EXCEPTIONS, PROCEDURES, FUNCTIONS, PACKAGES

Errors

- Two types of errors can be found in a program: compilation errors and runtime errors.
- There is a special section in a PL/SQL block that handles the runtime errors.
- This section is called the exception-handling section, and in it, runtime errors are referred to as exceptions.
- The exception-handling section allows programmers to specify what actions should be taken when a specific exception occurs.

Exception Handling

- In order to handle run time errors in the program, an exception handler must be added.
- The exception-handling section has the following structure:

```
WHEN EXCEPTION_NAME
THEN
ERROR-PROCESSING STATEMENTS;
```

 The exception-handling section is placed after the executable section of the block.

Predetermined Internal PL/SQL Exceptions(Built —in Exceptions)

1. **DUP_VAL_ON_INDEX**: Raised when an insert or update attempts to create two rows with <u>duplicate</u> values in columns constrained by a unique index.

username/<u>password</u> was used to log onto Oracle.

2. LOGIN DENIED: Raised when an invalid

- 3. **NO_DATA_FOUND**: Raised when a select statement returns zero rows.
- 4. **NOT_LOGGED_ON**: Raised when PL/SQL issues an oracle call without being logged onto Oracle.
- 5. **PROGRAM_ERROR**: Raised when PL/SQL has an internal problem.

<u>Predetermined Internal PL/SQL Exceptions(Built –in Exceptions)</u>

- 6. **TIMEOUT_ON_RESOURCE**: Raised when Oracle has been waiting to access a resource beyond the user-defined timeout limit.
- 7. **TOO_MANY_ROWS**: Raised when a select statement returns more than one row.
- 8. **VALUE_ERROR**: Raised when the <u>data type</u> or data size is invalid.
- 9. **OTHERS**: stands for all other exceptions not explicitly named

10.ZERO DIVIDE: Raised when number is divided by zero

```
Example: 1 Named Exception
DECLARE
                                   Write a PL/SQL block
 v empno emp.empno%TYPE;
                                   to handle
 v ename emp.ename%TYPE;
                                   NO DATA FOUND
 v salary emp.salary%TYPE;
                                   exception raised when
BEGIN
                                   select.. Into statement
                                   failed to fetch record.
v_empno:=&v_empno;
 SELECT ename, salary INTO v ename, v salary FROM emp
WHERE empno=v empno;
 DBMS OUTPUT.PUT LINE(v ename|| draws'
||v salary||' as salary');
EXCEPTION
 WHEN NO DATA FOUND THEN
 DBMS OUTPUT.PUT LINE('NO such employee found');
END;
```

```
Example: 2 Named Exception
SET SERVEROUTPUT ON
DECLARE
                               Write a PL/SQL block
v num1 number:=&v num1;
                               to divide a number by
v num2 number:=&v num2;
                               another number, handle
                               the exception raised
v result number:=0;
                               ZERO DIVIDE when
BEGIN
                               denominator is zero.
v result:=v num1/v num2;
 DBMS OUTPUT.PUT LINE('result is'||v result);
EXCEPTION
WHEN ZERO DIVIDE THEN
 DBMS OUTPUT.PUT LINE('A number cannot be
divided by zero');
END;
```

User Defined Exceptions

- For example, your program asks a user to enter a value for emp_id. This value is then assigned to the variable v_empid that is used later in the program.
- Generally, you want a positive number for an id. By mistake, the user enters a negative number.
- However, no error has occurred because emp_id has been defined as a number, and the user has supplied a legitimate numeric value.
- Therefore, you may want to implement your own exception to handle this situation.

<u>User Defined Exceptions</u>

- This type of an exception is called a user-defined exception because it is defined by the programmer.
- Before the exception can be used, it must be declared.
- A user-defined exception is declared in the declarative part of a PL/SQL block as shown below:

DECLARE exception name EXCEPTION;

- Once an exception has been declared, the executable statements associated with this exception are specified in the exception-handling section of the block.
- The format of the exception-handling section is the same as for built-in exceptions.

User-Defined Exception usage

```
DECLARE
 exception name EXCEPTION;
BEGIN
IF CONDITION THEN
   RAISE exception name;
 ELSE
 END IF;
EXCEPTION
  WHEN exception name THEN
     ERROR-PROCESSING STATEMENTS;
END;
```

```
Example-3 User Defined Exception
DECLARE
 v empno emp.empno%TYPE;
                                Example-3
 v_ename emp.ename%TYPE;
                                Write a PL/SQL block to display
 v_salary emp.salary%TYPE;
                                employee name and salary drawn
 ex invalid id EXCEPTION;
                                by the employee with employee
BEGIN
                                number entered by the user.
v empno:=&v empno;
                                Raise an exception when user
IF v empno <= 0 THEN
                                enters an negative employee
                                number and handler to handle it.
   RAISE ex invalid id;
else
 SELECT ename, salary INTO v_ename, v_salary FROM emp WHERE
 empno=v_empno;
 DBMS_OUTPUT_LINE(v_ename||' draws '||v_salary||' as
 salary');
 end if;
```

...Example-3

```
WHEN ex_invalid_id THEN

DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('Emp no must be greater than zero');

WHEN NO_DATA_FOUND THEN

DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('NO such employee found');

END;
```

Example

```
--outer block
DECLARE
   e exception1 EXCEPTION;
   e exception2 EXCEPTION;
BEGIN
   -- inner block
   BEGIN
       RAISE e exception1;
   EXCEPTION
   WHEN e_exception1 THEN
       RAISE e exception2;
```

Example contd.

```
WHEN e exception 2 THEN
       DBMS OUTPUT.PUT LINE ('An error has occurred
   in the inner' | | 'block');
   END;
EXCEPTION
WHEN e exception 2 THEN
   DBMS OUTPUT.PUT LINE ('An error has occurred in the
   program');
END;
```

Example: Write a PL/SQL block to accept account number and withdrawal amount. First check the existence of entered account number, if account number exists, deduct withdrawal amount from Balance in the Account table. If New Balance is less than 1000/- then raise an exception with an error message -Insufficient Fund. If entered account number do not exist, system raises NO DATA FOUND and handle the exception with error message – Account Number do not exist.

Using OTHERS Exception

Others exception may be used in cases when some other exception is raised apart from whatever exceptions and handlers are defined in the PL/SQL Block.

Example:

Write a PL/SQL block to accept employee number of user and display employees information such as Name and Salary. Handle any exceptions raised using OTHERS

Example: OTHERS exception

```
DECLARE
     ENO EMP.EMPNO%TYPE;
     --salary emp.sal%type;
     salary number(2);
BEGIN
     ENO:=&ENO;
     SELECT SAL INTO SALARY FROM EMP WHERE EMPNO=ENO;
EXCEPTION
/*When no_data_found then
     DBMS OUTPUT.PUT LINE ('employee not existing');*/
WHEN OTHERS THEN
           DBMS_OUTPUT_LINE ('Some Error occurred ...');
END;
```

Using System Defined Numbered Exception

Assume that following table is created with check constraint on supplier_id.

```
CREATE TABLE suppliers
( supplier_id number(4),
supplier_name varchar2(50),
CONSTRAINT check_supplier_id
CHECK (supplier_id BETWEEN 100 and 9999)
);
```

Whenever check constraint on supplier_id is violated ORA -02290 exception number is raised, we can associate an Exception name to this error number ORA -02290 and use in a PL/SQL block to handle this exception.

Using System Defined Numbered Exception

- First declare the exception name –
 Supplier_ID_Range EXCEPTION;
- Associate This exception name with the error number
 - Pragma EXCEPTION_INIT(Supplier_ID_Range,-02290);
- Raise the exception when condition is met
- Write the exception handler to handle the exception

```
Example:
```

```
DECLARE
 Supplier_ID_Range1 EXCEPTION;
 pragma EXCEPTION_INIT(Supplier_ID_Range1,-02290);
BEGIN
 INSERT INTO suppliers (supplier id, supplier name)
 VALUES (1, 'IBM');
EXCEPTION
 WHEN Supplier_ID_Range1 THEN
 DBMS_OUTPUT_LINE(' Supplier ID entered must
 be in the range 100 to 9999');
END;
```

Procedures and Functions

- Oracle subprograms includes both procedures and functions.
- Both procedures and functions:
 - Can be programmed to perform a data processing task.
 - Are named PL/SQL blocks, and both can be coded to take parameters to generalize the code.
 - Can be written with declarative, executable, and exception sections.
- Functions are typically coded to perform some type of calculation.
- Primary difference procedures are called with PL/SQL statements while functions are called as part of an expression.

Procedures and Functions

- Procedures and functions:
 - Normally stored in the database within package specifications a package is a sort of wrapper for a group of named blocks.
 - Can be stored as individual database objects.
 - Are parsed and compiled at the time they are stored.
 - Compiled objects execute faster than nonprocedural SQL scripts because nonprocedural scripts require extra time for compilation.
 - Can be invoked from most Oracle tools like SQL*Plus, and from other programming languages like C++ and JAVA.

Procedures

- Procedures are named PL/SQL blocks.
- Created/owned by a particular schema
- Privilege to execute a specific procedure can be granted to or revoked from application users in order to control data access.
- Requires CREATE PROCEDURE (to create in your schema) or CREATE ANY PROCEDURE privilege (to create in other schemas).

CREATE PROCEDURE Syntax

- Unique procedure name is required.
- OR REPLACE clause replaces if existing.
- Parameters are optional enclosed in parentheses when used.
- AS or IS keyword is used both work identically.
- Procedure variables are declared prior to the BEGIN keyword.
- DECLARE keyword is NOT used in named procedure.

Compiling Procedure

• To Compile/Load a procedure use either the "@" symbol or the START SQL command to compile the file. The <SQL filename> parameter is the .sql file that contains the procedure to be compiled.

```
SQL>@ <SQL filename>
SQL>start <SQL filename>
```

- Filename does not need to be the same as the procedure name.
 The .sql file only contains the procedure code.
- Compiled procedure is stored in the database, not the .sql file.

Showing Compilation Errors & Execution

- Compiled procedure is stored in the database, not the .sql file.
- If the .sql file is compiled, we get message –

Procedure created

Otherwise,

Warning: Procedure created with compilation errors.

Use SHOW ERRORS command if the procedure does not compile without errors.

```
SQL> show errors;
OR
SQL> SHOW ERRORS PROCEDURE Procedure_Name;
```

Use EXECUTE to run procedure.

```
SQL> EXECUTE Procedure_Name
```

Parameters

- Both procedures and functions can take parameters.
- Values passed as parameters to a procedure as arguments in a calling statement are termed actual parameters.
- The parameters in a procedure declaration are called formal parameters.
- The values stored in actual parameters are values passed to the formal parameters the formal parameters are like placeholders to store the incoming values.
- When a procedure completes, the actual parameters are assigned the values of the formal parameters.
- Assignment of values from Formal to Actual & vice versa depends on MODE of Parameters
- A formal parameter can have one of three possible modes:
 (1) IN, (2), OUT, or (3) IN OUT.

Defining the IN, OUT, and IN OUT Parameter Modes

- IN This parameter type is passed to a procedure as a read-only value that cannot be changed within the procedure – this is the default mode.
- OUT this parameter type is write-only, and can only appear on the left side of an assignment statement in the procedure – it is assigned an initial value of NULL.
- IN OUT this parameter type combines both IN and OUT; a parameter of this mode is passed to a procedure, and its value can be changed within the procedure.

If a procedure raises an exception, the formal parameter values are not copied back to their corresponding actual parameters.

```
--Procedure Example
SET SERVEROUTPUT ON
CREATE or REPLACE PROCEDURE squareNum(x IN number) IS
A number;
BEGIN
                                        Save the file as say- proce1.sql
A:=x * x;
                                        Compile proce1.sql
                                        Show errors; to know compilation
dbms_output.put_line(A);
                                        errors
END;
                              Main- PL/SQL block name say-
DECLARE
                              main proc1.sql which calls the procedure
 a number;
                              squareNum()
BEGIN
 a:=&a;
 squareNum(a);
 dbms_output_line(' Square is:'||a);
```

Parameter Constraint Restrictions

 Procedures do not allow specifying a constraint on the parameter data type.

```
/* Invalid constraint on parameter. */
CREATE OR REPLACE PROCEDURE proSample
  (v_Variable NUMBER(2), ...)
/* Valid parameter. */
CREATE OR REPLACE PROCEDURE proSample
  (v_Variable NUMBER, ...)
```

Procedure with No Parameters

Write a procedure to display the message- Salary is > 25000 or not for the salary of employee corresponding to the employee number passed as parameter.

```
CREATE OR REPLACE PROCEDURE DisplaySalary IS
 temp Salary NUMBER (10,2);
BEGIN
     SELECT Salary INTO temp Salary FROM emp
 WHERE empno=102;
     IF temp Salary > 25000 THEN
         DBMS OUTPUT.PUT LINE ('Salary is >
 than 25,000.^{\top});
     ELSE
         DBMS OUTPUT.PUT LINE ('Salary is <=
 than 25,000.^{\top});
     END IF;
END;
```

Executing *DisplaySalary* Procedure

Passing IN and OUT Parameters..

Write a procedure to display the message- Salary is > 25000 or not for the salary of employee corresponding to the employee number passed as parameter and return the salary of the employee to calling environment.

```
CREATE OR REPLACE PROCEDURE
DisplaySalary2 (p EmployeeID
    IN CHAR, p Salary OUT NUMBER) IS
    v Salary NUMBER (10,2);
BEGIN
    SELECT Salary INTO v Salary FROM Emp
    WHERE EmpNO = p EmployeeID;
    IF v Salary > 25000 THEN
        DBMS OUTPUT.PUT LINE ('Salary >
 25,000.');
    ELSE
```

.. Passing IN and OUT Parameters

Example 13.6 – Calling *DisplaySalary2*

```
/* PL SQL Example */
DECLARE
    v SalaryOutput NUMBER := 0;
BEGIN
    -- call the procedure
    DisplaySalary2(100, v SalaryOutput);
   -- display value of salary after the call
    DBMS OUTPUT.PUT LINE ('Actual salary: '
        | | TO CHAR (v SalaryOutput));
END;
```

Example— Using Bind Variables

- Another approach to test a procedure. This approach uses a bind variable in Oracle.
- A bind variable is a variable created at the SQL*Plus prompt that is used to reference variables in PL/SQL subprograms.
- A bind variable used in this fashion must be prefixed with a colon ":" – this syntax is required.

Dropping a Procedure

- The SQL statement to drop a procedure is -
- DROP PROCEDURE procedureName>;

```
SQL> DROP PROCEDURE DisplaySalary2; Procedure dropped.
```

Create Function Syntax

• Like a procedure, a function can accept multiple parameters, and the data type of the return value must be declared in the header of the function.

```
CREATE [OR REPLACE] FUNCTION
<function name> (<parameter1 name> <mode>
<data type>,
   <parameter2 name> <mode> <data</pre>
type>, ...) RETURN < return value data
type> {AS|IS}
    <Variable declarations>
BEGIN
    Executable Commands
    RETURN (return value);
[EXCEPTION
    Exception handlers]
END;
```

Syntax of the RETURN statement is: **RETURN** <expression>;

Example – No Parameters in Function

```
CREATE OR REPLACE FUNCTION RetrieveSalary
     RETURN NUMBER
IS
     v Salary NUMBER (10,2);
BEGIN
     SELECT Sal INTO v Salary
     FROM Emp
     WHERE Empno = 7369;
     RETURN v Salary;
END RetrieveSalary;
```

Example – Testing RetrieveSalary Function

```
SQL> @ RetrieveSalary
Function created.
SQL> SELECT RetrieveSalary FROM DUAL;
RETRIEVESALARY
        25000
    Using Bind Variable
SQL> var v SalaryOutput NUMBER;
SQL> EXEC :v SalaryOutput := RetrieveSalary;
PL/SQL procedure successfully completed.
SQL> print v SalaryOutput;
V SALARYOUTPUT
        25000
```

Function with Parameter

```
(Assume the table Employee(Empno, Firstname, MiddleName, LastName);
CREATE OR REPLACE FUNCTION FullName
 (p EmployeeID IN
        employee. EmployeeID%TYPE)
    RETURN VARCHAR2 IS
    v FullName VARCHAR2 (100);
    v FirstName employee.FirstName%TYPE;
    v MiddleName employee.MiddleName%TYPE;
    v LastName employee.LastName%TYPE;
BEGIN
   SELECT FirstName, MiddleName, LastName INTO
        v FirstName, v MiddleName, v LastName
        FROM Employee
        WHERE EmployeeID = p EmployeeID;
```

Function with Parameter

```
v FullName := v LastName||','||v FirstName;
IF LENGTH(v MiddleName) > 0 THEN
        v FullName := v FullName | | ' '
             ||SUBSTR(v MiddleName, 1, 1)||'.';
    END IF;
    RETURN v FullName;
END FullName;
```

Testing FullName Function

• A simple SELECT statement executed within SQL*Plus can return the full name for any employee identifier value as shown in PL/SQL Example 13.10.

Testing FullName Function

Dropping a Function

The SQL statement to drop a function is -

DROP FUNCTION <functionName>;

```
SQL> DROP FUNCTION FullName; Function dropped.
```

PACKAGE

PACKAGES

- A package is a collection of PL/SQL objects grouped together under one package name.
- Packages provide a means to collect related procedures, functions, cursors, declarations, types, and variables into a single, named database object.
- Package variables can be referenced in any procedure, function, (other object) defined within a package.

Package Specification and Scope

- A package consists of a package specification and a package body.
 - The package specification, also called the package header.
 - Declares global variables, cursors, exceptions, procedures, and functions that can be called or accessed by other program units.
 - A package specification must be a uniquely named database object.
 - Elements of a package can declared in any order. If element "A" is referenced by another element, then element "A" must be declared before it is referenced by another element. For example, a variable referenced by a cursor must be declared before it is used by the cursor.
- Declarations of subprograms must be forward declarations.
 - This means the declaration only includes the subprogram name and arguments, but does not include the actual program code.

Create Package Specification Syntax

- Basically, a package is a named declaration section.
 - Any object that can be declared in a PL/SQL block can be declared in a package.
 - Use the CREATE OR REPLACE PACKAGE clause.
 - Include the specification of each named PL/SQL block header that will be public within the package.
 - Procedures, functions, cursors, and variables that are declared in the package specification are *global*.

```
The basic syntax for a package specification is:

CREATE [OR REPLACE PACKAGE[ <package name>
{AS|IS}

<variable declarations>;

<cursor declarations>;

cursor declaration declarations>;
END <package name>;
```

Declaring Procedures and Functions within a Package

 To declare a procedure in a package – specify the procedure name, followed by the parameters and variable types:

• To declare a function in a package, you must specify the function name, parameters and return variable type:

```
FUNCTION <function_name> (param1 MODE param1datatype,
    param2 MODE param2datatype, ...)

RETURN <return data type>;
```

Package Body

- Contains the code for the subprograms and other constructs, such as exceptions, declared in the package specification.
- Is optional a package that contains only variable declarations, cursors, and the like, but no procedure or function declarations does not require a package body.
- Any subprograms declared in a package specification must be coded completely in the package body. The procedure and function specifications of the package body must match the package declarations including subprogram names, parameter names, and parameter modes.

Create Package Body Syntax

 Use the CREATE OR REPLACE PACKAGE BODY clause to create a package body. The basic syntax is:

Package Specification Example:

Example:

Create a package containing one function which returns square of a number and a procedure that returns cube of a number.

CREATE OR REPLACE PACKAGE Calculate1 IS

FUNCTION squrs1(Num1 IN NUMBER) return Number;

PROCEDURE Cubes1(Num1 IN NUMBER,Num2 OUT

NUMBER);

END Calculate1;

Save as sql file say pack calc spec.sql

Package Body Example:

CREATE OR REPLACE PACKAGE BODY Calculate1 IS

FUNCTION squrs1(Num1 IN NUMBER) return Number IS RESULT NUMBER(3);

BEGIN

RESULT:= NUM1*NUM1;

RETURN(RESULT);

END squrs1;

PROCEDURE Cubes1(Num1 IN NUMBER,Num2 OUT NUMBER) IS

BEGIN

NUM2:= NUM1*NUM1*NUM1;

END Cubes1;

END Calculate1;

Save as sql file say pack_calc_body.sql

Compiling Package

Compile package specification first

SQL> @ pack_calc_spec.sql

Package created.

Compile package body

SQL>@ pack_calc_body.sql

Package Body created.

Using Package in PL/SQL Block

```
Set Serveroutput on;
DECLARE
      M1 NUMBER(3);
      RESULT NUMBER(4,1);
BEGIN
      M1:=&M1;
      Result:=Calculate1.squrs1 (M1); -- Function CALL
      DBMS OUTPUT.PUT LINE ('SQuare is '|| Result);
      Calculate1.Cubes1(M1,Result);
   DBMS OUTPUT.PUT LINE ('Cube is '|| Result);
END;
```

Example Package

Create a package containing a procedure to display full name of employee corresponding to employee number entered by the user and a function to check the existence of employee with employee number.

```
CREATE OR REPLACE PACKAGE EmpFullName AS
PROCEDURE FindEmployee (
  emp ID IN employee. EmployeeID%TYPE,
  emp FirstName OUT employee.FirstName%TYPE,
  emp LastName OUT employee.LastName%TYPE );
  e EmployeeIDNotFound EXCEPTION;
FUNCTION GoodIdentifier (
     emp ID IN employee.EmployeeID%TYPE )
         RETURN BOOLEAN;
END EmpFullName;
```

Package Body

CREATE OR REPLACE PACKAGE BODY EmpFullName AS

```
-- Procedure to find employees
PROCEDURE FindEmployee(
```

```
emp_ID IN employee.EmployeeID%TYPE,
emp_FirstName OUT employee.FirstName%TYPE,
emp_LastName OUT employee.LastName%TYPE ) AS
```

BEGIN

END FindEmployee;

Example— Package Body

```
FUNCTION GoodIdentifier(
        emp ID IN employee.EmployeeID%TYPE)
        RETURN BOOLEAN IS
    v ID Count NUMBER;
  BEGIN
        SELECT COUNT(*) INTO v ID Count
        FROM Employee
        WHERE EmployeeID = emp ID;
        -- return TRUE if v ID COUNT is 1
        RETURN (1 = v \text{ ID Count});
    EXCEPTION
        WHEN OTHERS THEN
            RETURN FALSE;
  END GoodIdentifier;
END EmpFullName;
```

Calling Package Procedure/Function

```
/* PL SQL */
DECLARE
    v FirstName employee.FirstName%TYPE;
    v LastName employee.LastName%TYPE;
 search emp id
                  employee.EmployeeID%TYPE;
BEGIN
 EmpFullName.FindEmployee (&search emp id,
 v FirstName, v_LastName);
    DBMS OUTPUT.PUT LINE ('The employee name is:'
    || v LastName || ', ' || v_FirstName);
EXCEPTION
    WHEN OTHERS THEN
        DBMS OUTPUT.PUT LINE ('Cannot find an
 employee with that ID.');
END;
```

Results of Calling Package Procedure

• When the employee identifier is valid, the code displays the employee name as shown here.

```
Enter value for search_emp_id: 100
The employee name is: Kumar, Ravi
PL/SQL procedure successfully completed.
```

 When the identifier is not valid, the exception raised within the called procedure is propagated back to the calling procedure and is trapped by the EXCEPTION section's WHEN OTHERS clause and an appropriate message is displayed as shown here.

```
Enter value for search_emp_id: 99
Cannot find an employee with that ID.
PL/SQL procedure successfully completed.
```

Cursors in Packages

```
create or replace package packg cursor is
    cursor c emp is select
     empno, ename, sal, hiredate from emp where
     deptno=10;
     r_emp c_emp%ROWTYPE;
     procedure p printEmps;
end;
```

Cursors in Packages

```
create or replace package body packg_cursor is
   procedure p printEmps is
      r emp c emp%ROWTYPE;
    begin
            open c emp;
            loop
                 fetch c emp into r emp;
                 exit when c emp%NOTFOUND;
     DBMS OUTPUT.put line(r emp.empno);
     DBMS OUTPUT.put line(r emp.ename);
     DBMS OUTPUT.put line(r emp.sal||'
'||r emp.hiredate);
           end loop;
           close c emp;
       end;
   end;
```

Executing Cursors in Packages

```
Either we can use a PL/SQL block to call a
procedure in a package.
 OR
Use EXEC command
SQL> EXEC packg cursor. p printEmps
7782
CLARK
2450 09-JUN-81
7839
KING
5000 17-NOV-81
7934
MILLER
1300 23-JAN-82
```

Cursors in Packages

- A *cursor variable* can make a cursor dynamic so that it is reusable and sharable among different procedures and functions such as those created as part of a package.
- A cursor variable has data type REF CURSOR. It is like a pointer in the C language, and it points to a query work area where a result set is stored.
- First you must define a REF CURSOR type.
- Next, you define a cursor variable of that type. In this general syntactic example, the <return_type> object represents a row in a database table.

```
TYPE ref_type_name IS REF CURSOR
     [RETURN <return type>];
```

 This provides an example of declaring a cursor variable that can be used to process data rows for the equipment table of the Madison Hospital database.

```
DECLARE
    TYPE equipment_Type IS REF CURSOR
        RETURN equipment%ROWTYPE;
    cv_Equipment IN OUT equipment_Type;
```

Example 13.15 – REF CURSOR Type

- The Package Specification declares a REF CURSOR type named equipment_Type and two procedures named OpenItem and FetchItem.
- The cursor cv_Equipment in the *OpenItem* procedure is declared as an IN OUT parameter it will store an equipment item after the procedure is executed—it is this stored value that is input to the *FetchItem* procedure.

```
/* PL SQL Example 13.15 File: ch13-15.sql */
CREATE OR REPLACE PACKAGE ManageEquipment AS
    -- Create REF CURSOR type
    TYPE equipment Type IS REF CURSOR
        RETURN equipment%ROWTYPE;
    -- Declare procedure
    PROCEDURE OpenItem (cv Equipment IN OUT equipment Type,
       p EquipmentNumber IN CHAR);
    -- Declare procedure to fetch an equipment item
    PROCEDURE FetchItem (cv Equipment IN equipment Type,
        equipment Row OUT equipment%ROWTYPE);
END ManageEquipment;
```

Example 13.16 – Package Body

```
/* PL SQL Example 13.16 File: ch13-16.sql */
CREATE OR REPLACE PACKAGE BODY ManageEquipment AS
    -- Procedure to get a specific item of equipment
    PROCEDURE OpenItem (cv Equipment IN OUT equipment Type,
        p EquipmentNumber IN CHAR) AS
    BEGIN
        -- Populate the cursor
        OPEN cv Equipment FOR
        SELECT * FROM Equipment
        WHERE EquipmentNumber = p EquipmentNumber;
    END OpenItem;
    PROCEDURE FetchItem (cv Equipment IN equipment Type,
        equipment Row OUT equipment%ROWTYPE) AS
    BEGIN
        FETCH cv Equipment INTO equipment Row;
    END FetchItem;
END ManageEquipment;
```

Example 13.16 – Use Cursor Variable

```
/* PL SQL Example 13.16 File: ch13-16.sql */
DECLARE
    -- Declare a cursor variable of the REF CURSOR type
    item Cursor ManageEquipment.equipment Type;
    v EquipmentNumber equipment.EquipmentNumber%TYPE;
    equipment Row equipment%ROWTYPE;
BEGIN
    -- Assign a equipment number to the variable
    v EquipmentNumber := '5001';
    -- Open the cursor using a variable
    ManageEquipment.OpenItem (item Cursor, v EquipmentNumber);
    -- Fetch the equipment data and display it
    LOOP
          ManageEquipment.FetchItem (item Cursor, equipment Row);
          EXIT WHEN item cursor%NOTFOUND;
          DBMS OUTPUT.PUT (equipment Row.EquipmentNumber |  ' ');
          DBMS OUTPUT.PUT LINE (equipment Row.Description);
     END LOOP;
END;
5001 Computer, Desktop
PL/SQL procedure successfully completed.
```