

Preface

Why This Book?

Oracle® 10g has introduced new features into its repertoire of SQL instructions that make database queries more versatile. When programmers use SQL in Oracle, they inevitably look for easier and new ways to handle queries. What is needed is a way to introduce SQL users to the new features of Oracle 10g concisely and systematically so that database programmers can take full advantage of the newer capabilities. This book hopes to meet this need by exploring some common new SQL features. Each chapter includes numerous working examples, and Oracle users can run these examples as they read and work through the book. Also, many books on Oracle 10g present the language syntax alone with no in-depth explanation, analysis, or examples. In this book, we present not only the syntax for new features and functions, but also a thorough clarification and breakdown of the different functions, along with examples of ways they can and should be used.