

Introduction to PL/SQL

PL/SQL - Introduction

- Procedural extension allowing for modularity, variable declaration, loops and logical constructs.
- Allows for advanced error handling
- Communicates natively with other Oracle database objects.
- Managed centrally within the Oracle database.

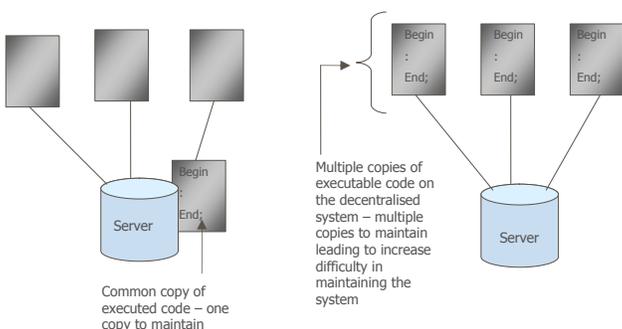
Other Databases

- All have procedural facilities
- SQL is not functionally complete
 - Lacks full facilities of a programming language
- So top up functionality by embedding SQL in a procedural language
- PL/SQL techniques are specific to Oracle
 - but procedures and functions can be ported to other systems

Why use PL/SQL

- Manage business rules – through *middle layer* application logic.
- Generate code for triggers
- Generate code for interface
- Enable database-centric client/server applications

Centralised VS De-centralised



Advantages of using PL/SQL to access Oracle

- PL/SQL is managed centrally within the database
- Code is managed by the DBA and execution privileges are managed in the same way as with other objects
- PL/SQL objects are first-class Oracle DB objects
- Easy to read
 - With modularity features and error handling

Centralised control

- Enables DBA to:
 - Specify rules in one place (as procedure, function, package in PL/SQL)
 - Force user access through the predefined PL/SQL so users cannot write their own procedural code and use this instead.
 - Define for instance security privileges giving users access to table(s) only through a particular procedure

Fundamentals of PL/SQL

- Full-featured programming language
- An interpreted language
- Type in editor, execute in SQL*Plus

Item Type	Capitalization	Example
Reserved word	Uppercase	BEGIN, DECLARE
Built-in function	Uppercase	COUNT, TO_DATE
Predefined data type	Uppercase	VARCHAR2, NUMBER
SQL command	Uppercase	SELECT, INSERT
Database object	Lowercase	student, f_id
Variable name	Lowercase	current_s_id, current_f_last

Table 4-1 PL/SQL command capitalization styles

Using PL/SQL as a programming language

- Permits all operations of standard programming languages e.g.
 - Conditions IF-THEN-ELSE-END IF;
 - Jumps GOTO
- Provides loops for controlling iteration
 - LOOP-EXIT; WHEN-END LOOP; FOR-END LOOP; WHILE-END LOOP
- Allows extraction of data into variables and its subsequent manipulation

Modules in PL/SQL

There are 4 types of modules in PL/SQL

- *Procedures* – series of statements may or may not return a value
- *Functions* – series of statements must return a single value
- *Triggers* – series of PL/SQL statements (actions) executing after an event has triggered a condition (ECA)
- *Packages* – collection of procedures and function that has 2 parts:
 - a listing and a body.

Variables and Data Types

- Variables
 - Used to store numbers, character strings, dates, and other data values
 - Avoid using keywords, table names and column names as variable names
 - Must be declared with data type before use: *variable_name data_type_declaration;*

Scalar Data Types

- Represent a single value

Data Type	Description	Sample Declaration
VARCHAR2	Variable-length character string	current_s_last VARCHAR2(30);
CHAR	Fixed-length character string	student_gender CHAR(1);
DATE	Date and time	today's_date DATE;
INTERVAL	Time interval	curr_time_enrolled INTERVAL YEAR TO MONTH; curr_elapsed_time INTERVAL DAY TO SECOND;
NUMBER	Floating-point, fixed-point, or integer number	current_price NUMBER(5,2);

Table 4-2 Scalar database data types

Scalar Data Types

Data Type	Description	Sample Declaration
Integer number subtypes (BINARY_INTEGER, INTEGER, INT, SMALLINT)	Integer	counter BINARY_INTEGER;
Decimal number subtypes (DEC, DECIMAL, DOUBLE PRECISION, NUMERIC, REAL)	Numeric value with varying precision and scale	student_gpa REAL;
BOOLEAN	True/False value	order_flag BOOLEAN;

Table 4-3 General scalar data types

Composite and Reference Variables

- Composite variables
 - RECORD: contains multiple scalar values, similar to a table record
 - TABLE: tabular structure with multiple columns and rows
 - VARRAY: variable-sized array
- Reference variables
 - Directly reference a specific database field or record and assume the data type of the associated field or record
 - %TYPE: same data type as a database field
 - %ROWTYPE: same data type as a database record

PL/SQL Program Blocks

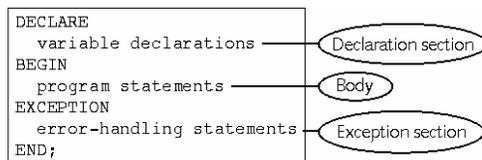


Figure 4-1 Structure of a PL/SQL program block

- Comments:
 - Not executed by interpreter
 - Enclosed between /* and */
 - On one line beginning with --

Arithmetic Operators

Operator	Description	Example	Result
**	Exponentiation	2 ** 3	8
*	Multiplication	2 * 3	6
/	Division	9 / 2	4.5
+	Addition	3 + 2	5
-	Subtraction	3 - 2	1
-	Negation	-5	-5

Table 4-5 PL/SQL arithmetic operators in descending order of precedence

Assignment Statements

- Assigns a value to a variable
variable_name := value;
- Value can be a literal:
current_s_first_name := 'John';
- Value can be another variable:
current_s_first_name := s_first_name;

Executing a PL/SQL Program in SQL*Plus

```

--PL/SQL program to display the current date
DECLARE
  todays_date DATE;
BEGIN
  todays_date := SYSDATE;
  DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('Today''s date is ');
  DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE(todays_date);
END;
```

Figure 4-2 PL/SQL program commands

- Create program in text editor
- Paste into SQL*Plus window
- Press Enter, type / then enter to execute

Printing output

```
SET SERVEROUTPUT ON SIZE 4000
```

```
DECLARE
  my_name student.name%type;
BEGIN
  SELECT name INTO my_name FROM student
  WHERE student.sid=200;
  DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('My name is ' ||
  my_name || '.');
END;
```

PL/SQL Data Conversion Functions

Data Conversion Function	Description	Example
TO_CHAR	Converts either a number or a date value to a string using a specific format model	TO_CHAR(2.98, '\$999.99'); TO_CHAR(SYSDATE, 'MM/DD/YYYY');
TO_DATE	Converts a string to a date using a specific format model	TO_DATE('07/14/2003', 'MM/DD/YYYY');
TO_NUMBER	Converts a string to a number	TO_NUMBER('2');

Table 4-6 PL/SQL data conversion functions

Manipulating Character Strings with PL/SQL

- To concatenate two strings in PL/SQL, you use the double bar (||) operator:
 - `new_string := string1 || string2;`
- To remove blank leading spaces use the LTRIM function:
 - `string := LTRIM(string_variable_name);`
- To remove blank trailing spaces use the RTRIM function:
 - `string := RTRIM(string_variable_name);`
- To find the number of characters in a character string use the LENGTH function:
 - `string_length := LENGTH(string_variable_name);`

Manipulating Character Strings with PL/SQL

- To change case, use UPPER, LOWER, INITCAP
- INSTR function searches a string for a specific substring:
 - `start_position := INSTR(original_string, substring);`
- SUBSTR function extracts a specific number of characters from a character string, starting at a given point:
 - `extracted_string := SUBSTR(string_variable, starting_point, number_of_characters);`

PL/SQL Decision Control Structures

- Use IF/THEN structure to execute code if condition is true
 - IF *condition* THEN
commands that execute if condition is TRUE;
END IF;
- If condition evaluates to NULL it is considered false
- Use IF/THEN/ELSE to execute code if condition is true or false
 - IF *condition* THEN
commands that execute if condition is TRUE;
ELSE
commands that execute if condition is FALSE;
END IF;
- Can be nested – be sure to end nested statements

PL/SQL Decision Control Structures

- Use IF/ELSIF to evaluate many conditions:
 - IF *condition1* THEN
commands that execute if condition1 is TRUE;
ELSIF *condition2* THEN
commands that execute if condition2 is TRUE;
ELSIF *condition3* THEN
commands that execute if condition3 is TRUE;
...
ELSE
commands that execute if none of the conditions are TRUE;
END IF;

IF/ELSIF Example

```

Oracle SQL*Plus
File Edit Search Options Help
SQL> DECLARE
2  today_date DATE;
3  current_day VARCHAR2(9);
4  BEGIN
5  today_date := SYSDATE;
6  -- extract day portion from current date, and trim trailing blank spaces
7  current_day := TO_CHAR(today_date, 'DAY');
8  current_day := INITCAP(current_day);
9  current_day := TRIM(current_day);
10 -- IF/ELSIF condition to determine current day
11 IF current_day = 'Friday' THEN
12 DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('Today is Friday');
13 ELSIF current_day = 'Saturday' THEN
14 DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('Today is Saturday');
15 ELSIF current_day = 'Sunday' THEN
16 DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('Today is Sunday');
17 ELSIF current_day = 'Monday' THEN
18 DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('Today is Monday');
19 ELSIF current_day = 'Tuesday' THEN
20 DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('Today is Tuesday');
21 ELSIF current_day = 'Wednesday' THEN
22 DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('Today is Wednesday');
23 ELSIF current_day = 'Thursday' THEN
24 DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('Today is Thursday');
25 ELSE
26 DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('Current day not found.');
```

Add/modify these commands

Figure 4-17 Using an IF/ELSIF structure

Using SQL Queries in PL/SQL Programs

- Action queries can be used as in SQL*Plus
- May use variables in action queries
- DDL commands may not be used in PL/SQL

The LOOP...EXIT Loop

```

LOOP
  [program statements]
  IF condition THEN
    EXIT;
  END IF;
  [additional program statements]
END LOOP
```

Complex Conditions

- Created with logical operators AND, OR and NOT
- AND is evaluated before OR
- Use () to set precedence

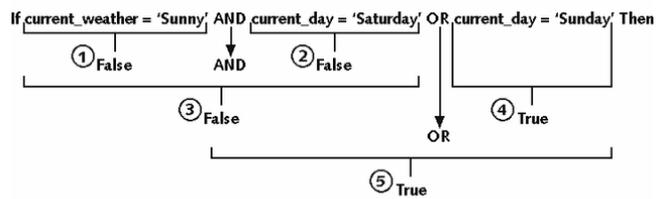


Figure 4-19 Evaluating AND and OR in an expression

Loops

- Program structure that executes a series of program statements, and periodically evaluates an exit condition to determine if the loop should repeat or exit
- Pretest loop: evaluates the exit condition before any program commands execute
- Posttest loop: executes one or more program commands before the loop evaluates the exit condition for the first time
- PL/SQL has 5 loop structures

The LOOP...EXIT WHEN Loop

```

LOOP
  program statements
  EXIT WHEN condition;
END LOOP;
```



The WHILE...LOOP

```
WHILE condition LOOP
    program statements
END LOOP;
```



The Numeric FOR Loop

```
FOR counter_variable IN start_value
    .. end_value
LOOP
    program statements
END LOOP;
```



Cursors

- Pointer to a memory location that the DBMS uses to process a SQL query
- Use to retrieve and manipulate database data



Using an Implicit Cursor

- Executing a SELECT query creates an implicit cursor
- To retrieve it into a variable use INTO:
 - ```
SELECT field1, field2, ...
INTO variable1, variable2, ...
FROM table1, table2, ...
WHERE join_conditions
AND
search_condition_to_retrieve_1_record;
```
- Can only be used with queries that return exactly one record



## Explicit Cursor

- Use for queries that return multiple records or no records
- Must be explicitly declared and used



## Using an Explicit Cursor

- Declare the cursor
  - ```
CURSOR cursor_name IS select_query;
```
- Open the cursor
 - ```
OPEN cursor_name;
```
- Fetch the data rows
  - ```
LOOP
    FETCH cursor_name INTO
    variable_name(s);
    EXIT WHEN cursor_name%NOTFOUND;
```
- Close the cursor
 - ```
CLOSE cursor_name;
```

## Explicit Cursor with %ROWTYPE

```

Oracle SQL*Plus
File Edit Search Options Help
SQL> DECLARE
 2 current_bldg_code VARCHAR2(5);
 3 CURSOR location_cursor IS
 4 SELECT room, capacity
 5 FROM location
 6 WHERE bldg_code = current_bldg_code;
 7 location_row location_cursor%ROWTYPE;
 8 BEGIN
 9 current_bldg_code := 'LIB';
 10 OPEN location_cursor;
 11 LOOP
 12 FETCH location_cursor INTO location_row;
 13 EXIT WHEN location_cursor%NOTFOUND;
 14 DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('The capacity of ' || current_bldg_code || ' ' ||
 15 location_row.room || ' is ' || location_row.capacity || ' seat(s).');
 16 END LOOP;
 17 CLOSE location_cursor;
 18 END;
 19 /
The capacity of LIB 217 is 2 seat(s).
The capacity of LIB 222 is 1 seat(s).
PL/SQL procedure successfully completed.

```

Modify these commands

Program output

Figure 4-31 Processing an explicit cursor using a %ROWTYPE variable

## Cursor FOR Loop

- Automatically opens the cursor, fetches the records, then closes the cursor
- FOR variable\_name(s) IN cursor\_name LOOP**  
*processing commands*  
**END LOOP;**
- Cursor variables cannot be used outside loop

## Using Cursor FOR Loop

```

Oracle SQL*Plus
File Edit Search Options Help
SQL> DECLARE
 2 current_bldg_code VARCHAR2(5);
 3 CURSOR location_cursor IS
 4 SELECT room, capacity
 5 FROM location
 6 WHERE bldg_code = current_bldg_code;
 7 location_row location_cursor%ROWTYPE;
 8 BEGIN
 9 current_bldg_code := 'LIB';
 10 FOR location_row IN location_cursor LOOP
 11 DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('The capacity of ' || current_bldg_code || ' ' ||
 12 location_row.room || ' is ' || location_row.capacity || ' seat(s).');
 13 END LOOP;
 14 END;
 15 /
The capacity of LIB 217 is 2 seat(s).
The capacity of LIB 222 is 1 seat(s).
PL/SQL procedure successfully completed.

```

Add/modify these commands

Figure 4-32 Processing an explicit cursor using a cursor FOR loop

## Example using PLSQL

- Add a status column to student table
- Set status to FULL if the student takes 2 or more courses
- Set status to PART if the student takes less than 2 courses
- Print the results for the each of the update

## Handling Runtime Errors in PL/SQL Programs

- Runtime errors cause exceptions
- Exception handlers exist to deal with different error situations
- Exceptions cause program control to fall to exception section where exception is handled

```

EXCEPTION
 WHEN exception1_name THEN
 exception1_handler_commands;
 WHEN exception2_name THEN
 exception2_handler_commands;
 ...
 WHEN OTHERS THEN
 other_handler_commands;
END;

```

Figure 4-34 Exception handler syntax

## Predefined Exceptions

| Oracle Error Code | Exception Name   | Description                                                            |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ORA-00001         | DUP_VAL_ON_INDEX | Command violates primary key unique constraint                         |
| ORA-01403         | NO_DATA_FOUND    | Query retrieves no records                                             |
| ORA-01422         | TOO_MANY_ROWS    | Query returns more rows than anticipated                               |
| ORA-01476         | ZERO_DIVIDE      | Division by zero                                                       |
| ORA-01722         | INVALID_NUMBER   | Invalid number conversion (such as trying to convert "2B" to a number) |
| ORA-06502         | VALUE_ERROR      | Error in truncation, arithmetic, or data conversion operation          |

Table 4-10 Common PL/SQL predefined exceptions

## Undefined Exceptions

- Less common errors
- Do not have predefined names
- Must declare your own name for the exception code in the declaration section

## User-Defined Exceptions

- Not a real Oracle error
- Use to enforce business rules

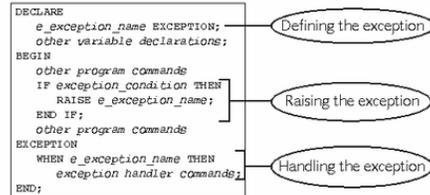


Figure 4-40 General syntax for declaring, raising, and handling a user-defined exception

## Overview of PL/SQL Stored Program Units

- Self-contained group of program statements that can be used within a larger program.
- Easier to conceptualize, design, and debug
- Save valuable programming time because you can reuse them in multiple database applications
- Other PL/SQL programs can reference them

## Types of Program Units

| Program Unit Type | Description                                                                                                               | Where Stored          | Where Executed |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Procedure         | Can accept multiple input parameters, and return multiple output values                                                   | Database              | Server-side    |
| Function          | Can accept multiple input parameters, and can return a single output value                                                | Database              | Server-side    |
| Library           | Contains code for multiple related procedures or functions                                                                | Operating system file | Client-side    |
| Package           | Contains code for multiple related procedures, functions, and variables and can be made available to other database users | Database              | Server-side    |
| Database trigger  | Contains code that executes when a user inserts, updates, or deletes records                                              | Database              | Server-side    |

Table 9-1 Types of Oracle9i stored program units

## Creating Stored Program Units

- **Procedure:** a program unit that can receive multiple input parameters and return multiple output values or return no output values
- **Function:** a program unit that can receive multiple input parameters, and always returns a single output value.

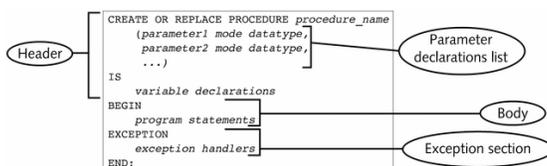


Figure 9-9 Syntax to create a stored program unit procedure

## Parameter Declarations List

- Defines the parameters and declares their associated data types
- Enclosed in parentheses
- Separated by commas

## Parameter Declarations List

- Parameter mode describes how the program unit can change the parameter value:
  - IN - specifies a parameter that is passed to the program unit as a read-only value that the program unit cannot change.
  - OUT - specifies a parameter that is a write-only value that can appear only on the left side of an assignment statement in the program unit
  - IN OUT - specifies a parameter that is passed to the program unit, and whose value can also be changed within the program unit

## Creating a Stored Procedure in SQL\*Plus

```

SQL> CREATE OR REPLACE PROCEDURE update_inventory
2 (current_inv_id IN NUMBER,
3 update_quantity IN NUMBER
4)
5 IS
6 BEGIN
7 -- update item QOH
8 UPDATE inventory
9 SET inv_qoh = inv_qoh + update_quantity
10 WHERE inv_id = current_inv_id;
11 COMMIT;
12 END;
13 /

Procedure created.

```

Figure 9-10 Creating a stored procedure in SQL\*Plus

## Calling a Stored Procedure

- From SQL\*Plus command line:
  - EXECUTE procedure\_name (parameter1\_value, parameter2\_value, ...);
- From PL/SQL program:
  - Omit execute command
- Passing parameters (see Figure 9-13)

## Creating a Stored Program Unit Function

```

CREATE OR REPLACE FUNCTION function_name
 (parameter1 mode datatype,
 parameter2 mode datatype,
 ...)
RETURN function_return_value_datatype
IS
 return_value_variable datatype;
 other variable declarations
BEGIN
 program statement
 RETURN return_value_variable;
EXCEPTION
 exception handlers
 RETURN EXCEPTION_NOTICE;
END;

```

Callouts in the original image:

- Defines function return value (points to RETURN function\_return\_value\_datatype)
- Returns value to calling program (points to RETURN return\_value\_variable)
- Displays exception messages in calling program (points to RETURN EXCEPTION\_NOTICE)

Figure 9-16 Syntax to create a stored procedure unit function

## Creating a Stored Program Unit Function

- Last command in function must be RETURN

```

SQL> CREATE OR REPLACE FUNCTION age
2 (date_of_birth IN DATE)
3 RETURN NUMBER
4 IS
5 current_age NUMBER;
6 BEGIN
7 current_age := TRUNC((SYSDATE - date_of_birth)/365.25);
8 RETURN current_age;
9 END;
10 /

Function created.

```

Figure 9-17 Creating a stored program unit function

## Calling a Function

- variable\_name := function\_name(parameter1, parameter2, ...);

```

SQL> DECLARE
2 calculated_age NUMBER;
3 current_dob DATE := TO_DATE('07/01/1980', 'MM/DD/YYYY');
4 BEGIN
5 calculated_age := age(current_dob);
6 DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('Calculated age is ' || calculated_age);
7 END;
8 /

Calculated age is 22

PL/SQL procedure successfully completed.

```

Figure 9-18 Calling a function from an anonymous PL/SQL program

## Debugging PL/SQL Programs

- Syntax error:
  - Command does not follow the guidelines of the programming language
  - Generates compiler or interpreter error messages
- Logic error:
  - Program runs but results in an incorrect result
  - Caused by mistake in program

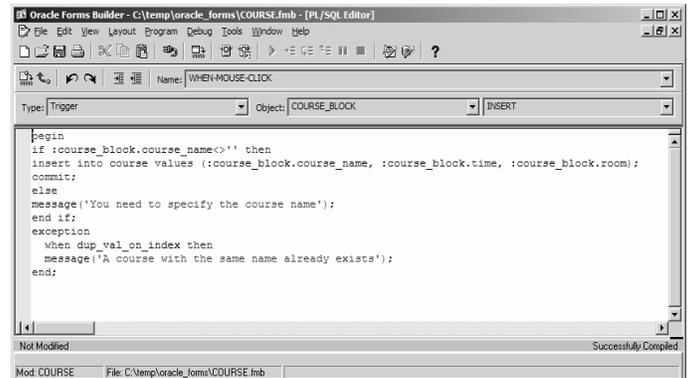
## Finding and Fixing Syntax Errors

- Interpreter flags the line number and character location of syntax errors
- If error message appears and the flagged line appears correct, the error usually occurs on program lines *preceding* the flagged line
- Comment out program lines to look for hidden errors
- One error (such as missing semicolon) may cause more – fix one error at a time

## Finding and Fixing Logic Errors

- Locate logic errors by viewing variable values during program execution
- There is no SQL\*Plus debugger
- Use DBMS\_OUTPUT statements to print variable values

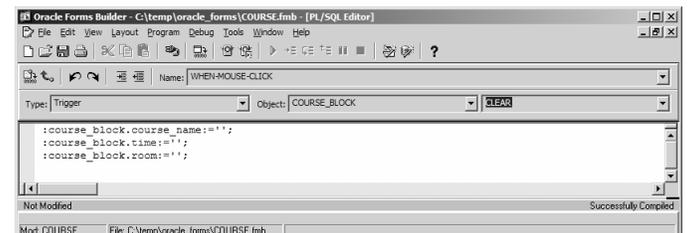
## Adding PL/SQL code



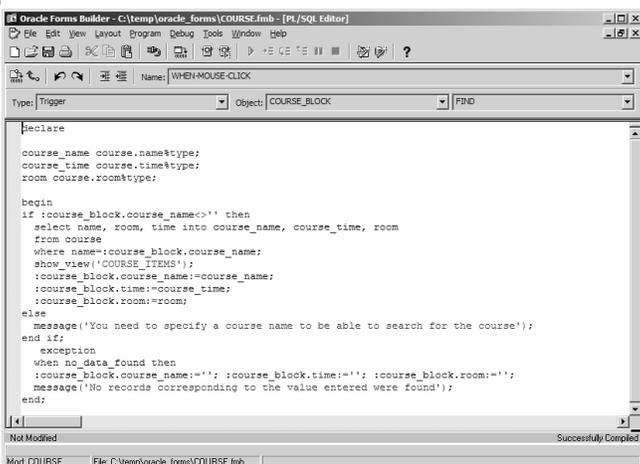
```
Oracle Forms Builder - C:\temp\oracle_forms\COURSE.fmb - [PL/SQL Editor]
File Edit View Layout Program Debug Tools Window Help
Type: Trigger Object: COURSE_BLOCK INSERT
begin
if :course_block.course_name<>' ' then
insert into course values (:course_block.course_name, :course_block.time, :course_block.room);
commit;
else
message('You need to specify the course name');
end if;
exception
when dup_val_on_index then
message('A course with the same name already exists');
end;
```

## Adding PL/SQL code

- Create triggers for each of the buttons
- Add PL/SQL code to the triggers



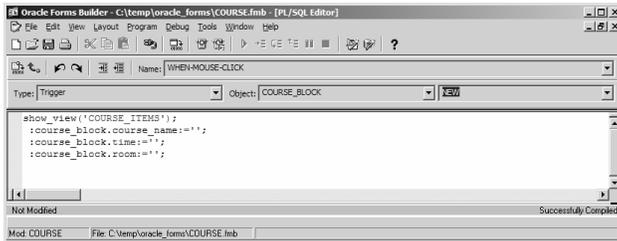
```
Oracle Forms Builder - C:\temp\oracle_forms\COURSE.fmb - [PL/SQL Editor]
File Edit View Layout Program Debug Tools Window Help
Type: Trigger Object: COURSE_BLOCK CLEAR
:course_block.course_name:='';
:course_block.time:='';
:course_block.room:='';
```



```
Oracle Forms Builder - C:\temp\oracle_forms\COURSE.fmb - [PL/SQL Editor]
File Edit View Layout Program Debug Tools Window Help
Type: Trigger Object: COURSE_BLOCK FIND
declare
course_name course.name%type;
course_time course.time%type;
room course.room%type;
begin
if :course_block.course_name<>' ' then
select name, room, time into course_name, course_time, room
from course
where name=:course_block.course_name;
show_view('COURSE_ITEMS');
:course_block.course_name:=course_name;
:course_block.time:=course_time;
:course_block.room:=room;
else
message('You need to specify a course name to be able to search for the course!');
end if;
exception
when no_data_found then
:course_block.course_name:=''; :course_block.time:=''; :course_block.room:='';
message('No records corresponding to the value entered were found!');
end;
```

## Adding PL/SQL code

- Create triggers for each of the buttons
- Add PL/SQL code to the triggers



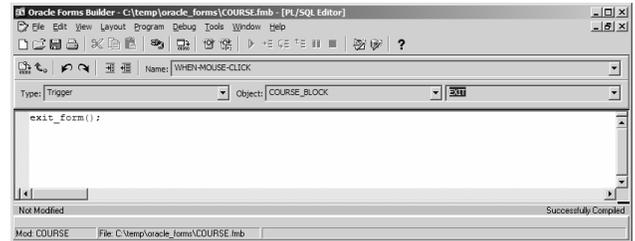
The screenshot shows the Oracle Forms Builder PL/SQL Editor window. The title bar reads "Oracle Forms Builder - C:\temp\oracle\_forms\COURSE.fmb - [PL/SQL Editor]". The menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Layout, Program, Debug, Tools, Window, and Help. The Name field is set to "WHEN-MOUSE-CLICK" and the Object is "COURSE\_BLOCK". The Type is "Trigger". The code in the editor is:

```
#show_view('COURSE_ITEMS');
:course_block.course_name:='';
:course_block.time:='';
:course_block.room:='';
```

The status bar at the bottom indicates "Not Modified" and "Successfully Compiled". The file path is "C:\temp\oracle\_forms\COURSE.fmb".

## Adding PL/SQL code

- Create triggers for each of the buttons
- Add PL/SQL code to the triggers



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```
exit_form();
```

The status bar at the bottom indicates "Not Modified" and "Successfully Compiled". The file path is "C:\temp\oracle\_forms\COURSE.fmb".