Example 4: Granting exemptions from VPD policies

Overview

Normally, once a policy is declared on an object it cannot be bypassed regardless of the user's privileges.

However, there are situations when a user has to have access rights on all data from an object that has a policy applied. In this recipe, we will show how to make an exemption from VPD policies.

In this recipe we will exempt the user HR from all the policies declared within the HR schema.

Workflow

1. Connect as user HR and issue a select statement against VIEW_REG_DATA_VPD view as follows:

```
conn HR
Enter password:

select first_name,last_name from view_reg_data_vpd where
phone_number='650.507.9833';

no rows selected
```

2. Here on view view_reg_data_vpd we have policy 'regions_vpd_policy' enforced.

```
Grant.
```

3. Connect as system and exempt the HR user from any VPD policy as follows:

```
SQL> conn system
Enter password:
Connected.
SQL> GRANT EXEMPT ACCESS POLICY TO HR;
Grant succeeded.
SQL>
```

4. Connect as HR and again issue the SELECT statement from the step 1 as follows:

```
SQL> select first_name,last_name from view_reg_data_vpd where
phone_number='650.507.9833';

FIRST_NAME LAST_NAME
------------------- ------------------------
Donald OConnell

SQL>
```

5. Now the HR user is exempted from any policy and the SELECT statement returns data.

How it works

Usually exemptions are given to users who may create reports and users who are performing back ups by using expdp or exp. It is highly recommended to implement a mechanism used to grant policy exemption using contexts and secure application roles or other application logic, and to try to refrain, whenever possible, from explicitly granting policy exemption to users. In other words, ensure that you control the exemption within the application code and not Oracle.

There's more

It is highly recommended to implement auditing on operations performed by users exempted from VPD policies.