Appendix II

**INDEXES**

ORACLE uses indexes to improve performance when  accessing tables in the index column order

 searching for rows with specified index column values.

However; an index slows down insertions; deletions and changes in indexed column values. Several indexes may be created on the same table using different columns. Null values are not indexed.

**CREATE** **INDEX** **ON**

name

table-name (column,...... );

or

**CREATE** **UNIQUE** **INDEX** name

**ON** table-name (column,...... );

Example CREATE INDEX Customers ON CUST (Area, RefNo)

This will create an index on the table CUST that will order the records alphabetically by area and then by reference number within each area. It does not affect the sequence from a SELECT statement.

i.e:-

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| REFNO | NAME | ADDRESS | AREA |
| C371 R Done 23 Middle Avenue Barnsley  B127 R Best 4 East Row Rotherham  B128 J Best 4 East Row Rotherham  A123 J Doe 1 High Street Sheffield  A124 J Smith 2 West Street Sheffield | | | |

Indexes are used to -

a) speed up retrieval of rows from the table and/or

b) enforce uniqueness on values in a column.

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