) FROM new_emps
                        WHERE department_id = :NEW.department_id)
        WHERE department_id = :NEW.department_id;
END;
```

Observe, that when we insert into 'emp\_details' view, the actual data INSTEAD OF getting inserted in the view will be inserted in 'new\_emps' table and updated in 'new\_depts' table

Insert one row in the 'emp\_details' table and record your observation.

#### Status of the Triggers

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A trigger is in either of TWO distinct modes:

- [1] ENABLED: The trigger runs its trigger action if a triggering Statement is issued and the trigger restriction (if any) evaluates to true (default).
- [2] DISABLED: The trigger does not run its trigger action, even if a triggering statement is issued and the trigger restriction (if any) would evaluate to true.

#### Creating a Disabled Trigger

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Before Oracle Database 11g, if you created a trigger whose body had a PL/SQL compilation error, then DML to the table failed.

In Oracle Database 11g, you can create a DISABLED trigger and then enable it only when you know it will be compiled successfully.

Example:

```
CREATE OR REPLACE TRIGGER mytrg
  BEFORE INSERT ON mytable
  FOR EACH ROW
  DISABLE                <-- Observe the DISABLE clause
BEGIN
  :New.ID := my_seq.Nextval
  . . .
END;
```

#### Implementing an INTEGRITY CONSTRAINT with AFTER Trigger

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When we try to update the 'department\_id' in the 'employees' table with an invalid department id (i.e. a non-existing department\_id) the Oracle DB Server throws the following error.

```
SQL> UPDATE employees
      2  SET department_id = 112
      3  WHERE employee_id = 113;
UPDATE employees
*
ERROR at line 1:
ORA-02291: integrity constraint (HR.EMP_DEPT_FK) violated - parent key
not
found
```

However, it is possible to implement an Integrity Constraint with AFTER trigger.

Here, we will update the 'department\_id' with a non-existing department id in the 'departments' table and AFTER doing so we shall map the new department\_id with the new name 'Dept-<no>' in the 'departments' table.

This is achieved by using the AFTER trigger as shown below:

Example:

```

CREATE OR REPLACE TRIGGER emp_dept_fk_trg
    AFTER
    UPDATE OF department_id
        ON employees
    FOR EACH ROW
BEGIN
    INSERT INTO departments
        VALUES (:NEW.department_id, 'Dept-
'||:NEW.department_id,NULL,NULL);
EXCEPTION
    WHEN DUP_VAL_ON_INDEX THEN
        NULL; -- Do nothing if Department exists
END;

```

Once, the 'emp\_dept\_fk\_trg' trigger is created, if we update the 'employees' table with a non-existing 'department\_id' it still works and inserts the new details in the 'departments' table.

#### Managing Triggers

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Disable or reenale a database trigger:

```
ALTER TRIGGER trigger_name DISABLE | ENABLE;
```

Disable or reenale all triggers for a table:

```
ALTER TABLE table_name DISABLE | ENABLE ALL TRIGGERS;
```

Recompile a trigger for a table:

```
ALTER TRIGGER trigger_name COMPILE;
```

#### Dropping Trigger

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To remove a trigger from the database, use the DROP TRIGGER statement.

#### Syntax:

```
DROP TRIGGER trigger_name;
```

#### Example:

```
DROP TRIGGER secure_emp;
```

NOTE: All triggers on a table are dropped when the table is dropped.

#### Trigger Test Cases | Testing Triggers

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- Test each triggering data operation, as well as non-triggering data operations.
- Test each case of the WHEN clause.
- Cause the trigger to fire directly from a basic data operation, as well as indirectly from a procedure.
- Test the effect of the trigger upon other triggers.
- Test the effect of other triggers upon the trigger.

#### Viewing Trigger Information

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You can view the following trigger information:

- USER\_OBJECTS data dictionary view: object information
- USER\_TRIGGERS data dictionary view: the text of the trigger
- USER\_ERRORS data dictionary view: PL/SQL syntax errors (compilation errors) of the trigger



# Using USER\_TRIGGERS Data Dictionary

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The description of the USER\_TRIGGERS data dictionary is as follows:

SQL> desc USER\_TRIGGERS

Name	Null?	Type
-----	-----	-----
TRIGGER_NAME		VARCHAR2(128)
TRIGGER_TYPE		VARCHAR2(16)
TRIGGERING_EVENT		VARCHAR2(246)
TABLE_OWNER		VARCHAR2(128)
BASE_OBJECT_TYPE		VARCHAR2(18)
TABLE_NAME		VARCHAR2(128)
COLUMN_NAME		VARCHAR2(4000)
REFERENCING_NAMES		VARCHAR2(422)
WHEN_CLAUSE		VARCHAR2(4000)
STATUS		VARCHAR2(8)
DESCRIPTION		VARCHAR2(4000)
ACTION_TYPE		VARCHAR2(11)
TRIGGER_BODY		LONG
CROSSEDITION		VARCHAR2(7)
BEFORE_STATEMENT		VARCHAR2(3)
BEFORE_ROW		VARCHAR2(3)
AFTER_ROW		VARCHAR2(3)
AFTER_STATEMENT		VARCHAR2(3)
INSTEAD_OF_ROW		VARCHAR2(3)
FIRE_ONCE		VARCHAR2(3)
APPLY_SERVER_ONLY		VARCHAR2(3)

Now, to get the trigger info, we can query the USER\_TRIGGERS table as follows:

```
SQL> SELECT trigger_type, trigger_body
2   FROM user_triggers
3  WHERE trigger_name = 'SECURE_EMP';
```

TRIGGER\_TYPE

-----

TRIGGER\_BODY

-----

-

BEFORE STATEMENT

BEGIN

```
      IF      (TO_CHAR(SYSDATE, 'DY') IN ('SAT', 'SUN')) OR
              (TO_CHAR(SYSDATE, 'HH
```