SQL*Plus® User's Guide for Windows NT/95

Release 3.3

Part No. A43686–1

ORACLE ®

The Relational Database Management System

SQL*Plus User's Guide for Windows NT/95 , Release 3.3

Part No. A43686–1

Preface

Welcome to SQL*Plus for Windows NT/95, Release 3.3. This guide contains important information to help you get started with SQL*Plus for Windows NT or SQL*Plus for Windows 95. It covers the following topics:

- audience
- how this guide is organized
- conventions used in this guide
- reader comments

☞ **Attention:** This guide incorporates information for two separate Oracle products — SQL*Plus for Windows NT and SQL*Plus for Windows 95 — into one book, *SQL*Plus User's Guide for Windows NT/95*. Its title is not intended to suggest a single SQL*Plus product that will run on both platforms.

Audience

This guide is for all users who wish to install and use SQL*Plus, Oracle Corporation's SQL extension, in the Microsoft Windows NT or Windows 95 graphical environment.

Prerequisites

You should be familiar with your computer and its operating system. For example, you should know the commands for deleting and copying files and understand the concepts of the search path, subdirectories, and path names.

You should also understand the fundamentals of the Microsoft Windows platform that you are using, such as Program Manager and File Manager in Windows NT or Taskbar and Windows Explorer in Windows 95, and the elements of an application window.

How to Use this Guide

This guide is a companion piece to the *SQL*Plus User's Guide and Reference* and the *SQL*Plus Quick Reference* included with your SQL*Plus package. Use this guide to learn how to install SQL*Plus for Windows NT/95, then work through the SQL*Plus examples in the *SQL*Plus User's Guide and Reference.*

As you work through the examples in the *SQL*Plus User's Guide and Reference,* refer to this guide for information about the SQL*Plus menu items and the use of SQL*Plus in the Windows NT/95 environment.

How this Guide is Organized

This guide consists of four chapters and one appendix:

Chapter 1   Introduction to SQL*Plus
Provides an introduction to SQL*Plus for Windows NT or SQL*Plus for Windows 95.

Chapter 2   Installing SQL*Plus for Windows NT/95
Details the procedures for installing SQL*Plus for Windows NT or SQL*Plus for Windows 95.

Chapter 3   SQL*Plus Menus
Describes the SQL*Plus for Windows NT and SQL*Plus for Windows 95
menu commands.

Chapter 4   SQL*Plus in the Windows NT/95 Environment
Contains operating system–specific information and documentation
cross–references found in the *SQL*Plus User's Guide and Reference.*

**Appendix A   Customizing Operating System Parameters:
                      The Windows Registry**
Lists the parameters used by SQL*Plus in the Windows NT/95
environment and describes how to customize your Oracle configuration
by changing parameter values.

Conventions Used in This Guide

The following typographical conventions are used in this guide:

Courier font	Text in courier font indicates commands that you must enter exactly as shown. Text typed on a PC is not case–sensitive, unless noted otherwise.
	Keys indicated in the text are also shown in courier font, for example, CTRL+C.
UPPERCASE	Uppercase characters within the text represent command names, SQL reserved words, and keywords.
lowercase	Lowercase characters in a command statement represent a variable. Substitute an appropriate value.
Punctuation	In commands, punctuation other than brackets and vertical bars must be entered exactly as shown.
\DIRECTORY	A backslash before a directory name indicates that the directory is a subdirectory.
C:\>	C:\> represents the DOS prompt. Your prompt may differ and may, at times, reflect your current subdirectory.
DOS	This term refers to Microsoft DOS (MS–DOS) and Novell DOS (DR DOS).

A Note on Directory Names

This guide refers to the directory names used in the default installation procedures. If you change the names of any of the Oracle directories substitute those names for the ones in this guide.

Related Publications

This guide references the following Oracle documentation:

- *SQL*Plus User's Guide and Reference*
- *SQL*Plus Quick Reference*
- *Oracle7 Server Messages*
- *Oracle7 Server SQL Reference*
- *PL/SQL User's Guide and Reference*

These documents (and this guide) are available in Adobe Acrobat format. An Adobe Acrobat viewer is automatically installed along with on your system. To view them, start Adobe Acrobat and choose the document(s) you want to view and/or print.

Reader's Comments

We value and appreciate your comments as an Oracle user. At the back of this guide is a Reader's Comment Form. We encourage you to use this form to tell us what you like and dislike about this (or other) Oracle manuals. If the form is missing, or if you would like to contact us, please use the following address.

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Contents

1

Introduction to SQL*Plus

This chapter provides the following information to help you get started with SQL*Plus for Windows NT/95:

- overview of SQL*Plus

- using SQL*Plus in Windows NT or Windows 95

☞ **Attention:** This guide incorporates information for two separate Oracle products — SQL*Plus for Windows NT and SQL*Plus for Windows 95 — into one book, *SQL*Plus User's Guide for Windows NT/95*. Its title is not intended to suggest a single SQL*Plus product that will run on both platforms.

Overview of SQL*Plus

You can use the SQL*Plus (pronounced "sequel plus") program in conjunction with the SQL database language and its procedural language extension, PL/SQL. The SQL database language allows you to store and retrieve data in an Oracle database. PL/SQL allows you to link several SQL commands through procedural logic.

SQL*Plus enables you to manipulate SQL commands and PL/SQL blocks, and to perform many additional tasks as well. Through SQL*Plus, you can:

- enter, edit, store, retrieve, add run SQL commands and PL/SQL blocks
- format, perform calculations on, store, and print query results in the form of reports
- list column definitions for any table
- access and copy data between SQL databases
- send messages to and accept responses from an end user

SQL*Plus provides a command line interface in addition to the GUI version of SQL*Plus.

As a SQL*Plus user, you have access to the command–line functionality that is available with the character–mode version of SQL*Plus, as well as the convenient menu–based features of Windows GUI application. For instance, you can select SQL*Plus menu items to perform tasks such as these:

- saving and opening SQL scripts
- copying and pasting text to and from the Windows clipboard and the SQL*Plus application window
- invoking a Windows text editor, such as Notepad
- searching for text in the SQL*Plus application window
- selecting parameters from a dialog box to customize the SQL*Plus environment

Basic Concepts

The following definitions explain concepts central to SQL*Plus:

Concepts	Definition
command	An instruction you give SQL*Plus or the Oracle database.
block	A group of SQL and PL/SQL commands related to one another through procedural logic.
table	The basic unit of storage in the Oracle database.
query	A SQL command (specifically a SQL SELECT command) that retrieves information from one or more tables.
query results	The data retrieved by a query.
report	Query results formatted by you through SQL*Plus commands.

Who Can Use SQL*Plus

The SQL*Plus, SQL, and PL/SQL command languages are powerful enough to serve the needs of users with some database experience, yet straightforward enough for new users who are just learning to work with the Oracle database.

The design of the SQL*Plus command language makes it easy to use. For example, to give a column labelled ENAME in the database the clearer heading "Employee", you might enter the following command:

```
COLUMN ENAME HEADING EMPLOYEE
```

Similarly, to list the column definitions for a table called EMP, you might enter this command:

```
DESCRIBE EMP
```

Using SQL*Plus in Windows NT or Windows 95

Oracle has combined the power of its SQL*Plus command language with the graphical environment of Microsoft Windows NT and Windows 95. So, you can install SQL*Plus regardless of the platform you are using.

As a SQL*Plus for Windows NT or SQL*Plus for Windows 95 user, you have access to the command–line functionality of the character–mode DOS version of SQL*Plus, as well as the menu–based features of a Windows NT/95 application.

For instance, with the menu–based Windows NT/95 application you can select SQL*Plus menu items to perform tasks such as these:

- saving and opening SQL scripts
- copying and pasting text to and from the Windows NT/95 clipboard and the SQL*Plus application window
- invoking a Windows NT/95 text editor, such as Notepad or Microsoft Word
- searching for text in the SQL*Plus application window
- changing the size of the SQL*Plus screen buffer
- selecting parameters from a dialog box to customize the SQL*Plus environment

Other advantages of using SQL*Plus for Windows NT/95 include the following:

- SQL*Plus for Windows NT/95 is a 32–bit Windows NT/95 application. It is *not* restricted by Windows 16–bit limitations (such as Cooperative Multitasking).
- a resizable application window with Windows NT/95 elements, such as scroll bars, minimize and maximize buttons, and the control–menu box
- mouse support

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Installing SQL*Plus for Windows NT/95

This chapter provides installation information for SQL*Plus for Windows NT/95. It covers the following topics:

- system requirements
- before you installation
- installation
- starting SQL*Plus
- documentation

System Requirements

This section lists the minimum system requirements necessary to install and run SQL*Plus for Windows NT/95. Refer to your Microsoft Windows NT/95 documentation for information on monitor, printer, and mouse requirements.

- an IBM, COMPAQ, or 100% compatible PC with an 80386 processor or higher

- a CD–ROM drive functioning as a logical drive

- 2 megabytes (MB) of disk space

- 2 MB of available memory in addition to the memory required to run Windows NT/95

- Microsoft Windows NT Version 3.5 (or higher) or Microsoft Windows 95

- an Oracle database Version 7.1 or higher

- SQL*Net for Windows NT/95, if you access a remote Oracle database

Before You Install

Before you install SQL*Plus for Windows NT/95, make sure that you perform the following tasks:

- Read the *Desktop Products Customer Information* booklet and return your registration card to the appropriate support center.

- Review the accompanying *Release Notes.*

- Install and test your network hardware and software, if applicable.

- For Windows NT, you must log on as a member of the Administrators group.

To install SQL*Plus for Windows NT/95, you will use the Oracle Installer, Version 3. This Installer provides multiple version capability, which allows you to install and maintain multiple versions of Oracle products on your system.

Installation

The SQL*Plus installation consists of two procedures:

1. Set up the Oracle Installer for Windows NT/95 on your hard drive by starting the Oracle Installer application from the CD–ROM. After you start the application, the Oracle Installer performs the following tasks:

    - creates the Oracle home directory (by default \ORANT or \ORAWIN95) and subdirectories

    - copies the installation files to the Installer directory in the Oracle home directory

    - configures your system's environment for Oracle software

2. To install SQL*Plus, use the Oracle Installer to perform the following tasks:

    - create the SQL*Plus and the Required Support Files subdirectories

    - install the Required Support Files

    - install SQL*Plus

    - create a SQL*Plus icon in the Oracle program group

The following sections give step–by–step instructions for setting up the Oracle Installer and for installing SQL*Plus.

Setting Up the Oracle Installer

To set up the Oracle Installer, complete the steps in this section.

> **Note:** If you installed another Oracle Windows NT/95 product previously, the Oracle Installer is already set up in the hard drive. Complete the steps in this section, however, to ensure you use the current release of the Oracle Installer to install SQL*Plus.

You can use any CD–ROM drive that can be attached to the Windows NT/95 machine as a logical drive to set up the Installer on your hard drive and install SQL*Plus software. This guide treats the G: logical drive as the CD–ROM drive, although the Installer and Windows NT/95 will recognize any drive for which you have configured the CD–ROM.

Before running the Oracle Installer from the CD–ROM, be sure you have read your third–party CD–ROM documentation. Also, refer to that

documentation if the installed CD–ROM drive cannot copy files to your hard drive.

Setting Up the Oracle Installer in Windows NT

The following steps describe how to set up the Oracle Installer on your hard drive in Windows NT. If you already have the latest version of the Oracle Installer on your hard drive, proceed to the next section, "Installing SQL*Plus for Windows NT". If you are not sure you have installed the latest version of the Installer, proceed with Step 1.

1. Run the installer executable, ORAINST. There are three ways to run ORAINST for Windows NT.

From the Program Manager

From the Windows NT Program Manager, select "Run" from the File menu. Enter the path and executable file name, for example:

```
G:\NT_X86\INSTALL\ORAINST.EXE
```

Then, press [Enter].

From the File Manager

From the Windows NT Program Manager, choose the File Manager icon. Select the drive to which the CD–ROM is connected. Choose the NT_X86 directory icon, and then choose the Oracle Installer directory icon. Finally, choose the ORAINST.EXE file icon.

From the Command Prompt

Choose the Command Prompt icon from the Main Group. Then, type the following:

```
C:\>G:
G:\>CD NT_X86\INSTALL
G:\NT_X86\INSTALL>ORAINST
```

If you are using the Installer for the first time, it prompts you to select a language.

2. Select a language and choose OK, or press [Enter] to accept the default language.

3. When you run the Oracle Installer from the CD–ROM, it prompts you to enter the company name. (Once you have set up the Oracle Installer on your hard drive, you will not receive this prompt in subsequent uses of the Oracle Installer.) Type in the company name.

4. If you have already installed Oracle products, the Oracle Installer prompts you with the existing Oracle directory. Otherwise, the

Oracle Installer prompts you to enter the drive and directory path on which the Oracle products will be installed. The default path is \ORANT on the drive containing the Windows NT operating system. Choose OK or press [Enter] to accept the default path. If you want to change the destination drive or directory, type in your custom path, then choose OK.

5. The Oracle Installer advises you it has included C:\ORANT\BIN in the "all users" component of the PATH variable in the Windows NT Registry. Choose OK.

6. If the installation procedure made changes to your operating system's initialization files, the Oracle Installer prompts you to log off and log back on your machine. The Oracle Installer then closes. Select Log off from the Windows NT File menu.

Repeat Steps 1 through 4.

Setting Up the Oracle Installer in Windows 95

The following steps describe how to set up the Oracle Installer on your CD–ROM drive in Windows 95. If you already have the latest version of the Oracle Installer, you can skip these steps and proceed to the next section, Installing SQL*Plus. If you are not sure you have installed the latest version of the Installer, proceed with Step 1.

> **Note:** If you insert a CD–ROM that contains the Oracle Installer, a dialog box asks if you want to install. If you choose Yes, it will automatically complete Steps 1 – 6 for you.

1. From the Windows 95 Taskbar, click Start. Choose Run from the menu list.

   The Run dialog box appears.

2. Choose Browse.

3. In the Look in list box, pull down the list box and select your CD–ROM drive. For example, if the CD–ROM drive is mapped to G:, select the G: drive.

4. Double–click the Win95 folder.

5. Double–click Setup.

   The Run dialog box appears.

6. Choose OK.

7. Read the licensing screens (if they appear). When you are finished, choose OK.

If you are using the Oracle Installer for the first time, it prompts you to select a language.

8. Select a language. Then choose OK, or simply press [Enter] to accept the default.

9. If your system displays a Welcome screen, choose OK .

    The Oracle Installer prompts you to enter the company name. (Once you have set up the Installer on your hard drive, you will not receive this prompt in subsequent uses.)

10. Type a company name or accept the default. Choose OK.

    If you have already installed Oracle products, the Oracle Installer prompts you with the existing Oracle directory. Otherwise, it prompts you to enter the drive and directory path where Oracle products will be installed. The default path is \ORAWIN95 on the drive containing the Windows 95 operating system.

11. Choose OK to accept the default path. If you want to change the destination drive or directory, type the custom path, then choose OK.

    The Oracle Installer Software Asset Manager appears.

Installing SQL*Plus

The following directions describe how to install SQL*Plus from either the Windows NT or the Windows 95 platform.

Installing SQL*Plus from Windows NT

After the Oracle Installer is copied to your hard drive, you are ready to install SQL*Plus.

The Oracle Installer contains the following windows:

Available Products   Lists all of the products available from the Oracle for Windows NT CD–ROM.

Installed Products   Lists all Oracle for Windows NT products installed in your Oracle home directory.

Status   Provides feedback on the task you are performing.

The Oracle Installer contains an online help facility. To display help on the Oracle Installer, select Using Oracle Installer from the Help menu, or type CTRL+U.

1. In the Available Products window, select SQL*Plus.

If no installable products appear in the Available Products window when you start the Installer, then:

- Choose the From button. The Open dialog box appears.
- Choose the CD–ROM drive letter (for example, G:\) from the Drives list
- Choose the \NT_X86\INSTALL directory from the Directories list.
- Select the NT.PRD file, and choose Open.

2. Choose Install to begin installing SQL*Plus.

During installation, a progress bar shows the percentage of the installation that has completed. Messages are displayed indicating file names and Installer actions that are being taken. The Installer allows you to cancel the installation by choosing Cancel during the installation procedure.

3. When the SQL*Plus for Windows NT installation is complete, the Installer displays the installed products. Note that "SQL*Plus for Windows NT" and other products are listed in the Installed Products window.

Choose Exit from the File menu to exit the Installer.

Installing SQL*Plus from Windows 95

The Oracle Installer Software Asset Manager Window contains two windows:

Available Products   Lists all the products available from the Oracle for Windows 95 CD–ROM.

Installed Products   Lists all Oracle for Windows 95 products installed in your Oracle home directory.

1. Select the SQL*Plus product from the Available Products window.

If no installable products appear in the Available Products window when you start the Installer, then:

- Choose the From button. The Open dialog box appears.
- Choose the CD–ROM drive letter (for example, G:\) from the Drives list
- Choose the \WIN95\INSTALL directory from the Directories list.
- Select the WIN95.PRD file, and choose Open.

2. Choose Install.

The Oracle Installer automatically installs the Required Support Files (if not already installed) and SQL*Plus and prompts you to confirm that the installation is complete.

3. Choose Exit.

Removing Oracle Products

You can use the Oracle Installer to remove Oracle products from your hard drive. To remove products, follow these steps:

1. Select the product you wish to remove from those listed in the Installed Products window.

2. Choose the Remove button.

Starting SQL*Plus

Complete the following steps to start SQL*Plus for Windows NT/95:

1. Ensure the drivers and executables needed to initialize a network connection (remote Oracle database connection only) are loaded.

2. Start Windows NT/95, and log on to your workstation.

3. Double-click the SQL*Plus icon in the Oracle program group. The Logon dialog box appears.

4. Enter you Oracle username and password.

   If you are connecting to a remote Oracle database, enter the SQL*Net connect string. (You may enter your username, password, and connect string in the User Name box.)

   Additional Information: See the documentation for your SQL*Net products.

Documentation

An online version of this guide is included with this package. The documentation is in Adobe Acrobat format (Adobe Acrobat reader is included). You can install the Acrobat files onto your hard drive, or access them from the CD-ROM. According to the package(s) you purchased, other documentation formatted for Adobe Acrobat may be included.

CHAPTER

3

SQL*Plus Menus

This chapter describes how to start and use SQL*Plus from the command line interface and use command keys or the following menus:

- using command line SQL*Plus

- using graphical interface SQL*Plus

- File

- Edit

- Search

- Options

Using Command Line SQL*Plus

Use the following steps to start SQL*Plus command line:

1. If you are using a remote Oracle database connection, initialize and load the drivers and executables to establish a network connection before starting SQL*Plus.

2. Open a MS–DOS Prompt session.

3. At the command line prompt, enter

```
C:\>  SQLPLUS username/password[@connectstring]
```

Command Line Interface
Special Keys

Several keys on your keyboard have special meaning in SQL*Plus:

SQL*Plus Key Name	Keyboard Key Name	Function
[Return]	Enter	End a line of input.
[Backspace]	Backspace	Move a cursor left one character to correct an error.
[Pause]	Pause	Suspend program operation and display of output.
[Resume]	Any key	Resume program operation and output
[Cancel]	CNTRL+Break	Halt program operation; return to the SQL*Plus command prompt.
[Interrupt]	None	Exit SQL*Plus and return to the host operating system.

Using Graphical Interface SQL*Plus

Use the following steps to start SQL*Plus graphical interface:

1. If you are using a remote Oracle database connection, initialize and load the drivers and executables to establish a network connection before starting SQL*Plus.

2. Open the Oracle folder by choosing it.

3. Select the SQL*Plus icon from the program group.

The SQL*Plus Logon dialog box appears.

4. Enter your userid and password. If connecting to a remote Oracle database, enter the SQL*Net connect string.

Using the SQL*Plus Windows

After you install and start SQL*Plus as described in Chapter 2, "Installing SQL*Plus for Windows NT/95," SQL*Plus displays the SQL prompt in the SQL*Plus window. The SQL*Plus window contains basic Microsoft Windows NT/95 elements, such as dialog boxes, pull–down menus, scroll bars, and minimize and maximize buttons.

```
Oracle SQL*Plus
File  Edit  Search  Options  Help

SQL*Plus: Release 3.3.2.0.0 - Production on Tue Apr 02 10:47:48 1996

Copyright (c) Oracle Corporation 1979, 1994.  All rights reserved.


Connected to:
Oracle7 Server Release 7.3.1.0.0
With the distributed, replication and parallel query options
PL/SQL Release 2.3.1.0.0

SQL>
```
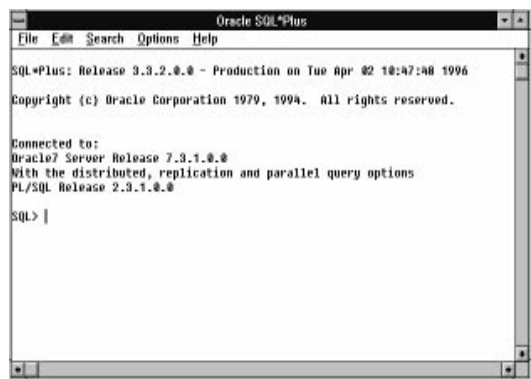
To enter SQL*Plus and SQL commands, type them in the SQL*Plus interface window, then press enter. Enter commands one line at a time.

For more information about the operation of these elements, refer to the Microsoft Windows NT/95 documentation.

Using Both Mouse Buttons to Copy SQL Commands

In addition to the functionality provided by the Microsoft Windows NT/95 elements, SQL*Plus allows you to use the mouse buttons to copy previously entered SQL commands to the current SQL prompt. To quickly copy a command, highlight it and hold down the left mouse button. While holding down the left button, click the right button. SQL*Plus copies the text.

Using the Command Keys

SQL*Plus assigns the traditional functions to most of the command keys. However, the following command keys have special functions in SQL*Plus for Windows NT/95:

Key	Function
HOME	Top of screen buffer
END	Bottom of screen buffer
CTRL+HOME	Right side of screen buffer
CTRL+END	Left side of screen buffer

`PAGE UP`	Previous screen page
`PAGE DOWN`	Next screen page
`CTRL+PAGE UP`	Show page on left of current screen page
`CTRL+PAGE DOWN`	Show page on right of current screen page
`F3`	Find
`ALT+F3`	Find next
`CTRL+C`	Copy text
`CTRL+V`	Paste text
`SHIFT+DEL`	Clear the buffer

File Menu

The File menu consists of the following:

Open

The Open option retrieves a previously stored command file. By default, SQL*Plus for Windows NT/95 assigns the .SQL extension to command files. You can specify a different extension in the File Name text box.

GET is the command line equivalent of the Open menu item.

Save

The Save menu item includes three options for saving: Save Create; Save Replace; and Save Append.

Save Create

Saves the contents of the SQL*Plus buffer in a command file. By default, SQL*Plus for Windows NT/95 assigns the .SQL extension to command files. You can specify a different extension in the File Name text box.

The SAVE CREATE clause is the command line equivalent of the Save Create menu item.

Save Replace

Replaces the contents of an existing file with the contents of the SQL*Plus buffer. If the file does not exist, Save Replace creates the file.

The SAVE REPLACE clause is the command line equivalent of the Save Replace menu item.

Save Append

Adds the contents of the SQL*Plus buffer to the file that you specify.

The SAVE APPEND clause is the command line equivalent of the Save Append menu item.

After you save a command file, you can do the following:

- retrieve the file with the Open option
- edit the file with the Editor option from the Edit menu
- start or run the file with the START or RUN commands from the SQL*Plus command prompt

Save As

The Save As option stores the contents of the buffer to a command file. By default, SQL*Plus for Windows NT/95 assigns the .SQL extension to command file. You can specify a different extension in the File Name text box.

SAVE is the command line equivalent of the Save As menu item.

Spool
The Spool menu item contains two options: Spool File and Spool Off.

Spool File　Stores query results in a file. By default, SQL*Plus for Windows NT/95 assigns the .LST extension to spool files. You can specify a different extension in the File Name text box.

After you spool query results to a file, you can do the following:

- edit the results with the Editor option from the Edit menu

- print the file from a Windows NT/95 text editor

The SPOOL FILE clause is the command line equivalent of the Spool File option.

Spool Off　Turns off spooling.

The SPOOL OFF clause is the command line equivalent of the Spool Off option.

Run
The Run option lists and executes the SQL command or a PL/SQL block currently stored in the SQL buffer.

RUN is the command line equivalent of the Run menu item.

Cancel
The Cancel option cancels an in–progress operation.

CTRL+C is the keyboard shortcut for the Cancel menu item.

Exit
The Exit option commits all pending database changes and closes the SQL*Plus application Window.

EXIT is the command line equivalent of the Exit menu item.

Edit Menu

The Edit menu consists of the following:

Copy
The Copy option copies selected text to the Windows NT/95 clipboard.

After you copy text to the clipboard, you can paste the copied text into other Windows NT/95 applications, such as Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Word.

CTRL+C is the keyboard shortcut for the Copy menu item.

Paste

The Paste option pastes the contents of the Windows NT/95 clipboard onto the SQL*Plus command line.

> **Note:** A maximum of 3625 characters can be pasted from the Windows NT/95 clipboard onto the SQL*Plus command line during a single paste operation.

CTRL+V is the keyboard shortcut for the Paste menu item.

Clear

The Clear option clears the Windows NT/95 screen buffer and the screen. The CLEAR SCREEN clause is the command line equivalent of the Clear menu item.

SHIFT+DEL is the keyboard shortcut for the Clear menu item.

Editor

The Editor menu item consists of two options:

Invoke Editor   Loads the contents of the buffer into a Notepad window. By default, Notepad saves the file to AFIEDT.BUF. You can specify a different filename by using the Save As option in the Notepad file menu. You can also specify another editor by using the Define Editor option.

EDIT is the command line equivalent of Invoke Editor option.

 Additional Information: See Edit in *SQL*Plus User's Guide and Reference.*

Define Editor   Defines the editor that is invoked when you select the Invoke Editor option.

To define an editor, select Define Editor, enter the name of the executable of the editor, such as WRITE.EXE, and click OK. Whenever you select Invoke Editor, SQL*Plus loads the content of the buffer into the window of the text editor you specified.

DEFINE _EDITOR is the command line equivalent of the Define Editor option.

Search Menu

The Search menu consists of the following options:

Find

The Find option looks for a character, word, or a group of characters or words in the SQL*Plus application window. When you choose the Find option from the Search menu (you can also press ALT+F3 for Find), SQL*Plus starts the search from the top of the displayed screen. Note that when SQL*Plus reaches the end of the SQL*Plus session display, SQL*Plus will not automatically continue searching from the top of the SQL*Plus session display.

To find text:

1. Display the screen where you want to start the search, using the Home, End, Page Up, and Page Down keys.

2. Select Find and enter the text you want to find.

3.   Select the Case Sensitive check box if you want to match capitalization exactly.

Find Next

The Find Next option (you can also press F3 for Find Next)finds the next occurrence of the search text.

Options Menu

The Options menu enables you to modify environmental elements of SQL*Plus (Screen Buffer size and SQL*Plus Options). From the Options menu, select Environment. The Environment dialog box appears. The Environment dialog box contains two areas: Set Options, and Screen Buffer.

Options

The Set Options area provides a list of variables you can choose to establish aspects of the SQL*Plus environment for your current session, such as the following:

- setting the display width for NUMBER data

- setting the display width for LONG data

- enabling or disabling the printing of column headings

- setting the number of lines per page

SQL*Plus Version 3.3 allows you to make multiple changes to Options before clicking the OK button to commit the changes. In previous versions, you were required to click OK after each individual change.

> **Additional Information:** Many new Options have been added to this version of SQL*Plus. For more information, see the *SQL*Plus User's Guide and Reference.*

To establish an aspect of the SQL*Plus environment:

1. In the Environment dialog box, select a variable from the list box.

2. Depending on the variable you selected, SQL*Plus activates the Switch region and the Value region. The switch region toggles a variable on or off. The value region sets the variable to the default value or the value you specify. Click the switch buttons and enter the values for each variable you select, then click OK.

The SET command and variables are the command line equivalents of the options available from the Environment menu items.

Screen Buffer

The Screen Buffer area settings control the number of characters and lines SQL*Plus displays. The SQL*Plus screen buffer can be larger or smaller than the size of the SQL*Plus application window. You might think of the screen buffer as an "invisible window" within the SQL*Plus application window that determines the amount of data SQL*Plus displays. If the screen buffer is larger than the application window, you can use the scroll bars to view all of the data.

Initially, the size of the buffer is set to display a width of 100 characters and a length of 1000 lines. You can increase the number of characters and lines of Oracle data SQL*Plus displays by changing the values of the Buffer Width and Buffer parameters in the Screen Buffer dialog box.

When you change the Screen Buffer option, SQL*Plus displays a warning dialog box to alert you that if you shorten the size of your screen buffer, some data may not be displayed on your screen. Click OK if you want to proceed.

The Screen Buffer dialog box consists of two text boxes: Buffer Width and Buffer Length.

Buffer Width

Sets the number of characters SQL*Plus displays on one line. If you enter a number smaller than the length of output data, SQL*Plus truncates the data to match the buffer width you specified. The default value of the Buffer Width parameter is 80 characters. You can specify from 80 to 1,000 characters on one line.

> **Note:** The Screen Buffer Width should be set greater than or equal to the linesize option. If it is not, you will receive a warning about the Screen Buffer Width being too narrow.

Buffer Length

Sets the number of lines SQL*Plus displays on the screen. If SQL*Plus displays more lines of data than you specify, the remaining lines of data will "wrap around" to the top of the screen buffer. The default value of the Buffer parameter is 100 lines. You can specify from 100 to 2,000 lines on one screen.

Support Non–Blocking   Select or de–select the Support Non–Blocking checkbox to turn non–blocking support on or off. Turning off this function hides the Query Cancel dialog box during long queries.

APPENDIX

A

Customizing Operating System Parameters: The Windows Registry

Y ou can customize your ORACLE configuration by changing the operating system parameter values defined in the Windows Registry. This chapter discusses the following topics:

- modifying the Windows NT/95 Registry
- Windows NT/95 Registry parameter descriptions

Modifying the Windows NT/95 Registry

When you install Oracle products for Windows NT/95, relevant parameters are created in the Windows NT/95 Registry. You can examine these parameters using REGEDIT33.EXE (included with Windows NT) or REGEDIT.EXE (included with Windows 95). Oracle–specific parameters are located in HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\ORACLE in the Registry.

Windows NT/95 Registry parameters control such things as the name of the Oracle home directory, the location of the product preference file, and the location of the help files. If you use SQL*Net for Windows NT/95, the Windows NT/95 Registry parameters also determine the driver to be used for network communications and the values that SQL*Net should use for its operating parameters. See your SQL*Net documentation for descriptions of Windows NT/95 Registry parameters that affect the performance of SQL*Net.

When to Set Windows NT/95 Registry Parameters

When you installed SQL*Plus for Windows NT/95, the Oracle Installer automatically sets certain parameters in your Windows NT/95 Registry. The default values for these parameters are listed in this Appendix. Other parameters must be set manually and are so noted in the parameter descriptions.

If you change the default value of an Oracle parameter or add a parameter to your Windows NT/95 Registry, the changes will take effect whenever SQL*Plus executes a procedure that uses one of these parameters. For example, if you copy the SQLUS.MSB file to another directory and reset PRO15, the parameter that specifies the location of SQLUS.MSB to that directory, SQL*Plus will look for the file in the new directory the next time this file is needed.

How to Set Windows NT Registry Parameters

To set Oracle–specific Windows NT Registry parameters, use the REGEDIT33.EXE application to edit the Windows Registry. Oracle–specific parameters are located in HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\ORACLE.

To edit a parameter, double–click the value of the parameter.

To add a new parameter (for example, SQLNET DBNAME <alias>):

1. Choose the menu item *Add Value* under the Edit item in the Windows Registry Editor. The Add Value dialog box appears.

2. Choose the type: REG_EXPAND_SZ

3. Enter the parameter to be set for the Value Name in the dialog box. The Registry Editor will prompt you for the actual value of the parameter.

4. Enter the parameter value, then press the Enter key, or click the OK button.

> **Note:** Do not use the equals sign (=).

Example:

To add a new SQLNET alias (MYDB), provide the value name as: SQLNET DBNAME MYDB, REG_EXPAND_SZ, then insert the value for the connect string for the alias (for example, P:MY_CORPSRV:ORG1).

For example, you could add the following line to your Windows Registry to set the SQLNET parameter:

Parameter Name	Parameter Value(s)
SQLNET DBNAME Mktg_SRV	X:Server1

> **Note:** If you define a parameter two or more times, only the first value is used.

How to Set Windows 95 Registry Parameters

To set Oracle–specific Windows 95 Registry parameters, use the REGEDIT.EXE application to edit the Windows Registry. Oracle–specific parameters are located in HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\ORACLE.

To edit a parameter, double–click the value of the parameter.

To add a new parameter (for example, SQLNET DBNAME <alias>):

1. Point to New under the Edit item in the Windows Registry Editor and choose String Value. The system adds the new value, assigns it a temporary name, and highlights the value.

2. Type the name of the parameter to be set and press [Enter].

3. With the new value name still highlighted, choose Modify from the Edit menu to bring up the Edit String dialog box.

4. Enter the parameter value in the Value data field. Press [Enter], or click OK.

> **Note:** Do not use the equals sign (=).

Example:

To add a new SQLNET alias (MYDB), provide the value name as SQLNET DBNAME MYDB, then insert the value for the connect string for the alias (for example, P:MY_CORPSRV:ORG1).

For example, you could add the following line to your Windows Registry to set the SQLNET parameter:

Parameter Name	Parameter Value(s)
SQLNET DBNAME Mktg_SRV	X:Server1

Windows NT/95 Registry Parameter Descriptions

The following list describes the Windows NT/95 Registry parameters and their default values. Acceptable parameter name abbreviations appear in parentheses.

LOCAL (LOC)

Windows NT/95 Default: not set automatically

Legal Values: any valid SQL*Net driver prefix

This parameter specifies the SQL*Net driver and SQL*Net parameters (complete database string) to use when no communications driver is specified upon loading SQL*Plus. This parameter enables the DBA to define a "default" network connection. When the user logs on without specifying any network parameters, ORACLE uses the LOCAL connection. Thus, the distributed database is made invisible to the user.

You can reset this parameter on the command line at any time.

Additional Information: For more information about the driver prefixes and SQL*Net parameters that are valid for Windows NT/95, see the *Installation Guide* or *Getting Started* for your SQL*Net driver.

NLS_LANG

Default: AMERICAN_AMERICA.WE81508859P1

Legal Values: See the accompanying *Release Notes* for a current list of available values.

The NLS_LANG parameter sets the language in which message files appear. The syntax for NLS_LANG is as follows:

Parameter Name
NLS_LANG

Parameter Value(s)
language_territory.char_set

where:

language specifies the language and its conventions for displaying messages and day and month names.

territory specifies the territory and its conventions for calculating week and day numbers.

char_set specifies the character set used for the UPPER, LOWER, and INITCAP functions, and the type of sort used by an ORDER BY query. This argument also controls the character set used for displaying messages.

ORACLE_HOME
Default: \ORANT (or \ORAWIN95) on the drive where you boot your PC

Legal Values: any directory on any drive

This parameter specifies the home directory in which Windows NT ⁄ 95 Oracle products are installed.

PRO15
Default: \ORANT\PRO15 (or \ORAWIN95\PRO15)

Legal Values: any directory on any drive

This parameter specifies the location of the SQLUS.MSB message file. The SQLUS.MSB file is used by any precompiled Oracle Product. (This release of SQL*Plus is not precompiled.)

> **Note:** SQLUS.MSB is the name of the American English file. If you are not using the American English version of the Required Support Files, the name of this file may vary.

The first three characters of this parameter, PRO, stand for the precompiler, such as Pro*C, Pro*COBOL, and PRO*Fortran. The remaining characters correspond to the current version of the SQLUS.MSB message file. Other ORACLE tools and subsequent releases of the Required Support Files use a different version of this message file.

PLUS33
Default: \ORANT\PLUS33 (or \ORAWIN95\PLUS33)

Legal Values: any directory on any drive

This parameter specifies the location of the SQL*Plus files, including the help scripts and the GLOGIN.SQL file. In addition to searching the directory specified by the PLUS33, SQL*Plus will also search the current directory for SQL*Plus files.

The first four characters of this parameter, PLUS, stand for SQL*Plus. The remaining characters correspond to the current version of SQL*Plus. Subsequent releases of SQL*Plus may use a different parameter to specify the SQL*Plus directory to enable you to keep multiple versions of SQL*Plus on your PC.

RDBMSnn Default: \ORANT\RDBMSXX (or \ORAWIN95\RDBMSXX)

Legal Values: any directory on any drive

This parameter specifies the location of three message files: LCDUS.MSB, ORAUS.MSB, and SOSDUS.MSB.

> **Note:** LCDUS.MSB, ORAUS.MSB, and SOSDUS.MSB are the names of the American English files. If you are not using the American English version of the Required Support Files, your file names may vary.

The first five characters of this parameter, RDBMS, stand for ORACLE RDBMS. The remaining characters correspond to the current version of the RDBMS message files. Other ORACLE tools and subsequent releases of the Required Support Files may use different versions of these message files.

REMOTE (REM) Default: not set automatically

Legal Values: any valid SQL*Net driver prefix and parameters

This parameter specifies the default and remote SQL*Net driver to use when connecting via a local database. The parameter can include the default SQL*Net parameters (complete database string). For example:

Parameter Name
REMOTE

Parameter Value(s)
P:PIPER:DBS1

where:

P: is the network prefix for Named Pipes.

Piper is the server name, and *DBS1* is the database instance name.

If a user logs on and specifies a connection with an explicit driver prefix matching the one specified in REMOTE, but specifies no SQL*Net parameters, the parameters specified in REMOTE are used. This parameter enables the DBA to define a "normal" network connection for which the SQL*Net user need not specify connection parameters.

You can reset this parameter on the command line at any time.

SQLNET Default: not set automatically

Legal Values: any valid network alias/network prefix combination

This parameter allows you to set a unique alias for each server on your network or distributed network. By setting multiple aliases you can refer to connect strings by simple names or mnemonic conventions; you

need not remember the complete connect string for each one. The following is the general syntax for SQLNET:

Parameter Name
`SQLNET DBNAME server_alias`

Parameter Value(s)
<a valid `connect_string`>

To use the server specified in SQLNET, you must enter the alias. For example, if you had set

Parameter Name
`SQLNET DBNAME Mktg_SRV`

Parameter Value(s)
`X:Server1`

you would access the database from within SQL*DBA by typing:

`SQLDBA> CONNECT SCOTT/TIGER@Mktg_SRV;`

You can include multiple SQLNET parameters in the Windows NT/95 Registry to define multiple network aliases.

SQLPATH

Default: \ORANT\DBS (or ORAWIN95\DBS)

Legal Values: any directory on any drive

This parameter specifies the location of SQL scripts. In addition to searching the directory specified by the SQLPATH parameter, SQL*Plus will also search the current directory for SQL scripts.

> **Note:** SQL*Plus uses the PLUS33 parameter to specify the location of the GLOGIN.SQL script. Refer to "PLUS33" earlier in this Appendix for more information.

When you set the SQLPATH parameter, note that directories can be concatenated with a semicolon (;). For example:

Parameter Name
`SQLPATH`

Parameter Value(s)
`C:\ORANT\DATA;C:\ORANT\DBS>`

TK20

Default: \ORANT\DBS (or \ORAWIN95\DBS)

Legal Values: any directory on any drive

This parameter specifies the location of the UIWUS.MSB message file. In addition to searching the directory specified by the TK20 parameter,

SQL*Plus will also search the current directory for the UIWUS.MSB message file.

> **Note:** UIWUS.MSB is the name of the American English file. If you are not using the American English version of the Required Support Files, the name of this file may vary.

The first two characters of this parameter, TK, stand for Oracle toolkit. The remaining characters correspond to the current version of the Oracle toolkit. Other ORACLE tools and subsequent releases of the Required Support Files may use a different version of this message file.

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