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Oracle PL/SQL - Introduction

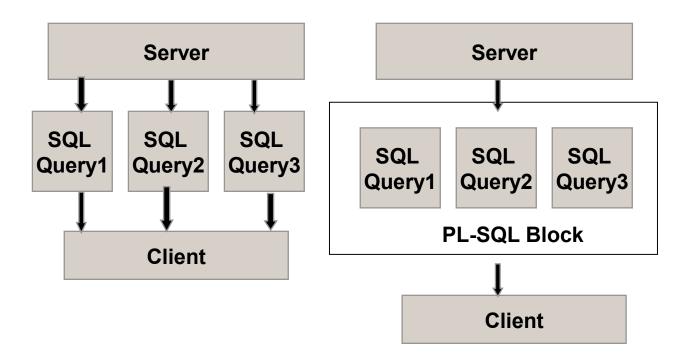
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PL/SQL Overview

- PL/SQL stands for Procedural Language extension of SQL.
- A combination of SQL along with the procedural features of programming languages.
- Extends SQL by adding constructs found in procedural languages like procedures, loops, variables, objects etc.
- PL/SQL program can consists of SQL and PL/SQL statements in different blocks.
- A portable and high performance processing language.
- General syntax is based on that of ADA and Pascal programming language.

PL/SQL, How does it differ from SQL?



- In SQL we need three network trips between client and server for three SQL queries.
- In PL/SQL we bundle any number of queries in a block and in single network trip task is done

Main Advantages of PL/SQL

- **Better Performance** due to block structure. In PL/SQL,SQL statements can be grouped to blocks and the entire block can be sent to database at one time for execution.
- Less network traffic and improved response time.
 PL/SQL subprograms are compiled once and stored in executable form. Thus, a single call can start a large job and the work can be divided effectively.
- Supports easy and effective exception handling method.
- **Portability**. Applications written in PL/SQL can run on any operating system and platform where the database runs.

Main Advantages of PL/SQL

- Integration with SQL. Most of the SQL operations can be done using PL/SQL and also supports SQL data types.
- PL/SQL supports both static and dynamic SQL. Static SQL supports DML and transaction control operations from PL/SQL block. Dynamic SQL makes the application more flexible and allows embedding DDL statements in PL/SQL blocks and for creating run time queries.
- PL/SQL provides the ability to loop through records, manipulating them one at a time whereas SQL does not.
- PL/SQL provides access to predefined SQL packages.
- Supports object oriented programming

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