Proposed Guidelines

As we gain experience in PSI development and code review, we gain insight into policies that *could* improve readability, testability, and maintainability. Potential policies should be reviewed to understand the consequences and challenges before being enforced. This document is a place to collect proposed policy changes. All developers and code reviewers are encouraged to contribute.

Proposals

`select *`

`select *` should generally not be in production code? It can unnecessarily impact performance and lead to unexpected behavior. It assumes the columns can never change. If the order does change it may cause an error, or perhaps even worse, may result in data being added to the wrong column without an obvious error.

- Should select * be in production code at all?
- Is it acceptable in some situations, but not others?
- Or should it be accepted in all situations?

Join syntax

The old Oracle join syntax using `(+)` should no longer be used.

> Oracle recommends that you use the FROM clause OUTER JOIN syntax rather than the Oracle join operator. Outer join queries that use the Oracle join operator (+) are subject to the following rules and restrictions, which do not apply to the FROM clause OUTER JOIN syntax:

Source

In addition to the restrictions in the document, the ANSI join syntax improves readability and maintainability by separating join conditions from filter conditions.

Current contributions include both join styles.

Commented code

Unnecessary comments are noise that make readability harder. Unused code in comments should be avoided. Use the source control management tools to access old code if necessary.

Passwords

Passwords and other sensitive information should not be stored with code in source control.

Duplicate code

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Minimize duplicate code. Avoid copying and pasting blocks of code. Consider Rule of three.