

Objectives

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

- Define PL/SQL exceptions
- Recognize unhandled exceptions
- List and use different types of PL/SQL exception handlers
- Trap unanticipated errors
- Describe the effect of exception propagation in nested blocks
- Customize PL/SQL exception messages

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Lesson Aim

You have learned to write PL/SQL blocks with a declarative section and an executable section. All the SQL and PL/SQL code that must be executed is written in the executable block.

So far we have assumed that the code works satisfactorily if we take care of compile-time errors. However, the code may cause some unanticipated errors at run time. In this lesson, you learn how to deal with such errors in the PL/SQL block.

Example of an Exception

```
SET SERVEROUTPUT ON
DECLARE
   lname VARCHAR2(15);
BEGIN
   SELECT last_name INTO lname FROM employees WHERE
   first_name='John';
   DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE ('John''s last name is : ' | | lname);
END;
/
```

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Example of an Exception

Consider the example shown in the slide. There are no syntax errors in the code, which means you must be able to successfully execute the anonymous block. The select statement in the block retrieves the last_name of John. You see the following output when you execute the code:

```
*

ERROR at line 1:

ORA-01422: exact fetch returns more than requested number of rows
ORA-06512: at line 4
```

The code does not work as expected. You expected the SELECT statement to retrieve only one row; however, it retrieves multiple rows. Such errors that occur at run time are called *exceptions*. When an exception occurs, the PL/SQL block is terminated. You can handle such exceptions in your PL/SQL block.

Example of an Exception

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Example of an Exception (continued)

You have written PL/SQL blocks with a declarative section (beginning with the keyword DECLARE) and an executable section (beginning and ending with the keywords BEGIN and END respectively). For exception handling, you include another optional section called the *exception section*. This section begins with the keyword EXCEPTION. If present, this is the last section in a PL/SQL block. Examine the EXCEPTION section of the code in the slide. You need not pay attention to the syntax and statements; you learn about them later in the lesson.

The code in the previous slide is rewritten to handle the exception that

Your select statement retrieved multiple rows. Consider using a cursor. PL/SQL procedure successfully completed.

Unlike earlier, the PL/SQL program does not terminate abruptly. When the exception is raised, the control shifts to the exception section and all the statements in the exception section are executed. The PL/SQL block terminates with normal, successful completion.

Handling Exceptions with PL/SQL

- An exception is a PL/SQL error that is raised during program execution.
- An exception can be raised:
 - Implicitly by the Oracle server
 - Explicitly by the program
- An exception can be handled:
 - By trapping it with a handler
 - By propagating it to the calling environment

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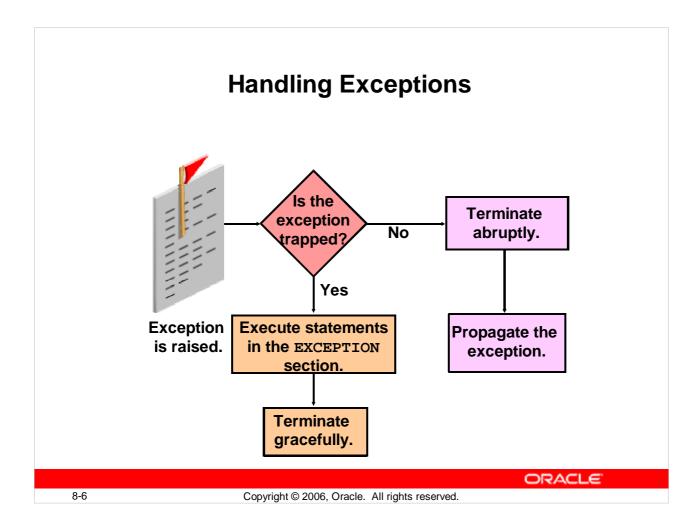
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Handling Exceptions with PL/SQL

An exception is an error in PL/SQL that is raised during the execution of a block. A block always terminates when PL/SQL raises an exception, but you can specify an exception handler to perform final actions before the block ends.

Two Methods for Raising an Exception

- An Oracle error occurs and the associated exception is raised automatically. For example, if the error ORA-01403 occurs when no rows are retrieved from the database in a SELECT statement, PL/SQL raises the exception NO_DATA_FOUND. These errors are converted into predefined exceptions.
- Depending on the business functionality your program implements, you
 may have to explicitly raise an exception. You raise an exception
 explicitly by issuing the RAISE statement in the block. The raised
 exception may be either user-defined or predefined. There are also some
 non-predefined Oracle errors. These errors are any standard Oracle
 errors that are not predefined. You can explicitly declare exceptions and
 associate them with the non-predefined Oracle errors.



Handling Exceptions

Trapping an Exception

Include an EXCEPTION section in your PL/SQL program to trap exceptions. If the exception is raised in the executable section of the block, processing then branches to the corresponding exception handler in the exception section of the block. If PL/SQL successfully handles the exception, the exception does not propagate to the enclosing block or to the calling environment. The PL/SQL block terminates successfully.

Propagating an Exception

If the exception is raised in the executable section of the block and there is no corresponding exception handler, the PL/SQL block terminates with failure and the exception is propagated to an enclosing block or to the calling environment. The calling environment can be any application (such as SQL*Plus that invokes the PL/SQL program).

Exception Types

- Predefined Oracle server
- Non-predefined Oracle server
 Implicitly raised
- User-defined

Explicitly raised

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Exception Types

There are three types of exceptions.

| Exception | Description | Directions for Handling |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Predefined Oracle | One of approximately 20 | You need not declare these |
| Server error | errors that occur most | exceptions. They are predefined by |
| | often in PL/SQL code | the Oracle server and are raised |
| | | implicitly. |
| Non-predefined | Any other standard | Declare within the declarative |
| Oracle Server error | Oracle Server error | section and enable the Oracle server |
| | | to raise them implicitly. |
| User-defined error | A condition that the | Declare in the declarative section |
| | developer determines is | and raise explicitly. |
| | abnormal | |

Note: Some application tools with client-side PL/SQL (such as Oracle Developer Forms) have their own exceptions.

Trapping Exceptions

Syntax:

```
EXCEPTION
WHEN exception1 [OR exception2 . . .] THEN
    statement1;
    statement2;
    . . .
[WHEN exception3 [OR exception4 . . .] THEN
    statement1;
    statement2;
    . . .]
[WHEN OTHERS THEN
    statement1;
    statement2;
    . . .]
```

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Trapping Exceptions

You can trap any error by including a corresponding handler within the exception handling section of the PL/SQL block. Each handler consists of a WHEN clause, which specifies an exception name, followed by a sequence of statements to be executed when that exception is raised. You can include any number of handlers within an EXCEPTION section to handle specific exceptions. However, you cannot have multiple handlers for a single

exception. Is the standard name of a predefined exception or the name of a user-

In the syntax: defined exception declared within the declarative section

statement Is one or more PL/SQL or SQL statements

OTHERS Is an optional exception-handling clause that traps any exceptions

that have not been explicitly handled

Trapping Exceptions (continued)

WHEN OTHERS Exception Handler

The exception-handling section traps only those exceptions that are specified; any other exceptions are not trapped unless you use the OTHERS exception handler. This traps any exception not yet handled. For this reason, OTHERS may be used, and if used it must be the last exception handler that is defined.

WHEN NO_DATA_FOUND THEN statement1; ...
WHEN TOO_MANY_ROWS THEN statement1; ...
WHEN OTHERS THEN statement1:

Consider the preceding example. If the exception NO_DATA_FOUND is raised by the

program, the statements in the corresponding handler are executed. If the exception TOO_MANY_ROWS is raised, the statements in the corresponding handler are executed. However, if some other exception is raised, the statements in the OTHERS exception handler are executed.

The OTHERS handler traps all the exceptions that are not already trapped. Some Oracle tools have their own predefined exceptions that you can raise to cause events in the application. The OTHERS handler also traps these exceptions.

Guidelines for Trapping Exceptions

- The EXCEPTION keyword starts the exception handling section.
- Several exception handlers are allowed.
- Only one handler is processed before leaving the block.
- WHEN OTHERS is the last clause.

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Guidelines for Trapping Exceptions

- Begin the exception-handling section of the block with the EXCEPTION keyword.
- Define several exception handlers, each with its own set of actions, for the block.
- When an exception occurs, PL/SQL processes only one handler before leaving the block.
- Place the OTHERS clause after all other exception-handling clauses.
- You can have only one OTHERS clause.
- Exceptions cannot appear in assignment statements or SQL statements.

Trapping Predefined Oracle Server Errors

- Reference the predefined name in the exceptionhandling routine.
- Sample predefined exceptions:
 - NO_DATA_FOUND
 - TOO_MANY_ROWS
 - INVALID CURSOR
 - ZERO_DIVIDE
 - DUP_VAL_ON_INDEX

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Trapping Predefined Oracle Server Errors

Trap a predefined Oracle server error by referencing its predefined name within the corresponding exception-handling routine.

For a complete list of predefined exceptions, see the *PL/SQL User's Guide* and *Reference*.

Note: PL/SQL declares predefined exceptions in the STANDARD package.

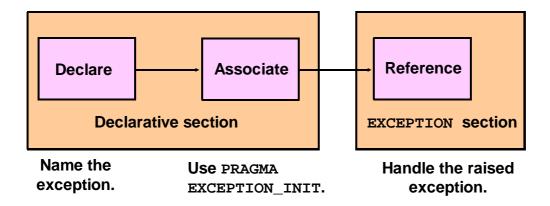
Predefined Exceptions

| Exception Name | Oracle Server Error Number | Description |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| ACCESS_INTO_NULL | ORA- 06530 | Attempted to assign values to the attributes of an uninitialized object |
| CASE_NOT_FOUND | ORA- 06592 | None of the choices in the WHEN clauses of a CASE statement are selected, and there is no ELSE clause. |
| COLLECTION_IS_NULL | ORA- 06531 | Attempted to apply collection methods other than EXISTS to an uninitialized nested table or VARRAY |
| CURSOR_ALREADY_OPEN | ORA- 06511 | Attempted to open an already-open cursor |
| DUP_VAL_ON_INDEX | ORA- 00001 | Attempted to insert a duplicate value |
| INVALID_CURSOR | ORA- 01001 | Illegal cursor operation occurred. |
| INVALID_NUMBER | ORA- 01722 | Conversion of character string to number fails. |
| LOGIN_DENIED | ORA- 01017 | Logging on to the Oracle server with an invalid username or password |
| NO_DATA_FOUND | ORA- 01403 | Single row SELECT returned no data. |
| NOT_LOGGED_ON | ORA- 01012 | PL/SQL program issues a database call without being connected to the Oracle server. |
| PROGRAM_ERROR | ORA- 06501 | PL/SQL has an internal problem. |
| ROWTYPE_MISMATCH | ORA- 06504 | Host cursor variable and PL/SQL cursor variable involved in an assignment have incompatible return types. |

Predefined Exceptions (continued)

| Exception Name | Oracle Server Error Number | Description |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| STORAGE_ERROR | ORA- 06500 | PL/SQL ran out of memory, or memory is corrupted. |
| SUBSCRIPT_BEYOND_COUNT | ORA- 06533 | Referenced a nested table or VARRAY element by using an index number larger than the number of elements in the collection |
| SUBSCRIPT_OUTSIDE_LIMIT | ORA- 06532 | Referenced a nested table or VARRAY element by using an index number that is outside the legal range (for example, -1) |
| SYS_INVALID_ROWID | ORA- 01410 | The conversion of a character string into a universal ROWID fails because the character string does not represent a valid ROWID. |
| TIMEOUT_ON_RESOURCE | ORA- 00051 | Time-out occurred while the Oracle server was waiting for a resource. |
| TOO_MANY_ROWS | ORA- 01422 | Single-row SELECT returned more than one row. |
| VALUE_ERROR | ORA- 06502 | Arithmetic, conversion, truncation, or size-constraint error occurred. |
| ZERO_DIVIDE | ORA- 01476 | Attempted to divide by zero |

Trapping Non-Predefined Oracle Server Errors



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Trapping Non-Predefined Oracle Server Errors

Non-predefined exceptions are similar to predefined exceptions; however, they are not defined as PL/SQL exceptions in the Oracle server. They are standard Oracle errors. You create exceptions with standard Oracle errors by using the PRAGMA EXCEPTION_INIT function. Such exceptions are called non-predefined exceptions.

You can trap a non-predefined Oracle server error by declaring it first. The declared exception is raised implicitly. In PL/SQL, PRAGMA EXCEPTION_INIT tells the compiler to associate an exception name with an Oracle error number. That enables you to refer to any internal exception by name and to write a specific handler for it.

Note: PRAGMA (also called *pseudoinstructions*) is the keyword that signifies that the statement is a compiler directive, which is not processed when the PL/SQL block is executed. Rather, it directs the PL/SQL compiler to interpret all occurrences of the exception name within the block as the associated Oracle server error number.

Non-Predefined Error

To trap Oracle server error number -01400 ("cannot insert NULL"):

```
SET SERVEROUTPUT ON

DECLARE

insert_excep EXCEPTION;

PRAGMA EXCEPTION_INIT
(insert_excep, -01400);

BEGIN

INSERT INTO departments
(department_id, department_name) VALUES (280, NULL);

EXCEPTION

WHEN insert_excep THEN

DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('INSERT OPERATION FAILED');

DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE(SQLERRM);

END;
/
```

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Non-Predefined Error

1. Declare the name of the exception in the declarative section.

Syntax:

```
exception EXCEPTION;
```

In the syntax, exception is the name of the exception.

2. Associate the declared exception with the standard Oracle server error number using the PRAGMA EXCEPTION_INIT function.

Syntax:

```
PRAGMA EXCEPTION_INIT(exception, error_number);
```

In the syntax, *exception* is the previously declared exception and *error number* is a standard Oracle server error number.

3. Reference the declared exception within the corresponding exceptionhandling routine.

Example

The example in the slide tries to insert the value NULL for the department_name column of the departments table. However, the operation is not successful because departments a NOT NULL column. Note the following line in the example:

Functions for Trapping Exceptions

- SQLCODE: Returns the numeric value for the error code
- SQLERRM: Returns the message associated with the error number

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Functions for Trapping Exceptions

When an exception occurs, you can identify the associated error code or error message by using two functions. Based on the values of the code or the message, you can decide which subsequent actions to take.

SQLCODE returns the Oracle error number for internal exceptions. SQLERRM returns the message associated with the error number.

| Function | Description |
|----------|--|
| SQLCODE | Returns the numeric value for the error code (You can assign it to a NUMBER variable.) |
| SQLERRM | Returns character data containing the message associated with the error number |

SQLCODE Values: Examples

| SQLCODE Value | Description |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| 0 | No exception encountered |
| 1 | User-defined exception |
| +100 | NO_DATA_FOUND exception |
| negative number | Another Oracle server error number |

Functions for Trapping Exceptions

Example

```
DECLARE
  error_code    NUMBER;
  error_message    VARCHAR2(255);
BEGIN
...
EXCEPTION
...
  WHEN OTHERS THEN
    ROLLBACK;
    error_code := SQLCODE;
    error_message := SQLERRM;
  INSERT INTO errors (e_user, e_date, error_code, error_message) VALUES(USER,SYSDATE,error_code, error_message);
END;
//
```

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Functions for Trapping Exceptions (continued)

When an exception is trapped in the WHEN OTHERS exception handler, you can use a set of generic functions to identify those errors. The example in the slide illustrates the values of SQLCODE and SQLERRM assigned to variables, and then those variables being used in a SQL statement.

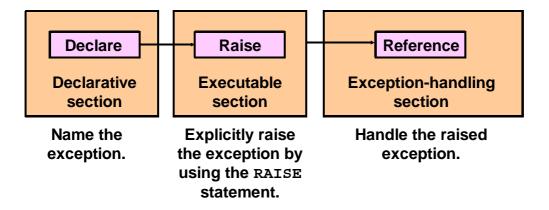
You cannot use SQLCODE or SQLERRM directly in a SQL statement. Instead, you must assign their values to local variables and then use the variables in the SQL statement, as shown in the following example:

```
DECLARE
err_num NUMBER;
err_msg VARCHAR2(100);
BEGIN
...

EXCEPTION
...

WHEN OTHERS THEN
err_num := SQLCODE;
err_msg := SUBSTR(SQLERRM, 1, 100);
INSERT INTO errors VALUES (err_num, err_msg);
END;Oracle Database 10g: PL/SQL Fundamentals 8-17
```

Trapping User-Defined Exceptions



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Trapping User-Defined Exceptions

PL/SQL enables you to define your own exceptions depending on the requirements of your application. For example, you may prompt the user to enter a department number.

Define an exception to deal with error conditions in the input data. Check whether the department number exists. If it does not, then you may have to raise the user-defined exception.

PL/SQL exceptions must be:

- Declared in the declarative section of a PL/SQL block
- Raised explicitly with RAISE statements
- Handled in the EXCEPTION section

Trapping User-Defined Exceptions

```
ACCEPT deptno PROMPT 'Please enter the department number:'
              PROMPT 'Please enter the department name:'
ACCEPT name
 invalid department EXCEPTION;
 name VARCHAR2(20):='&name';
 deptno NUMBER :=&deptno;
BEGIN
 UPDATE departments
  SET
          department_name = name
 WHERE department id = deptno;
  IF SQL%NOTFOUND THEN
   RAISE invalid department;
 END IF;
 COMMIT;
EXCEPTION
 WHEN invalid_department THEN
   DBMS OUTPUT.PUT LINE('No such department id.');
END;
```

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Trapping User-Defined Exceptions (continued)

You trap a user-defined exception by declaring it and raising it explicitly.

1. Declare the name of the user-defined exception within the declarative section.

Syntax:

```
exception EXCEPTION;
```

In the syntax, exception is the name of the exception.

2. Use the RAISE statement to raise the exception explicitly within the executable section.

Syntax:

```
RAISE exception;
```

In the syntax, exception is the previously declared exception.

3. Reference the declared exception within the corresponding exceptionhandling routine.

Example

This block updates the plantase of a department 8 The user supplies the

denartment number and the new name. If the user enters a denartment

Calling Environments

| iSQL*Plus | Displays error number and message to screen |
|---------------------------|---|
| Procedure Builder | Displays error number and message to screen |
| Oracle Developer Forms | Accesses error number and message in an ON-ERROR trigger by means of the ERROR_CODE and ERROR_TEXT packaged functions |
| Precompiler application | Accesses exception number through the SQLCA data structure |
| An enclosing PL/SQL block | Traps exception in exception-handling routine of enclosing block |

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Calling Environments

Instead of trapping an exception within the PL/SQL block, propagate the exception to allow the calling environment to handle it. Each calling environment has its own way of displaying and accessing errors.

Propagating Exceptions in a Subblock

Subblocks can handle an exception or pass the exception to the enclosing block.

```
DECLARE
               exception;
 no_rows
  integrity exception;
 PRAGMA EXCEPTION_INIT (integrity, -2292);
 FOR c_record IN emp_cursor LOOP
   BEGIN
    SELECT ...
    UPDATE ...
    IF SQL%NOTFOUND THEN
      RAISE no_rows;
    END IF;
   END:
  END LOOP:
EXCEPTION
  WHEN integrity THEN ...
  WHEN no_rows THEN ...
END;
```

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Propagating Exceptions in a Subblock

When a subblock handles an exception, it terminates normally. Control resumes in the enclosing block immediately after the subblock's END statement.

However, if a PL/SQL raises an exception and the current block does not have a handler for that exception, the exception propagates to successive enclosing blocks until it finds a handler. If none of these blocks handle the exception, an unhandled exception in the host environment results.

When the exception propagates to an enclosing block, the remaining executable actions in that block are bypassed.

One advantage of this behavior is that you can enclose statements that require their own exclusive error handling in their own block, while leaving more general exception handling to the enclosing block.

Note in the example that the exceptions, no_rows and integrity, are declared in the outer block. In the inner block, when the no_rows exception is raised, PL/SQL looks for the exception to be handled in the subblock. Because the exception is not handled in the subblock, the exception propagates to the outer block, where PL/SQL finds the handler.

RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR Procedure

Syntax:

- You can use this procedure to issue user-defined error messages from stored subprograms.
- You can report errors to your application and avoid returning unhandled exceptions.

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RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR Procedure

Use the RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR procedure to communicate a predefined exception interactively by returning a nonstandard error code and error message. With RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR, you can report errors to your application and avoid returning unhandled exceptions.

In the syntax:

error_number Is a user-specified number for the exception between -20000

and -20999

message Is the user-specified message for the exception; is a character string

up to 2,048 bytes long

TRUE | FALSE Is an optional Boolean parameter (If TRUE, the error is placed

on the stack of previous errors. If FALSE, which is the default, the

error replaces all previous errors.)

RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR Procedure

- Used in two different places:
 - Executable section
 - Exception section
- Returns error conditions to the user in a manner consistent with other Oracle server errors

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RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR Procedure (continued)

The RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR procedure can be used in either the executable section or the exception section of a PL/SQL program, or both. The returned error is consistent with how the Oracle server produces a predefined, non-predefined, or user-defined error. The error number and message are displayed to the user.

RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR Procedure

Executable section:

```
BEGIN

DELETE FROM employees

WHERE manager_id = v_mgr;

IF SQL%NOTFOUND THEN

RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR(-20202,

'This is not a valid manager');

END IF;

...
```

Exception section:

```
EXCEPTION

WHEN NO_DATA_FOUND THEN

RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR (-20201,

'Manager is not a valid employee.');

END;
/
```

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RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR Procedure (continued)

The slide shows that the RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR procedure can be used in both the executable and the exception sections of a PL/SQL program.

Here is another example of using the RAISE_APPLICATION_ERROR procedure:

```
DECLARE
 e name EXCEPTION:
 PRAGMA EXCEPTION_INIT (e_name, -20999);
BEGIN
 DELETE FROM employees
 WHERE last_name = 'Higgins';
 IF SQL%NOTFOUND THEN
 RAISE APPLICATION ERROR(-20999, 'This is not a
 valid last name');
 END IF;
EXCEPTION
 WHEN e name THEN
 -- handle the error
...
END;
    Oracle Database 10g: PL/SQL Fundamentals 8-24
```

Summary

In this lesson, you should have learned how to:

- Define PL/SQL exceptions
- Add an EXCEPTION section to the PL/SQL block to deal with exceptions at run time
- Handle different types of exceptions:
 - Predefined exceptions
 - Non-predefined exceptions
 - User-defined exceptions
- Propagate exceptions in nested blocks and call applications

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Summary

In this lesson, you learned how to deal with different types of exceptions. In PL/SQL, a warning or error condition at run time is called an exception. Predefined exceptions are error conditions that are defined by the Oracle server. Non-predefined exceptions can be any standard Oracle server errors. User-defined exceptions are exceptions specific to your application. The PRAGMA EXCEPTION_INIT function can be used to associate a declared exception name with an Oracle server error.

You can define exceptions of your own in the declarative section of any PL/SQL block.

For example, you can define an exception named INSUFFICIENT_FUNDS to flag overdrawn bank accounts.

When an error occurs, an exception is raised. Normal execution stops and transfers control to the exception-handling section of your PL/SQL block. Internal exceptions are raised implicitly (automatically) by the run-time system; however, user-defined exceptions must be raised explicitly. To handle raised exceptions, you write separate routines called exception handlers.

Practice 8: Overview

This practice covers the following topics:

- Handling named exceptions
- Creating and invoking user-defined exceptions

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Practice 8: Overview

In this practice, you create exception handlers for specific situations.

Practice 8

- 1. The purpose of this example is to show the usage of predefined exceptions. Write a PL/SQL block to select the name of the employee with a given salary value.
 - Delete all records in the messages table. Use the DEFINE command to define a variable sal and initialize it to 6000.
 - In the declarative section declare two variables: ename of type employees.last_name and emp_sal of type employees.salary.
 Pass the value of the substitution variables to emp_sal.
 - In the executable section, retrieve the last names of employees whose salaries are equal to the value in emp_sal.
 Note: Do not use explicit cursors.
 If the salary entered returns only one row, insert into the messages table the employee's name and the salary amount.
 - If the salary entered does not return any rows, handle the exception with an appropriate exception handler and insert into the messages table the message "No employee with a salary of <salary>."
 - If the salary entered returns more than one row, handle the exception with an appropriate exception handler and insert into the messages table the message "More than one employee with a salary

RESULTS

More than one employee with a salary of 6000

occurred."

- g. Display the rows from the messages table to check whether the PL/SQL block has executed successfully. Sample output is shown below.
- The purpose of this example is to show how to declare exceptions with a standard Oracle server error. Use the Oracle server error ORA-02292 (integrity constraint violated – child record found).
 - In the declarative section, declare an exception childrecord_exists. Associate the declared exception with the standard Oracle server error -02292.
 - In the executable section, display 'Deleting department 40.....'.
 Include a DELETE statement to delete the department with department_id 40.

Practice 8 (continued)

 Include an exception section to handle the childrecord_exists exception and display the appropriate message. Sample output is

Deleting department 40......

Cannot delete this department. There are employees in this department (child records exist.)

PL/SQL procedure successfully completed.

- Load the script lab_07_04_soln.sql.
 - Observe the declarative section of the outer block. Note that the no_such_employee exception is declared.
 - Look for the comment "RAISE EXCEPTION HERE." If the value of emp_id is not between 100 and 206, then raise the no_such_employee exception.
 - Look for the comment "INCLUDE EXCEPTION SECTION FOR OUTER BLOCK" and handle the exceptions no_such_employee and too_many_rows. Display appropriate messages when the exceptions occur. The employees table has only one employee working in the HR department and therefore the code is written accordingly. The table many accordingly to the table many according to the table many accordingly to the t
 - Daniel Faviet
 - John Chen Ismael Sciarra
 - Jose Manuel Urman
 Luis Popp
 PL/SQL procedure successfully completed.

 ber and the department ent values and check for

rne sample output for employee עו ביט and department ID 100 is shown below.