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1. Creating and using a script file

For interactive SQL you are limited to a single SQL statement that is placed in the SQL buffer and then executed. A script file is simply a text file that contains multiple SQL statements and SQL*Plus commands that you wish to save as a file and then run. A script file is an external file, an operating system level file—it is not part of your schema. If you are doing all of your work on the CCSF Linux system, then your script files will be stored as text files on your Linux account but not in your Oracle schema.

Most of the class work will have you create a script file of the various steps involved in the assignment.

You can create script files using any text editor. It is traditional to use the extension `sql` for Oracle script files. You can create the script file on your local computer as you develop and test the queries. Then you can upload your script file to your hills Linux account to do the final run.

You run the script file with the `START` command or use the symbol `@` to execute the script file. These commands are given from the `SQL>` prompt **inside the SQL*Plus client**.

```
START filename.sql
@ filename.sql
```

When your script finishes executing, the last SQL statement from the script is left in the buffer.

2. Creating a spool file

The technique to create spool files for this class is given here. The commands are given from within the SQL*Plus client. (If you have Linux experience you might be thinking of the Linux spool process- this is similar but not quite the same. For this class I do*not* want a Linux spool. I also do not want a log file.)

Assume that you have a file named `demo_1.sql` that is stored in your 151A directory. This file- the script file- contains the sql queries you want to run. And you have changed to that directory before you started SQL*Plus.

You give a command to start the spooling process. Then use the `@` command to run the script file. Stop the spooling process by giving the **spool off** command. This produces a text file in your Linux account - in the 151A directory- that you can then print or send to me for grading.

It is traditional to use the extension `LST` for spool files. The commands you use are:

```
SQL> spool demo_1.LST
SQL> @demo_1.sql
-- your script will run here
SQL> spool off
```

For this to work as shown here, your script file must be in the directory you were in when you started SQL*Plus. Remember the sequence of steps I asked you to use.

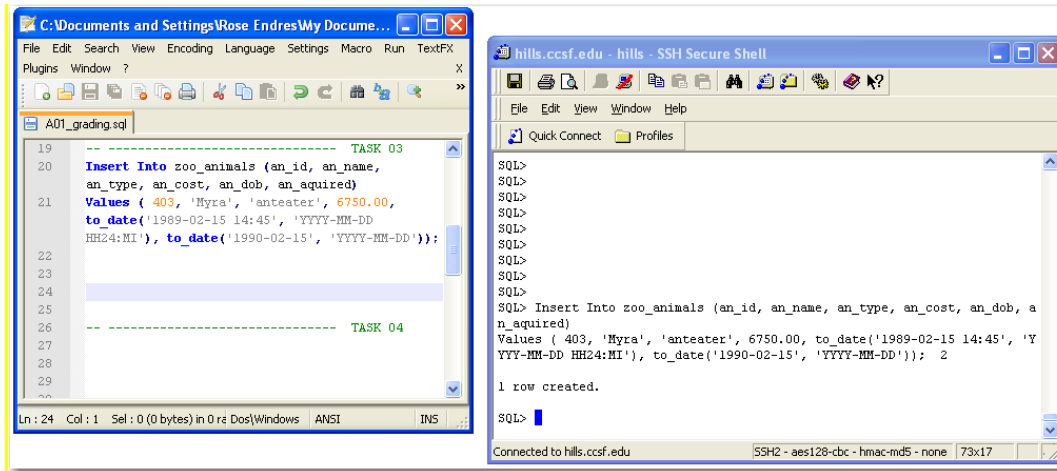
- log into hills
- change to your directory for your files- 151A
- log into Oracle

If you do this and save your script files in that directory, you can use the command above. Your spool file will be written to the same directory. The file names are case specific.

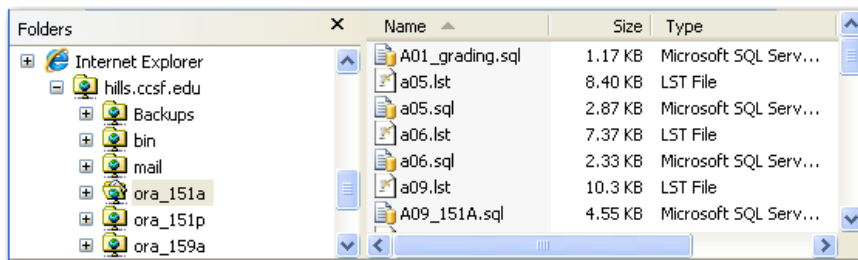
3. Creating and handling the script and spool files

The most common way to do this is to open a text editor on your local computer and start to build the script file locally; open the script file for this assignment in a text editor. Open another window to connect to hills and Oracle.

Write the SQL statement in the editor window and copy and paste to the SQL*Plus window and run it. If the query is correct, resave the script file. This way you can work on the script for a while and come back to it later. You can save an incomplete or incorrect query in your script and correct it later.



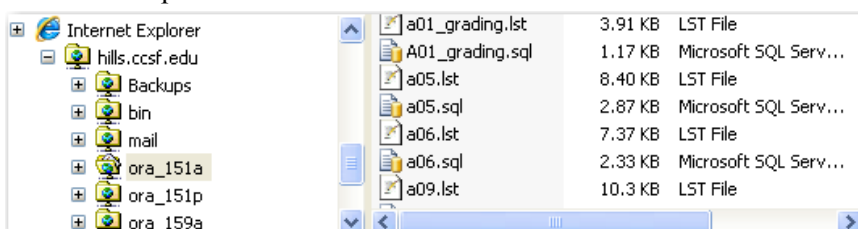
When you have all of the queries written and tested, then you need to **upload your script file to hills** to run it as a script. This shows the ssh secure shell ftp client.



Now you can run that script file from SQL*Plus

```
SQL> spool a01_grading.lst
SQL> @A01_grading.sql
```

Refresh the ftp client window



When you are ready to turn in your assignment, drag the LST file to your local computer and then zip the two files together and load the zip file to Insight.

4. Creating your script on hills

I have suggested creating your script files on your local computer and uploading them to hills to use to create the spool file. For most people that is the easiest way.

But if you are comfortable working directly on the hills system and know how to use a text editor there, you can upload the assignment template file to your hills account and make copies of it and edit the script file on hills. I am not going to discuss linux editors in this class.