

Introduction

In many Oracle shops today third-party applications are the norm. The major problem for DBAs with these third-party applications is that you are not allowed to alter the source code of the SQL used within the application. Many times the application will generate SQL statements in an ad-hoc manner that further complicates the tuning picture. This paper will attempt to provide insights into how to tune Oracle when you can't touch the code.

Tuning Overview

Everyone who has been in the Oracle DBA profession for any length of time has seen the graph in figure 1. This graph shows the percentage gains, on the average, from tuning various aspects of the Oracle database environment.

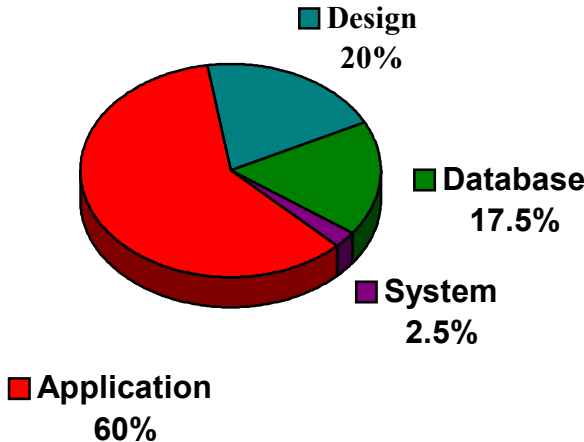


Figure 1: Performance Gains from Tuning

As can be seen from a quick glance at the graph, 80% of tuning gains are realized from proper design and application statement tuning. Unfortunately in a