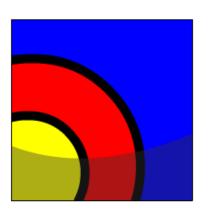
Outer Joins



What Will I Learn?

In this lesson, you will learn to:

 Create and execute a SELECT statement to access data from more than one table using an outer join





Why Learn It?

The joins you've studied so far returned rows that either had a matching value in both tables or a value that in one table was between two values in a different table. Those rows that didn't satisfy these conditions were just left out. Sometimes, however, you want all the data from one of the tables even if there is no matching data in the other table. If you wanted to know all the girls or boys who attended a dance, would simply counting the couples dancing work? In Oracle SQL, the missing data can be returned using an outer join.





Tell Me / Show Me

An outer join is used to see rows that have a corresponding value in another table plus those rows in one of the tables that have no matching value in the other table. To indicate which table may have missing data, use a plus sign (+) after the table's column name in the WHERE clause of the query.

Note that an outer join cannot use the IN operator or be linked to another condition by the OR operator.

EMPLOYEE_ID	LAST_NAME	DEPARTMENT_ID
100	King	90
101	Kochhar	90
102	De Haan	90
178	Grant	

DEPARTMENT_ID	DEPARTMENT_NAME
90	Executive
110	Accounting
190	Contracting
210	Human Resources

DEPARTMENT_ID	LAST_NAME
20	Hartstein
20	Fay
110	Higgins
110	Gietz
	Grant





The query below uses the plus sign to indicate the table whose column is missing data. The variations of the outer join are shown.

SELECT table1.column,
table2.column
FROM table1, table2

WHERE table1.column(+) = table2.column;

WHERE table1.column = table2.column(+);

NEVER table1.column(+) = table2.column(+);

EMPLOYEE_ID	LAST_NAME	DEPARTMENT_ID
100	King	90
101	Kochhar	90
102	De Haan	90
178	Grant	

DEPARTMENT_ID	DEPARTMENT_NAME
90	Executive
110	Accounting
190	Contracting
210	Human Resources

SELECT d.department_id, e.last_name FROM employees e, departments d WHERE e.department_id = d.department_id (+);

DEPARTMENT_ID	LAST_NAME
20	Hartstein
20	Fay
110	Higgins
110	Gietz
	Grant

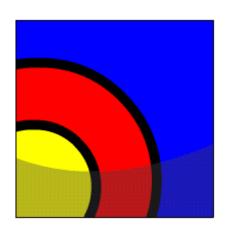




Summary

In this lesson you have learned to:

 Create and execute a SELECT statement to access data from more than one table using an outer join





Practice Guide

The link for the lesson practice guide can be found in the course resources in Section 0.

