Oracle Sessions

Under some circumstances, an Oracle user initiated session can remain connected after real work has been completed, sometimes with locks in place. These locks will prevent you from being able to continue to work normally with your tables.

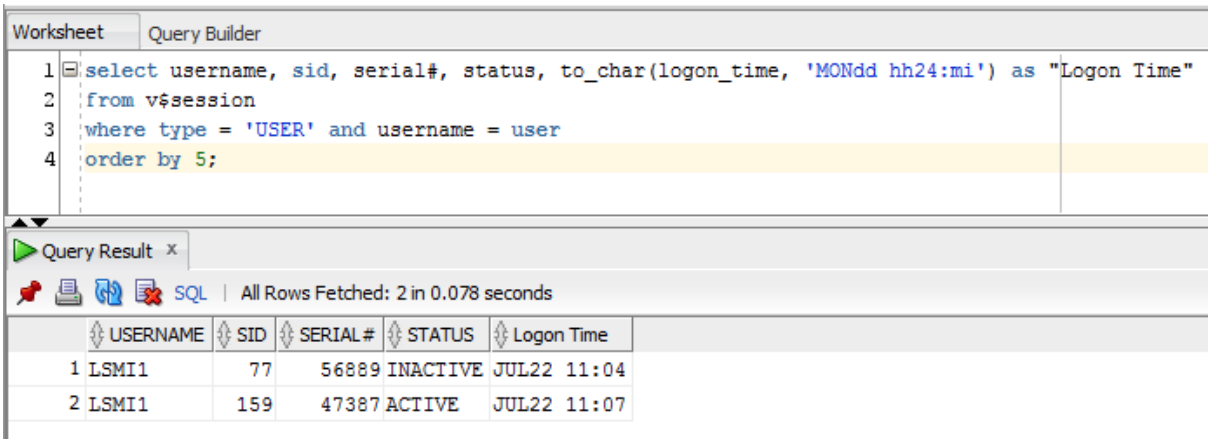
A common trigger for this situation is where a user on a laptop drops the VPN before they disconnect from the database. In such a situation when the user reconnects to the database they may find that they cannot complete any useful work because of the locks still in place - a typical message under such a scenario is "RESOURCE BUSY AND ACQUIRE WITH NOWAIT SPECIFIED".

To solve this situation the Monash Oracle databases have been configured so that you can kill your old process/session. If you find that you are experiencing problems such as above, follow these steps:

1. **Connect using sql developer and run the SQL command:**

```
select username, sid, serial#, status,
to_char(logon_time, 'MONdd hh24:mi') as "Logon Time"
from v$session
where type = 'USER' and username = user
order by 5;
```

   This will provide details of all the sessions currently running in Oracle under your username:



Each SQL Developer session you initiate will often open several connections to the database - *if there are multiples, you will need to kill off all **inactive** sessions*.

2. **Kill off the 'hung' connections:**

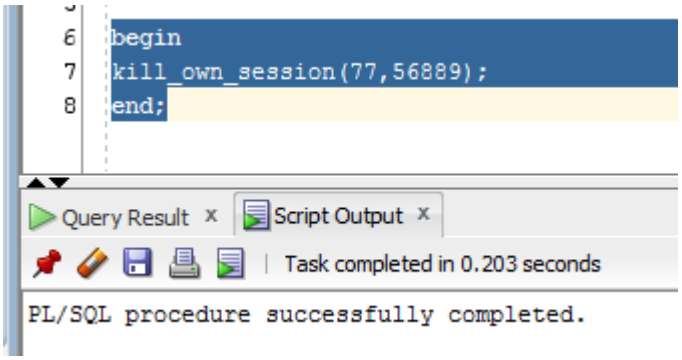
For example, in the above display the connection with a logon time of 11:04 represents a 'hung' session - to kill such sessions off we have an Oracle procedure available called **kill_own_session**. The parameters to this procedure are the SID and the SERIAL# - for example to kill the INACTIVE session above you would use:

```
kill_own_session(77,56889)
```

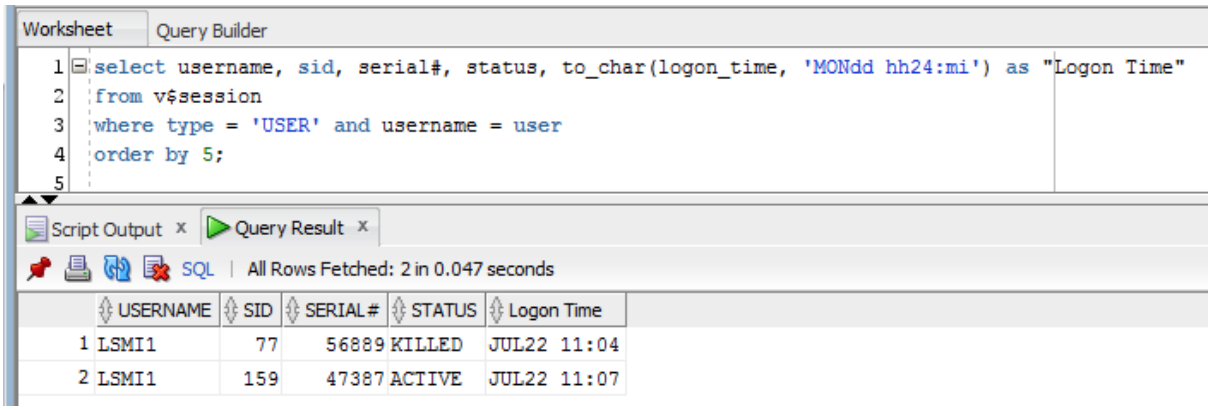
In SQL Developer the procedure is called inside an anonymous PL/SQL block (surrounded by begin/end). To kill the session above, the command would be:

```
begin
  kill_own_session(77,56889);
end;
```

The command operation is shown below:



Following this, a repeat of the original select will show that the connections have now been killed:



Oracle will automatically clean up these killed sessions. With the killing of these sessions, any locks associated with them will also be cleared and you will be able to proceed to work normally.