H

Writing Advanced Scripts

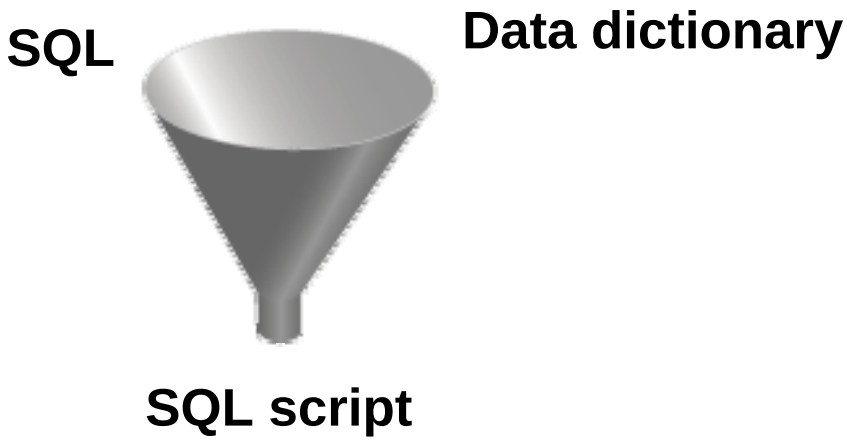
Objectives

After completing this appendix, you should be able to do the following:

- Describe the type of problems that are solved by using SQL to generate SQL
- Write a script that generates a script of `DROP TABLE` statements
- Write a script that generates a script of `INSERT INTO` statements

Using SQL to Generate SQL

- SQL can be used to generate scripts in SQL.
- The data dictionary is:
  - A collection of tables and views that contain database information
  - Created and maintained by the Oracle server

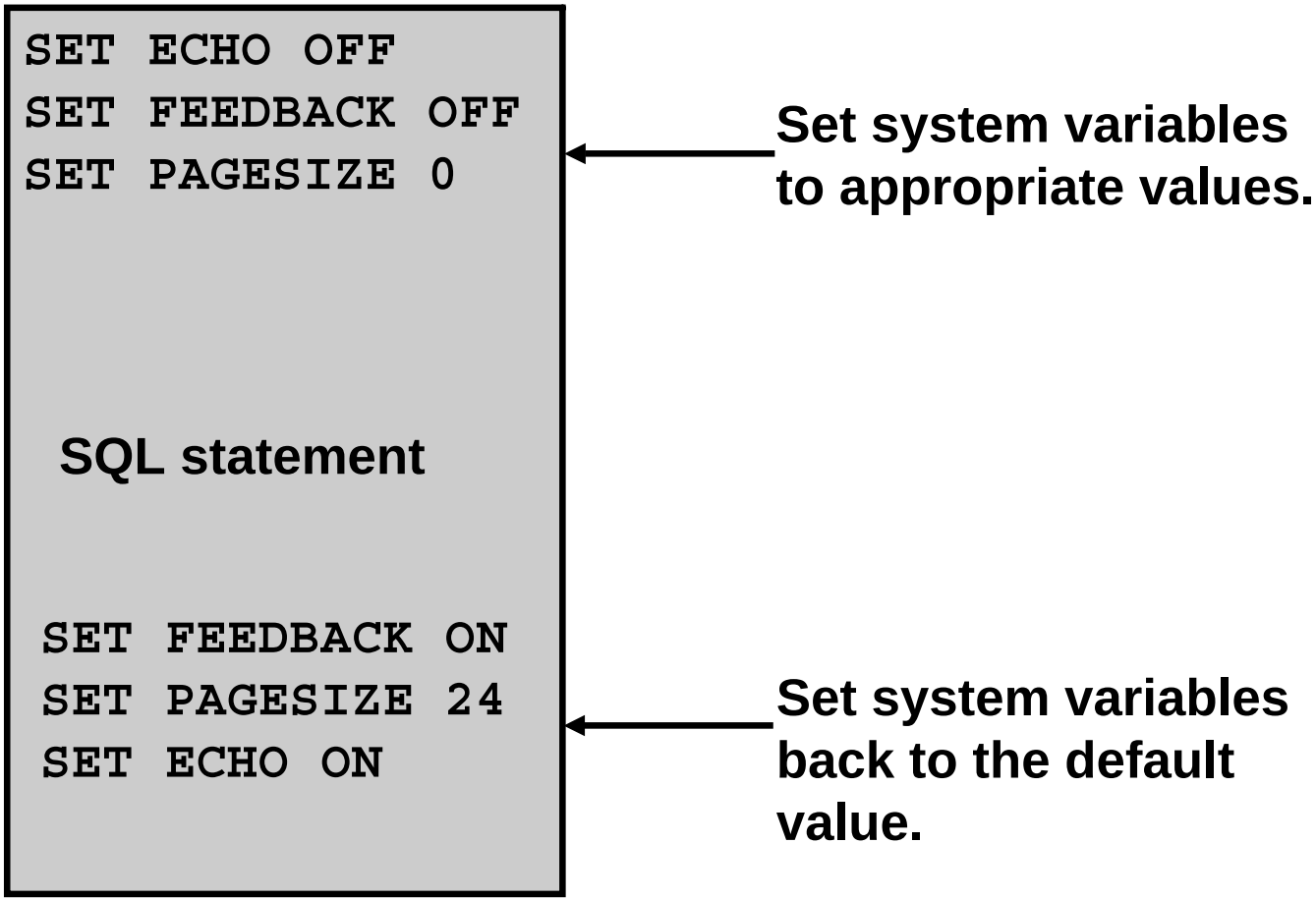


Creating a Basic Script

```
SELECT 'CREATE TABLE ' || table_name ||
       '_test ' || 'AS SELECT * FROM '
       || table_name ||' WHERE 1=2;'
       AS "Create Table Script"
FROM   user_tables;
```

	Create Table Script
1	CREATE TABLE REGIONS_test AS SELECT * FROM REGIONS WHERE 1=2;
2	CREATE TABLE LOCATIONS_test AS SELECT * FROM LOCATIONS WHERE 1=2;
3	CREATE TABLE DEPARTMENTS_test AS SELECT * FROM DEPARTMENTS WHERE 1=2;
4	CREATE TABLE JOBS_test AS SELECT * FROM JOBS WHERE 1=2;
5	CREATE TABLE EMPLOYEES_test AS SELECT * FROM EMPLOYEES WHERE 1=2;
6	CREATE TABLE JOB_HISTORY_test AS SELECT * FROM JOB_HISTORY WHERE 1=2;

Controlling the Environment



The Complete Picture

```
SET ECHO OFF
SET FEEDBACK OFF
SET PAGESIZE 0

SELECT 'DROP TABLE ' || object_name || ';'
FROM    user_objects
WHERE   object_type = 'TABLE'
/

SET FEEDBACK ON
SET PAGESIZE 24
SET ECHO ON
```

Dumping the Contents of a Table to a File

```
SET HEADING OFF ECHO OFF FEEDBACK OFF
SET PAGESIZE 0


SELECT
 'INSERT INTO departments_test VALUES
  (' || department_id || ', ''' ||department_name ||
   ''', ''' || location_id || ''');'
  AS "Insert Statements Script"
FROM   departments
/


SET PAGESIZE 24
SET HEADING ON ECHO ON FEEDBACK ON
```

Dumping the Contents of a Table to a File

Source	Result
'''X'''	'X'
''''	'
''''||department_name||''''	'Administration'
''', '''	','
''');'	');

Generating a Dynamic Predicate

```
COLUMN my_col NEW_VALUE dyn_where_clause

SELECT DECODE('&&deptno', null,
DECODE ('&&hiredate', null, ' ',
'WHERE hire_date=TO_DATE('''||'&&hiredate'',''DD-MON-YYYY''')'),
DECODE ('&&hiredate', null,
'WHERE department_id = ' || '&&deptno',
'WHERE department_id = ' || '&&deptno' ||
' AND hire_date = TO_DATE('''||'&&hiredate'',''DD-MON-YYYY''')'))
AS my_col FROM dual;
```

```
SELECT last_name FROM employees &dyn_where_clause;
```

Summary

In this appendix, you should have learned that:

- You can write a SQL script to generate another SQL script
- Script files often use the data dictionary
- You can capture the output in a file