

APPLICATION EXPRESS NUGGETS

(THE VIEWS EXPRESSED HERE ARE MY OWN AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF ORACLE.)

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2018

APEX 18.1 New Feature: Logging Web Service Requests

APEX has turned 18 (ish) and EA-2 is now available. In this post, I will introduce a brand new (very small) feature of APEX 18.1.

APEX has had some support for consuming web services even before it was a shipped product (even before it was called HTMLDB). With this release of APEX, Carsten Czarski has made consuming RESTful style web services and the new ORDS REST Enabled SQL feature a breeze. You can read all about this new support in a series of excellent blog posts by Carsten here.

Also introduced in this release is a log of all web service requests made through APEX. Whether they are made through the greatly improved RESTful Web Sources and Remote SQL, the legacy web service REST and SOAP web references, or either the APEX_WEB_SERVICE or APEX_EXEC PL/SQL API, the request is logged. This log can be useful for workspace administrators and developers to get a glimpse of all web service requests being done by the workspace. The view APEX_WEBSERVICE_LOG contains the log information.

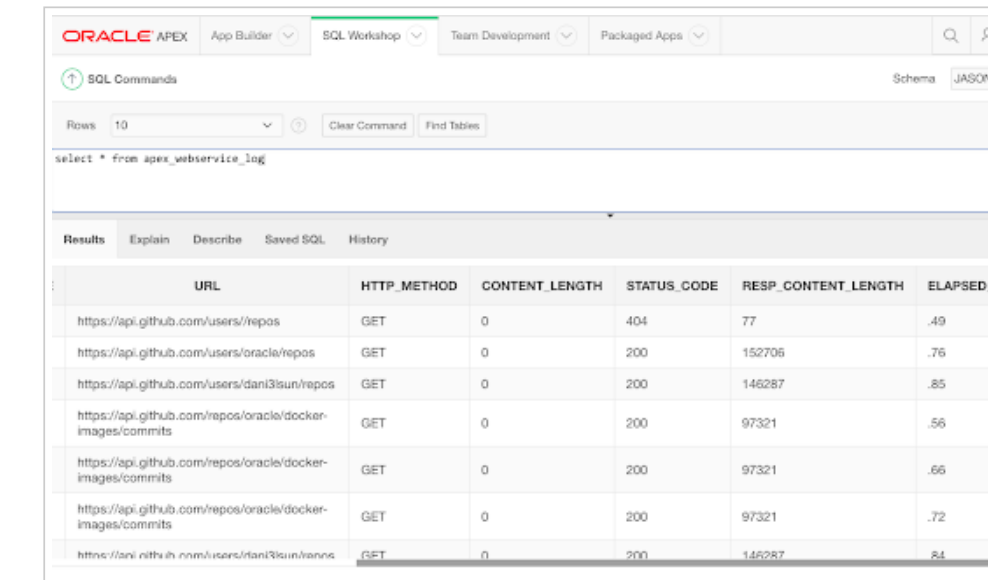


Figure 1 - APEX_WEBSERVICE_LOG

As a developer or administrator in a workspace, you can query this view to find the URL, method, request content length, HTTP status code, response content length, the time in seconds between request and response, the date of the request, and the user making the request. To find a description of all the columns in the APEX_WEBSERVICE_LOG view, you can go to the Data Dictionary report in SQL Workshop Utilities.

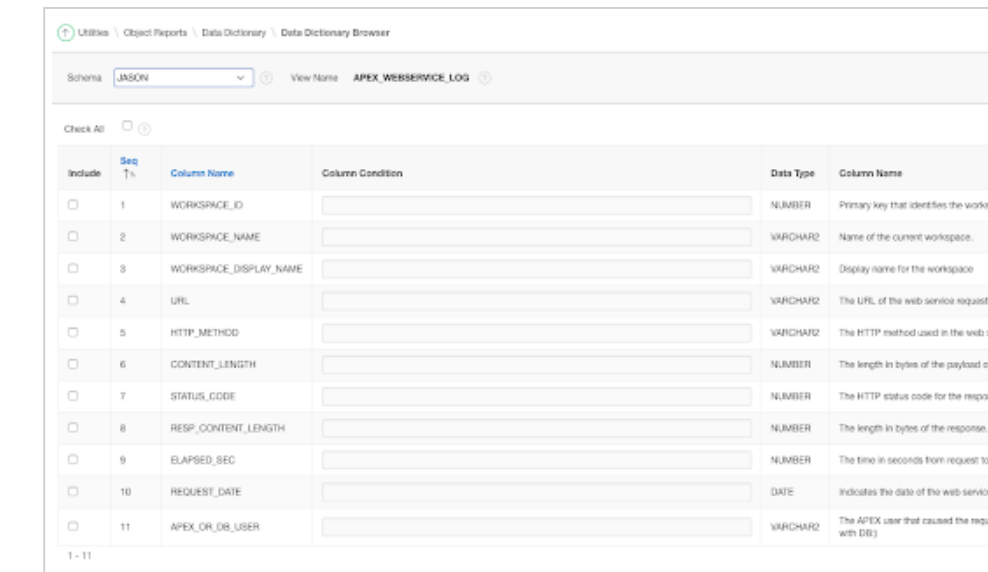


Figure 2 - Data Dictionary report for APEX_WEBSERVICE_LOG

The logging of all web service requests is even more useful for administrators of the entire APEX instance. If you are running a hosting business, this log can be used for forensics in case any of your tenants used your service as a launch platform for attacks on other systems. There is a handy interactive report on the log available in Instance Administration - Monitor Activity - Web Service Activity Log.

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Monitor Activity \ Web Service Activity Log

Activity Log

Q

Go

Actions

URL	HTTP Method	Request Length	Status Code	Ref
http://data.cityofchicago.org/resource/q37g-ckqp.jcon75orden4ISSUED_DATE%20DESC	GET	0	200	
http://data.cityofchicago.org/resource/q37g-ckqp.jcon75orden4ISSUED_DATE%20DESC	GET	0	200	
http://data.cityofchicago.org/resource/q37g-ckqp.jcon75orden4ISSUED_DATE%20DESC	GET	0	200	
https://api.github.com/users/oracle4repos	GET	0	200	
http://location.oracle.com/geocoder/gpserver	POST	0	200	
https://apex.oracle.com/pl/apex/marrest/_afj	POST	1094	200	
https://apex.oracle.com/pl/apex/marrest/_afj	POST	983	200	
https://apex.oracle.com/pl/apex/marrest/_afj	POST	983	200	

ABOUT ME



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Figure 3 - Web Service Activity Log in Internal Administration

By default, there is a log switch every 14 days, so you will have about 28 days of log. If you need to retain information longer than that (or not as long), you can change the default at Internal Administration - Manage Instance - Manage Log Interval.

Manage Log Interval

Set the minimum number of days to retain the log information for the specified logs. The maximum value that can be specified is 180 days, with a default value of 14 days. Keep information for longer periods can degrade runtime performance.

Logs are implemented using two underlying tables, with a switch between the log table: the number of days specified in "Log Switch After Days".

Log Name	Log Switched Date	Log Switch After Days
Access Log	03/12/2018 12:00:00 AM	14
Activity Log	03/12/2018 12:00:00 AM	14
Debug Messages	03/12/2018 12:00:00 AM	14
External Click Count Log	03/12/2018 12:00:00 AM	14
Web Service	03/12/2018 12:00:00 AM	14

Figure 4 - Manage Log Interval in Internal Administration

And finally, also handy for hosting or cloud providers, you can set the maximum number of web service requests that each workspace can do in a twenty four hour period. You set the maximum in Internal Administration - Manage Instance - Security - Workspace Isolation.

Manage Instance \ Security

Security Settings

Authorized URLs

Security

Cancel

Apply Changes

Show All

Security

HTTP Protocol

Real Applicatio...

Session Timeout

Workspace Isol...

Region and We...

Authentication ...

Password Policy

Workspace Isolation

Configure isolation and resource limitation default values for all workspaces. Override these default values at workspace level.

Allow Hostnames

Resource Consumer Group

Maximum Concurrent Workspace Requests

Maximum Concurrent Session Requests

Concurrent Session Requests Kill Timeout

Maximum Size of Files in Workspace

Maximum Web Service Requests

1000

Figure 5 - Maximum Web Service Requests in Workspace Isolation

You can also override the instance setting at the workspace level. In internal Administration, go to Existing Workspaces, find the workspace, and click on the workspace name to edit the properties. Set Maximum Web Service Requests under Workspace Isolation.

Manage Workspaces \ Existing Workspaces \ Edit Workspace Information

Edit Workspace Information

CancelApply Changes

Show AllEdit Workspace Inform...Workspace AppearanceLogin ControlComponent AvailabilitySession TimeoutWorkspace Isolation

Workspace Isolation

Allow Hostnames

Resource Consumer Group

Maximum Concurrent Workspace Requests

Maximum Concurrent Session Requests

Concurrent Session Requests Kill Timeout

Maximum Size of Files in Workspace

Maximum Email Messages

Maximum Web Service Requests100

Content Cache target size

Content Cache maximum entry size

Figure 6 - Override ride Maximum Web Service Requests for a Workspace

And there you have it, your 18.1 new feature "nugget," logging web service requests. I hope you find it useful.

POSTED BY JASON STRAUB AT 4:31 PM

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