**How to Connect Forms 6i With Database Version 10g XE / 11g XE ?**

**As salamualikum (islamic greetings), brothers and sisters. :)**

Hope you are well with the grace of Almighty Allah (swt).  
  
  
You just installed Oracle Database XE version (10g or 11g) and try to connect with forms 6i. When you put the connection string and hit ENTER to connect then Forms/Reports builder hang and "Forcefully Closed".  
  
What happen ?  
  
It's just about the CHARACTER SET mismatch.  Typically XE database version most surelly   
11g XE use Unicode CHARACTER SET, which is "AL32UTF8".  
  
Forms/Reports 6i doesn't support this and supports ("UTF8","WE8MSWIN1252")  
  
Moreover,

Oracle Database 11g Express Edition has no provisions to change/use other charactersets than AL32UTF8 as NLS\_CHARACTERSET and AL16UTF16 as NLS\_NCHAR\_CHARACTERSET  
The NLS\_CHARACTERSET is used for CHAR, VARCHAR2, LONG and CLOB columns;  
The NLS\_NCHAR\_CHARACTERSET is used for NCHAR, NVARCHAR2 and NCLOB columns.

So, if you migrate data from any previous version of Database like 10g with **special character**, you will see the bellow problem when importing.  
  
*SQL> create table t( c varchar2(3) );*  
  
*SQL> insert into t values( 'abç' );  
insert into t values( 'abç' )  
\*  
ERROR at line 1:  
ORA-12899: value too large for column "SCH"."T"."C" (actual: 4, maximum: 3)*  
  
  
What to do ?  
Simply alter the CHARACTER SET to previously supported one.  
  
[Script]  
  
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601]  
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation.  All rights reserved.  
  
C:\Windows\system32>CD C:\oraclexe\app\oracle\product\11.2.0\server\bin  
  
C:\oraclexe\app\oracle\product\11.2.0\server\bin>SET ORACLE\_HOME=C:\oraclexe\app  
\oracle\product\11.2.0\server  
  
C:\oraclexe\app\oracle\product\11.2.0\server\bin>SET ORACLE\_SID=XE  
  
C:\oraclexe\app\oracle\product\11.2.0\server\bin>echo %ORACLE\_SID%  
XE  
  
C:\oraclexe\app\oracle\product\11.2.0\server\bin>SQLPLUS/NOLOG  
  
SQL\*Plus: Release 11.2.0.2.0 Production on Fri May 23 19:53:42 2014  
  
Copyright (c) 1982, 2010, Oracle.  All rights reserved.  
  
SQL> CONN SYS/SYSTEM11g AS SYSDBA  
Connected.  
SQL> SHUTDOWN IMMEDIATE  
Database closed.  
Database dismounted.  
ORACLE instance shut down.  
SQL>  
SQL>  
SQL>  
SQL> STARTUP RESTRICT  
ORACLE instance started.  
  
Total System Global Area  535662592 bytes  
Fixed Size                  1384760 bytes  
Variable Size             272633544 bytes  
Database Buffers          255852544 bytes  
Redo Buffers                5791744 bytes  
Database mounted.  
Database opened.  
SQL>  
SQL>  
SQL> ALTER DATABASE CHARACTER SET INTERNAL\_USE WE8MSWIN1252;  
  
Database altered.  
  
SQL>  
SQL>  
SQL> SHUTDOWN IMMEDIATE  
Database closed.  
Database dismounted.  
ORACLE instance shut down.  
SQL>  
SQL>  
SQL> STARTUP  
ORACLE instance started.  
  
Total System Global Area  535662592 bytes  
Fixed Size                  1384760 bytes  
Variable Size             272633544 bytes  
Database Buffers          255852544 bytes  
Redo Buffers                5791744 bytes  
Database mounted.  
Database opened.  
SQL>SQL> select \* from v$nls\_parameters where parameter like '%CHARACTERSET%';  
  
PARAMETER  
----------------------------------------------------------------  
VALUE  
----------------------------------------------------------------  
NLS\_CHARACTERSET  
WE8MSWIN1252  
  
NLS\_NCHAR\_CHARACTERSET  
AL16UTF16  
  
You are Done :)  
  
**BUT ORACLE & I DON'T ENCOURAGE THIS, AS**

Oracle recommends Unicode AL32UTF8 as the database character set. Unicode is the universal character set that supports most of the currently spoken languages of the world. It also supports many historical scripts (alphabets). Unicode is the native encoding of many technologies, including Java, XML, XHTML, ECMAScript, LDAP. Unicode is ideally suited for databases supporting the Internet and the global economy.