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Oracle SQL High-Performance Tuning (2nd Edition)



Synopsis

*Targets the no.1 Oracle performance bottleneck: SQL and PL/SQL *For all releases through Oracle 8i *Detailed case studies and performance measurements *Large-volume queries, Oracle clusters, Java, parallel query tuning, and much more Your one-stop resource for all Oracle SQL and PL/SQL tuning and optimization! Optimizing SQL code is the no.1 factor in improving Oracle database performance, yet most guides to Oracle tuning virtually ignore SQL. Oracle SQL High Performance Tuning, Second Edition zeroes in on SQL and PL/SQL, demonstrating how to achieve performance gains of 100% or more in many applications. Expert Oracle developer Guy Harrison gives Oracle developers and DBAs a single source for guidance on every aspect of Oracle 8/8i SQL and PL/SQL tuning, with specific recommendations, detailed case studies, and real benchmarks. Coverage includes: *Designing applications to maximize efficiency right from the start *Building indexes that support high-performance queries *Identifying and resolving Oracle Server bottlenecks *Fixing poorly performing SQL code *Identifying opportunities to substitute PL/SQL or Java for SQL *Making the most of Oracles tuning tools, including tkprof and

Book Information

Paperback: 656 pages

Publisher: Prentice Hall; 2 edition (January 8, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0130123811

ISBN-13: 978-0130123817

Product Dimensions: 7 x 1.5 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (25 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #561,123 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 in [Books > Computers & Technology > Databases & Big Data > Relational Databases](#) #136 in [Books > Computers & Technology > Databases & Big Data > Oracle](#) #294 in [Books > Computers & Technology > Databases & Big Data > SQL](#)

Customer Reviews

Turned right to the page I needed and got started on the solution. What out-dated material? Did they move the SGA? Are we not using SQL anymore? This is an outstanding book by an author with actual experience in the field who's taken the time to produce extensive examples. Not just the trivial examples for syntax diagrams, Mr. Harrison demonstrates the discipline required of tuning,

performance testing, data gathering and analysis. My copy has pages 59-61 and is just about error-free. I suppose it may be possible that the word "select" may have been mis-spelled somewhere, but if you get stuck on that, you've probably got bigger problems that need to be dealt with before buying this book. Who is it that writes those negative reviews; a competitive author or just someone with a brain-fart? It skews the results unfairly. Shouldn't stand-out books like these have something more relevant than just a blank value judgement? It was a real jaw-dropper to see "unuseful" in a review about this book after having landed a contract to implement one of the techniques straight off the page. If you get nothing else out of this book, know that tuning SQL will give you orders of magnitude improvement in performance, while fiddle-farting with the init.ora will get you a percentage, in other words, not even a factor. Which would you rather have...10% or 10 times? I do have one complaint...the new cover is too gaudy, if not down-right garish. But then, I bought it for the content, not the cover.

If the idea of slow database response scares you, this is a good place to start. You hear "tuning a database" a lot, but most of it comes too late. There are some queries that no disks, no CPU, and no amount of memory can speed up. Guy Harrison (well named) is expert on tuning SQL, and knows how to write about it in a way that makes it easy for you to benefit. Besides giving you lots examples of how SQL and PL/SQL can work well, Guy shows you how to use the tools (explain plan, SQL*Trace, Tkprof) that let you know when you are getting close. Actually, he points out that you need to set performance goals early on, and keep testing to see if you are on track; if you don't do that early, it may be too late when you realize you need help. One of my favorite sections is on tuning joins and sub-queries and the accompanying graph showing 197,664 block gets if you do it wrong (wrong index), and 45 if you do it right (using pl/sql instead of correlated subqueries). The title of this review aside, Guy has good sections on tuning an instance, looking at instance settings and hardware, that can be helpful if you get the application working well and still have slow response times, but most of the chances to have an application that works are available during planning and development, and this book definitely helps there. If you like working with Oracle, and want to know more, you will benefit from this book.

I had a nagging and peculiar performance problem with a specific query involving a quirk in the Oracle optimizer which I had been trying to solve on and off for months. With the help of this book, I resolved the problem. It has a level of detail in query optimization way beyond other "highly recommended" books. The explanations are clear, *complete* (completeness was lacking in the

other books), and easy and enjoyable to read. I finally have the understanding of these Oracle internals that I have been seeking!

This book has it all. I cannot recommend it highly enough. I can only hope that there are similar books available if my work ever shifts to competing databases. After 3 years of working with Oracle 7, I've only amassed about 1% of the practical knowledge and insights that Mr. Harrison shares with us in this book. Like the title suggests, it teaches Oracle database and SQL statement performance tuning rules, strategies and tips. However, it also dips into other valuable topics like principles of indexing, explaining the ever-mysterious tkprof output, configuring and tuning the database server itself, and listing other resources to fill the void of Oracle documentation. This book and Fuerstein's PL/SQL programming book have become standard issue for all developers on our project.

This book is vastly superior to 99% of other purported tuning books. This book has saved me huge amounts of time, and assisted me in solving numerous performance problems, with great benefit to myself and my clients. True - there appear to be some minor syntax errors; this only proves that Mr. Harrison is human. I seriously question the credibility of anyone who would call this book not useful. That is simply not a believable statement.

I do a lot of SQL tuning for Oracle. This book is the best book I have read in this subject. It is not bias, it is clear, easy to understand, with good practical examples. It is written for a truly expert in Oracle SQL tuning. Using plain english the author explains a lot of concepts that are fundamental for a successful SQL tuning effort. I read the 1st edition more than once, and I am reading the 2nd edition for the second time. If you already have the first edition, it is worth to purchase the second edition that has been updated and feeded with additional elements. If you only have the time to read one book in Oracle SQL tuning, this is your book.

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