**SQL Developer: Describe versus Ctrl+Click to Open Database Objects**

[NOVEMBER 30, 2012](https://www.thatjeffsmith.com/archive/2012/11/sql-developer-describe-versus-ctrlclick-to-open-database-objects/)  2 MINS READ

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In yesterday’s post I talked about you could [use SQL Developer’s Describe (SHIFT+F4) to open a PL/SQL Package](https://www.thatjeffsmith.com/archive/2012/11/quick-outline-navigating-your-plsql-packages-in-oracle-sql-developer/) at your cursor.

[Afbeelding met tekst

Automatisch gegenereerde beschrijving](https://www.thatjeffsmith.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/quick_outline11.png)

You might get an error if you try to describe this…

If you actually try to describe the package as you see it in the above screenshot, you’ll get an error:

[Afbeelding met tekst

Automatisch gegenereerde beschrijving](https://www.thatjeffsmith.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/desc_pkg1.png)Doh!

I neglected to say in yesterday’s post that I was highlighting the package name before I hit SHIFT+F4. This works just fine, but it will work even better in our next release as we’ve fixed this issue.

Until then, you can also try the Ctrl+Hover with your mouse. For PL/SQL calls you can open the source immediately based on what you’re hovering over with your mouse cursor.

[Afbeelding met tekst

Automatisch gegenereerde beschrijving](https://www.thatjeffsmith.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/desc_pkg2.png)

You could try this with “dbms\_output.put\_line(” too

**Ctrl+Click, It’s not just for PL/SQL**

If you don’t like the [floating describe windows](https://www.thatjeffsmith.com/archive/2012/09/floating-panels-and-describe-windows-in-oracle-sql-developer/) you get when you do a SHIFT+F4 on a database object, the ctrl+click will work too. Instead of opening a normal ‘hover’ panel, you’ll be taken directly to the object editor for that table, view, etc.

Go ahead and try it right now.

Paste this into your worksheet, then ctrl+click with your mouse over the table name:

**SELECT** \* **FROM**

scott.emp

And now you know, the rest of the story.