



Oracle11g: PL/SQL Programming

Chapter 7

PL/SQL Packages



Chapter Objectives

- After completing this lesson, you should be able to understand:
 - Creating packages
 - Invoking program units in packages
 - Including a forward declaration
 - Creating one-time-only procedures
 - Overloading program units
 - Managing restrictions on packaged functions used in SQL



Chapter Objectives (continued)

- After completing this lesson, you should be able to understand (continued):
 - Using a cursor variable in a package
 - Granting execute privileges
 - Finding package information with data dictionary views
 - Deleting or removing packages



Packages

- Containers that can hold multiple program units
- Add functionality
 - Private program units
 - Sharing variable values
 - Overloading
 - Ease privilege granting
 - Improve performance



Brewbean's Challenge

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- Organize the many program units developed for the application
- Store values throughout a user session
- Enable a program unit to handle different data types for arguments
- Ease the granting of privileges to users



Package Specification

- Contains declarations for program units, variables, exceptions, cursors, and types
- Declare program units with the header only
- Order of declarations important if one construct refers to another in the specification



Package Specification (continued)

PL/SQL

```
1 CREATE OR REPLACE PACKAGE ordering_pkg
2 IS
3     pv_total_num NUMBER(3,2);
4     PROCEDURE order_total_pp
5         (p_bsktid IN NUMBER,
6          p_cnt OUT NUMBER,
7          p_sub OUT NUMBER,
8          p_ship OUT NUMBER,
9          p_total OUT NUMBER);
10    FUNCTION ship_calc_pf
11        (p_qty IN NUMBER)
12        RETURN NUMBER;
13 END;
```

Dbms Output x Messages - Log x

Compiled



Package Body

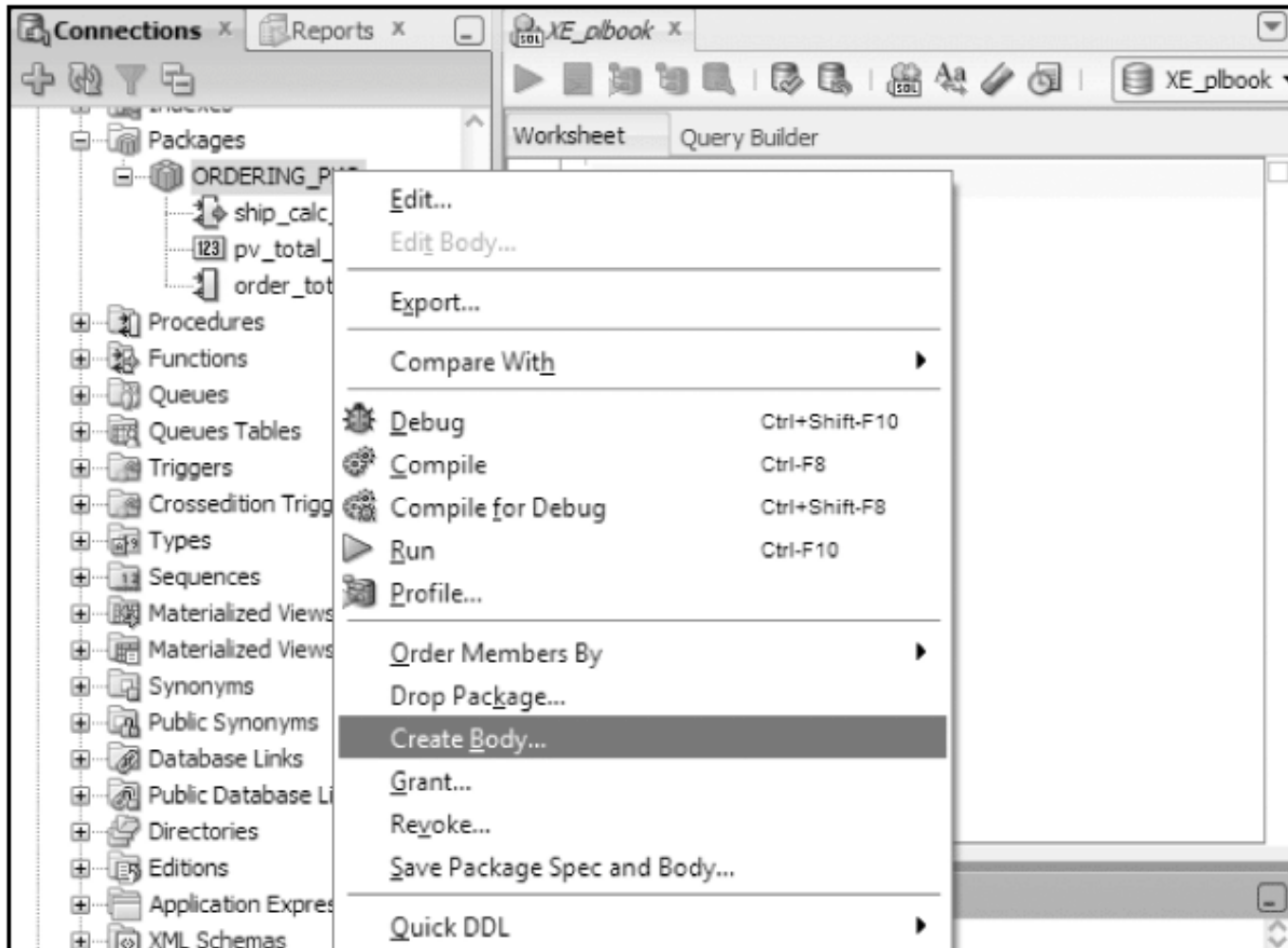
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- Contains the entire program unit code for those declared in the specification
- Use program unit name in END statement to make more readable
- Also can declare any new constructs not in the specification; however, these can only be used inside this package



Package Body

PL/SQL





Invoking Package Constructs

- Call packaged program units the same way as we handled stand-alone program units except add a package name prefix

package_name.program_unit_name(args,...);

- Reference other packaged constructs such as a variable also using a package name prefix

package_name.variable_name



Invoking Package Constructs

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The screenshot shows the Oracle SQL Developer interface. The main window is titled 'XE_plbook'. It has a toolbar with various icons and a status bar showing '0.141 seconds'. The 'Worksheet' tab is active, displaying a PL/SQL script. The script is as follows:

```
1 DECLARE
2   lv_bask_num bb_basketitem.idbasket%TYPE := 12;
3   lv_cnt_num  NUMBER(3);
4   lv_sub_num  NUMBER(8,2);
5   lv_ship_num NUMBER(8,2);
6   lv_total_num NUMBER(8,2);
7 BEGIN
8   ordering_pkg.order_total_pp(lv_bask_num, lv_cnt_num, lv_sub_num,
9                               lv_ship_num, lv_total_num);
10  DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE(lv_cnt_num);
11  DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE(lv_sub_num);
12  DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE(lv_ship_num);
13  DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE(lv_total_num);
14 END;
```

Below the script, the 'Script Output' window shows the message 'Task completed in 0.141 seconds' and 'anonymous block completed'. The 'Dbms Output' window, titled 'Messages - Log', shows the output of the script:

```
7
72.4
8
80.4
```



Package Construct Scope

- Any constructs declared in the specification are public and can be referenced from inside or outside the package
- Any constructs in the body only are private and can only be referenced by other constructs within the same package body



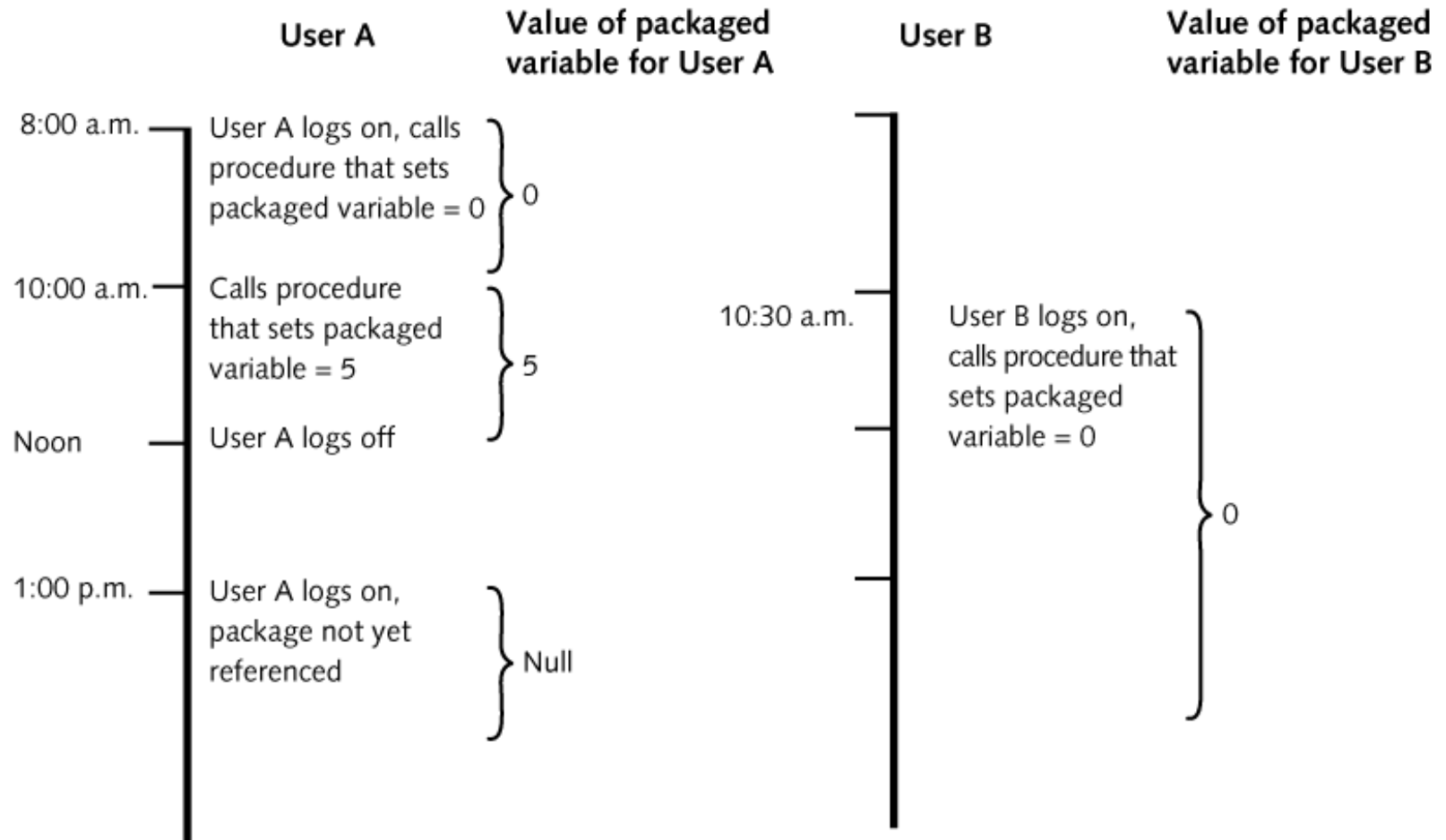
Package Global Constructs

- Constructs declared in the specification such as variables, cursors, types, and exceptions are global
- Global means that the value will persist throughout a user session
- Each user session maintains a separate instance of the packaged construct



Package Global Constructs (continued)

PL/SQL





Package Specification

PL/
SQL

- A specification can exist without a body
- Used to store often referenced static values
- Example

```
CREATE OR REPLACE PACKAGE metric_pkg IS  
    cup_to_liter CONSTANT NUMBER := .24;  
    pint_to_liter CONSTANT NUMBER := .47;  
    quart_to_liter CONSTANT NUMBER := .95;  
END;
```



Improving Processing Efficiency

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- Packaged constructs such as variables and cursors are stored in memory
- After the initial call, values can then be retrieved from cache in subsequent calls
- Package code is also cached



Forward Declarations

- Private program units must be ordered so that any referenced unit is located prior to the calling program unit in the package body
- You need a workaround if you want to organize program units in the body
- Forward declarations eliminate the order problem
- A forward declaration is the program unit header at the top of the package body



Forward Declarations

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```
1 CREATE OR REPLACE PACKAGE BODY ordering_pkg IS
2   FUNCTION ship_calc_pf
3     (p_qty IN NUMBER)
4     RETURN NUMBER;
5   PROCEDURE order_total_pp
6     (p_bsktid IN bb_basketitem.idbasket%TYPE,
7      p_cnt OUT NUMBER,
8      p_sub OUT NUMBER,
9      p_ship OUT NUMBER,
10     p_total OUT NUMBER)
11   IS
12   BEGIN
```



One Time Only Procedure

- Used when user needs a dynamic action to occur on the initial call to a package
- It is an anonymous block placed at the end of a package body (no END statement!)
- Only executes on initial call to the package
- Typically used to populate global constructs



One Time Only Procedure

PL/SQL

```
p_ship := ship_calc_pf(p_qty);
p_total := NVL(p_sub,0) + NVL(p_ship,0);
END order_total_pp;
FUNCTION ship_calc_pf
(p_qty IN NUMBER)
RETURN NUMBER
IS
lv_ship_num NUMBER(5,2);
BEGIN
IF p_qty > 10 THEN
lv_ship_num := 11.00;
ELSIF p_qty > 5 THEN
lv_ship_num := 8.00;
ELSE
lv_ship_num := 5.00;
END IF;
RETURN lv_ship_num;
END ship_calc_pf;
BEGIN
SELECT amount
INTO pv_bonus_num
FROM bb_promo
WHERE idPromo = 'B';
END;
```

percentage amount

One-time-only procedure to retrieve the bonus amount from the BB_PROMO table and place it in the pv_bonus_num variable



Overloading Program Units

- Overloading is the creation of more than one program unit with the same name
- The program units must differ by at least one of the following:
 - Number of parameters
 - Parameter data type families
 - Listed order



Overloading Program Units (continued)

- Allows a particular program unit to accept various sets of arguments
- Some Oracle-supplied functions are overloaded, such as TO_CHAR, which can accept various data types as an argument
- Overloading can only be accomplished with a package



Overloading Program Units (continued)

PL/
SQL

Package
specification

```
CREATE OR REPLACE PACKAGE product_info_pkg IS
  PROCEDURE prod_search_pp
    (p_id IN bb_product.idproduct%TYPE,
     p_sale OUT bb_product.saleprice%TYPE,
     p_price OUT bb_product.price%TYPE);
  PROCEDURE prod_search_pp
    (p_id IN bb_product.productname%TYPE,
     p_sale OUT bb_product.saleprice%TYPE,
     p_price OUT bb_product.price%TYPE);
END;
```

Two procedures
declared with
same name

Package
body

```
CREATE OR REPLACE PACKAGE BODY product_info_pkg
IS
  PROCEDURE prod_search_pp
    (p_id IN bb_product.idproduct%TYPE,
     p_sale OUT bb_product.saleprice%TYPE,
     p_price OUT bb_product.price%TYPE)
  IS
  BEGIN
    SELECT saleprice, price
    INTO p_sale, p_price
    FROM bb_product
    WHERE idProduct = p_id;
  END;
  PROCEDURE prod_search_pp
    (p_id IN bb_product.productname%TYPE,
     p_sale OUT bb_product.saleprice%TYPE,
     p_price OUT bb_product.price%TYPE)
  IS
  BEGIN
    SELECT saleprice, price
    INTO p_sale, p_price
    FROM bb_product
    WHERE productname = p_id;
  END;
END;
```

Same coding in the two
procedures, except the
p_id parameter is set to a
different data type for each
procedure (NUMBER and
VARCHAR2)



Packaged Function Restrictions

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- Function purity level defines what structures the function reads or modifies
- Important to indicate purity level in package specification to discover errors at compile time rather than run time
- Add the following statement in the specification:

PRAGMA RESTRICT_REFERENCES(program_unit_name, purity levels,...)



Purity Levels

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Level Acronym	Level Name	Level Description
WNDS	Writes No Database State	Function does not modify any database tables (No DML)
RNDS	Reads No Database State	Function does not read any tables (No select)
WNPS	Writes No Package State	Function does not modify any packaged variables (packaged variables are variables declared in a package specification)
RNPS	Reads No Package State	Function does not read any packaged variables



Purity Levels

NOTE

The `PRAGMA RESTRICT_REFERENCES` compiler directive is required in versions before Oracle 8i. Starting with Oracle 8i, this directive is optional because the compile-time restrictions were relaxed for more flexible support of stored programs written in other languages, such as Java. In versions 8i and later, the `DETERMINISTIC` and `PARALLEL_ENABLE` options can be used to convey function purity and help with performance tuning. These two options convey that all four purity levels apply and are included in the function header, as shown in the following code:

```
FUNCTION ship_calc_pf  
  (p_qty IN NUMBER)  
  RETURN NUMBER  
  PARALLEL_ENABLE;
```

The `DETERMINISTIC` and `PARALLEL_ENABLE` options are typically used as optimization hints and are implemented as part of a performance-tuning strategy, which is beyond the scope of this book.



REF CURSOR Parameter

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```
CREATE OR REPLACE PACKAGE demo_pkg
AS
  TYPE genCur IS ref cursor;
  PROCEDURE return_set
    (p_id IN NUMBER,
     p_theCursor in out genCur);
END;
```

Declare the REF CURSOR data type in the package specification

```
CREATE OR REPLACE PACKAGE BODY demo_pkg
AS
  PROCEDURE return_set
    (p_id IN NUMBER,
     p_theCursor in out genCur)
  IS
  BEGIN
    OPEN p_theCursor FOR SELECT * FROM bb_basketitem
      WHERE idbasket = p_id;
  END;
END;
```

Declare a parameter with the REF CURSOR data type

```
DECLARE
  bask_cur demo_pkg.genCur;
  rec_bask bb_basketitem%ROWTYPE;
BEGIN
  demo_pkg.return_set(3, bask_cur);
  LOOP
    FETCH bask_cur INTO rec_bask;
    EXIT WHEN bask_cur%NOTFOUND;
    DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE(rec_bask.idproduct);
  END LOOP;
END;
```

OPEN statement indicates the query to use for the cursor

Use the REF CURSOR data type from the package specification

Packaged procedure call

Anonymous block using the procedure



Execute Privileges

- Avoids issuing privileges to all database objects
- If you issue EXECUTE privilege on a package, the user will assume the package owner rights for the period of execution
 - Called definer-rights
- You can override this default by adding AUTHID CURRENT_USER in the specification
- Adds security by avoiding the direct access issue of privileges to database objects



Execute Privileges

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```
CREATE OR REPLACE PACKAGE pack_purity_pkg
AUTHID CURRENT_USER IS
    FUNCTION tax_calc_pf
        (p_amt IN NUMBER)
        RETURN NUMBER;
END;
```



Data Dictionary Information

- Text column of USER_SOURCE view will display the source code of the entire package – specification and body
- Use a WHERE clause on the name column to select only one package
- The USER_OBJECTS view can be used to determine what packages exist in the database

```
SELECT text
FROM user_source
WHERE name = 'PRODUCT_INFO_PKG';
```



Upper case



Data Dictionary Information

PL/SQL

The screenshot shows the Oracle SQL Developer interface. The top pane is the 'Query Builder' for the 'XE_plbook' schema. It contains the following SQL query:

```
1 SELECT object_name, object_type, status
2 FROM user_objects
3 WHERE object_type LIKE '%PACKAGE%';
```

The bottom pane is the 'Query Result' pane, which displays the results of the query. It shows a table with 3 columns: 'OBJECT_NAME', 'OBJECT_TYPE', and 'STATUS'. The results are as follows:

	OBJECT_NAME	OBJECT_TYPE	STATUS
1	ORDERING_PKG	PACKAGE	VALID
2	ORDERING_PKG	PACKAGE BODY	VALID
3	BUDGET_PKG	PACKAGE	VALID
4	BUDGET_PKG	PACKAGE BODY	VALID
5	PRODUCT_INFO_PKG	PACKAGE	VALID
6	PRODUCT_INFO_PKG	PACKAGE BODY	VALID

The interface also shows a 'Script Output' pane and a 'Messages - Log' pane at the bottom. The 'Query Result' pane indicates that all rows were fetched in 0.026 seconds.



Deleting Packages

- To delete specification and body:

```
DROP PACKAGE package_name;
```

- To delete the body only:

```
DROP PACKAGE BODY package_name;
```




Summary

- A package can have two parts: a specification and a body
- Packages allow both public and private constructs
- Global construct values persist
- Forward declaration enables program unit organization
- One time only procedures only execute on the initial call to the package



Summary (continued)

- Overloading allows program units to accept different sets of arguments
- Address function purity levels
- Granting the `EXECUTE` privilege on a package enables definer-rights
- A `REF CURSOR` can pass a set of data between program units
- The `USER_SOURCE` data dictionary view is used to retrieve package source code
- The `DROP` statement is used to delete packages