

## EXERCISE-14

### OTHER DATABASE OBJECTS

#### Objectives

After the completion of this exercise, the students will be able to do the following:

- Create, maintain, and use sequences
- Create and maintain indexes

#### Database Objects

Many applications require the use of unique numbers as primary key values. You can either build code into the application to handle this requirement or use a sequence to generate unique numbers. If you want to improve the performance of some queries, you should consider creating an index. You can also use indexes to enforce uniqueness on a column or a collection of columns. You can provide alternative names for objects by using synonyms.

#### **What Is a Sequence?**

A sequence:

- Automatically generates unique numbers
- Is a sharable object
- Is typically used to create a primary key value
- Replaces application code
- Speeds up the efficiency of accessing sequence values when cached in memory

#### **The CREATE SEQUENCE Statement Syntax**

Define a sequence to generate sequential numbers automatically:

```
CREATE SEQUENCE sequence
[INCREMENT BY n]
[START WITH n]
[{MAXVALUE n | NOMAXVALUE}]
[{MINVALUE n | NOMINVALUE}]
[{CYCLE | NOCYCLE}]
[{CACHE n | NOCACHE}];
```

#### **In the syntax:**

*sequence* is the name of the sequence generator

INCREMENT BY *n* specifies the interval between sequence numbers where *n* is an integer (If this clause is omitted, the sequence increments by 1.)

START WITH *n* specifies the first sequence number to be generated (If this clause is omitted, the sequence starts with 1.)

MAXVALUE *n* specifies the maximum value the sequence can generate  
NOMAXVALUE specifies a maximum value of  $10^{27}$  for an ascending sequence and  $-1$  for a descending sequence (This is the default option.)

MINVALUE  $n$  specifies the minimum sequence value  
NOMINVALUE specifies a minimum value of 1 for an ascending sequence and  $-(10^{26})$  for a descending sequence (This is the default option.)

CYCLE | NOCYCLE specifies whether the sequence continues to generate values after reaching its maximum or minimum value (NOCYCLE is the default option.)

CACHE  $n$  | NOCACHE specifies how many values the Oracle server preallocates and keep in memory (By default, the Oracle server caches 20 values.)

### Creating a Sequence

- Create a sequence named DEPT\_DEPTID\_SEQ to be used for the primary key of the DEPARTMENTS table.
- Do not use the CYCLE option.

### EXAMPLE:

```
CREATE SEQUENCE dept_deptid_seq  
INCREMENT BY 10  
START WITH 120  
MAXVALUE 9999  
NOCACHE  
NOCYCLE;
```

### Confirming Sequences

- Verify your sequence values in the USER\_SEQUENCES data dictionary table.
- The LAST\_NUMBER column displays the next available sequence number if NOCACHE is specified.

### EXAMPLE:

```
SELECT sequence_name, min_value, max_value, increment_by, last_number
```

### NEXTVAL and CURRVAL Pseudocolumns

- NEXTVAL returns the next available sequence value. It returns a unique value every time it is referenced, even for different users.
- CURRVAL obtains the current sequence value.
- NEXTVAL must be issued for that sequence before CURRVAL contains a value.

### Rules for Using NEXTVAL and CURRVAL

You can use NEXTVAL and CURRVAL in the following contexts:

- The SELECT list of a SELECT statement that is not part of a subquery
- The SELECT list of a subquery in an INSERT statement
- The VALUES clause of an INSERT statement
- The SET clause of an UPDATE statement



You cannot use NEXTVAL and CURRVAL in the following contexts:

- The SELECT list of a view
- A SELECT statement with the DISTINCT keyword
- A SELECT statement with GROUP BY, HAVING, or ORDER BY clauses
- A subquery in a SELECT, DELETE, or UPDATE statement
- The DEFAULT expression in a CREATE TABLE or ALTER TABLE statement

### Using a Sequence

- Insert a new department named "Support" in location ID 2500.
- View the current value for the DEPT\_DEPTID\_SEQ sequence.

### EXAMPLE:

```
INSERT INTO departments(department_id, department_name, location_id)
VALUES (dept_deptid_seq.NEXTVAL, 'Support', 2500);
```

```
SELECT dept_deptid_seq.CURRVAL FROM dual;
```

The example inserts a new department in the DEPARTMENTS table. It uses the DEPT\_DEPTID\_SEQ sequence for generating a new department number as follows:

You can view the current value of the sequence:

```
SELECT dept_deptid_seq.CURRVAL FROM dual;
```

### Removing a Sequence

- Remove a sequence from the data dictionary by using the DROP SEQUENCE statement.
- Once removed, the sequence can no longer be referenced.

### EXAMPLE:

```
DROP SEQUENCE dept_deptid_seq;
```

## **What is an Index?**

An index:

- Is a schema object
- Is used by the Oracle server to speed up the retrieval of rows by using a pointer
- Can reduce disk I/O by using a rapid path access method to locate data quickly
- Is independent of the table it indexes
- Is used and maintained automatically by the Oracle server

## **How Are Indexes Created?**

- Automatically: A unique index is created automatically when you define a PRIMARY KEY or UNIQUE constraint in a table definition.
- Manually: Users can create nonunique indexes on columns to speed up access to the rows.

### Types of Indexes

Two types of indexes can be created. One type is a unique index: the Oracle server automatically creates this index when you define a column in a table to have a PRIMARY KEY or a UNIQUE key constraint. The name of the index is the name given to the constraint.

The other type of index is a nonunique index, which a user can create. For example, you can create a FOREIGN KEY column index for a join in a query to improve retrieval speed.

### Creating an Index

- Create an index on one or more columns.
- Improve the speed of query access to the LAST\_NAME column in the EMPLOYEES table.

```
CREATE INDEX index  
ON table (column[, column]...);
```

#### EXAMPLE:

```
CREATE INDEX emp_last_name_idx  
ON employees(last_name);
```

#### In the syntax:

*index* is the name of the index

*table* is the name of the table

*column* is the name of the column in the table to be indexed

### When to Create an Index

You should create an index if:

- A column contains a wide range of values
- A column contains a large number of null values
- One or more columns are frequently used together in a WHERE clause or a join condition
- The table is large and most queries are expected to retrieve less than 2 to 4 percent of the rows

### When Not to Create an Index

It is usually not worth creating an index if:

- The table is small
- The columns are not often used as a condition in the query
- Most queries are expected to retrieve more than 2 to 4 percent of the rows in the table
- The table is updated frequently
- The indexed columns are referenced as part of an Expression

### Confirming Indexes

- The USER\_INDEXES data dictionary view contains the name of the index and its uniqueness.
- The USER\_IND\_COLUMNS view contains the index name, the table name, and the column name.

#### EXAMPLE:

```
SELECT ic.index_name, ic.column_name, ic.column_position col_pos, ix.uniqueness  
FROM user_indexes ix, user_ind_columns ic  
WHERE ic.index_name = ix.index_name  
AND ic.table_name = 'EMPLOYEES';
```

### Removing an Index

- Remove an index from the data dictionary by using the DROP INDEX command.
- Remove the UPPER\_LAST\_NAME\_IDX index from the data dictionary.
- To drop an index, you must be the owner of the index or have the DROP ANY INDEX privilege.

```
DROP INDEX upper_last_name_idx;
```



DROP INDEX index;

Find the Solution for the following:

1. Create a sequence to be used with the primary key column of the DEPT table. The sequence should start at 200 and have a maximum value of 1000. Have your sequence increment by ten numbers. Name the sequence DEPT\_ID\_SEQ.
2. Write a query in a script to display the following information about your sequences: sequence name, maximum value, increment size, and last number
3. Write a script to insert two rows into the DEPT table. Name your script lab12\_3.sql. Be sure to use the sequence that you created for the ID column. Add two departments named Education and Administration. Confirm your additions. Run the commands in your script.
4. Create a nonunique index on the foreign key column (DEPT\_ID) in the EMP table.
5. Display the indexes and uniqueness that exist in the data dictionary for the EMP table.

Answers :

① CREATE SEQUENCE dept\_id\_seq  
START WITH 200  
INCREMENT BY 10  
MAXVALUE 1000;

② SELECT sequence\_name, max\_value, increment\_by, last\_number  
FROM user\_sequences  
WHERE sequence\_name = 'DEPT\_ID\_SEQ';

③ INSERT INTO dept (dept\_id, dept\_name)  
VALUES (dept\_id\_seq.NEXTVAL, 'Education');  
INSERT INTO dept (dept\_id, dept\_name)  
VALUES (dept\_id\_seq.NEXTVAL, 'Administration');  
COMMIT;

⑤④ SELECT index\_name, uniqueness  
FROM user\_indexes  
WHERE table\_name = 'EMP';

④ CREATE INDEX emp-deptid\_idx  
ON emp (dept\_id);