

# Anatomy of a SQL Tuning Session



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# Who am I

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Independent consultant since 1996  
specializing in Oracle and Peoplesoft setup,  
administration, and performance tuning

Member of the Oaktable Network



30+ years in database management

DL/1, IMS, ADABAS, SQL/DS, DB2, Oracle

Oracle since 1993 (7.0.12)

OCP certified DBA - 7, 8, 8*i*, 9*i*

Mathematics major from University of Stuttgart



# Using the R-Method in SQL Tuning

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Logical extension of TCF with the availability of `v$sql_plan_statistics` in 9i and up

At the session level

- Set `statistics_level = all`
- Set `_rowsource_execution_statistics = true`

At the sql level

- Use `GATHER_PLAN_STATISTICS` hint



# The SQL

---

```
SELECT BUSINESS_UNIT, VOUCHER_ID, BANK_SETID
      , BANK_CD, BANK_ACCT_KEY, NAME1, INVOICE_ID
      , GROSS_AMT, TXN_CURRENCY_CD
      , TO_CHAR(SCHEDULED_PAY_DT, 'YYYY-MM-DD')
      , PYMNT_HOLD, PYMNT_HOLD_REASON, APPR_STATUS
      , EXPRESS_PAY, VENDOR_ID
FROM PS_VCHR_HLD_VW A
WHERE '12345' IN (
      SELECT X.OPERATING_UNIT FROM PS_DISTRIB_LINE X
      WHERE A.VOUCHER_ID = X.VOUCHER_ID
      AND A.BUSINESS_UNIT = X.BUSINESS_UNIT)
```



# Baseline

<b>Id</b>	<b>Operation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>A-Time</b>
1	NESTED LOOPS		08:46.81
2	NESTED LOOPS OUTER		07:29.40
3	NESTED LOOPS		04:52.31
4	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX ROWID	PS_PYMNT_VCHR_XREF	04:20.48
5	INDEX SKIP SCAN	PSBPYMNT_VCHR_XREF	09.55
6	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX ROWID	PS_VENDOR	30.75
7	INDEX UNIQUE SCAN	PS_VENDOR	06.95
8	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX ROWID	PS_VCH_APPR_DTL	02:35.22
9	INDEX UNIQUE SCAN	PS_VCH_APPR_DTL	46.77
10	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX ROWID	PS_VOUCHER	01:16.72
11	INDEX UNIQUE SCAN	PS_VOUCHER	01:15.33
12	INDEX RANGE SCAN	PSCDISTRIB_LINE	03.64

11 Access= "A"."BUSINESS\_UNIT"="B"."BUSINESS\_UNIT" AND  
"A"."VOUCHER\_ID"="B"."VOUCHER\_ID"

12 Access= "X"."OPERATING\_UNIT"='12345' AND  
"X"."BUSINESS\_UNIT"=:B1 AND "X"."VOUCHER\_ID"=:B2



# Baseline

Id	Operation	Name	Starts	Rows
1	NESTED LOOPS		1	15
2	NESTED LOOPS OUTER		1	284,029
3	NESTED LOOPS		1	284,029
4	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX	PS_PYMNT_VCHR_XREF	1	284,029
5	INDEX SKIP SCAN	PSBPYMNT_VCHR_XREF	1	476,577
6	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX	PS_VENDOR	284,029	284,029
7	INDEX UNIQUE SCAN	PS_VENDOR	284,029	284,029
8	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX	PS_VCH_APPR_DTL	284,029	252,931
9	INDEX UNIQUE SCAN	PS_VCH_APPR_DTL	284,029	252,931
10	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX	PS_VOUCHER	284,029	15
11	INDEX UNIQUE SCAN	PS_VOUCHER	284,029	15
12	INDEX RANGE SCAN	PSCDISTRIB_LINE	284,014	15



# Baseline

Id	Operation	Name	Starts	Rows
1	NESTED LOOPS		1	15
2	NESTED LOOPS OUTER		1	284,029
3	NESTED LOOPS		1	284,029
4	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX	<b>PS_PYMNT_VCHR_XREF</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>284,029</b>
5	INDEX SKIP SCAN	PSBPYMNT_VCHR_XREF	1	476,577
6	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX	PS_VENDOR	284,029	284,029
7	INDEX UNIQUE SCAN	<b>PS_VENDOR</b>	<b>284,029</b>	<b>284,029</b>
8	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX	PS_VCH_APPR_DTL	284,029	252,931
9	INDEX UNIQUE SCAN	<b>PS_VCH_APPR_DTL</b>	<b>284,029</b>	<b>252,931</b>
10	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX	PS_VOUCHER	284,029	15
11	INDEX UNIQUE SCAN	PS_VOUCHER	284,029	15
12	INDEX RANGE SCAN	PSCDISTRIB_LINE	284,014	15



# Using Scalar Subquery

---

```
SELECT A.BUSINESS_UNIT
, A.VOUCHER_ID
, C.NAME1
, D.EXPRESS_PAY
, B.BANK_SETID
, B.BANK_CD
, B.BANK_ACCT_KEY
...
FROM PS_VOUCHER A
, PS_PYMNT_VCHR_XREF B
, PS_VENDOR C
, PS_VCH_APPR_DTL D
WHERE A.BUSINESS_UNIT = B.BUSINESS_UNIT
AND A.VOUCHER_ID = B.VOUCHER_ID
AND C.SETID = B.REMIT_SETID
AND C.VENDOR_ID = B.REMIT_VENDOR
AND B.BUSINESS_UNIT = D.BUSINESS_UNIT(+)
AND B.VOUCHER_ID = D.VOUCHER_ID(+)
...
```





# Using Scalar Subquery

```
SELECT A.BUSINESS_UNIT
, A.VOUCHER_ID
, C.NAME1
, D.EXPRESS_PAY
FROM PS_VOUCHER A
, PS_PYMNT_VCHR_XREF B
, PS_VENDOR C
, DDBBEXPRESS_PAY
WHERE A.BUSINESS_UNIT = B.BUSINESS_UNIT
AND A.VOUCHER_ID = B.VOUCHER_ID
AND C.SETID = B.REMIT_SETID
AND C.VENDOR_ID = B.REMIT_VENDOR
...
FROM PS_VOUCHER A
, PS_PYMNT_VCHR_XREF B
, PS_VENDOR C
WHERE A.BUSINESS_UNIT = B.BUSINESS_UNIT
AND A.VOUCHER_ID = B.VOUCHER_ID
AND C.SETID = B.REMIT_SETID
AND C.VENDOR_ID = B.REMIT_VENDOR
...
```



# Using Scalar Subquery

---

```
SELECT A.BUSINESS_UNIT
, A.VOUCHER_ID
, (select C.NAME1 from PS_VENDOR C
   where C.SETID = B.REMIT_SETID
       AND C.VENDOR_ID = B.REMIT_VENDOR) NAME1
, (select D.EXPRESS_PAY from PS_VCH_APPR_DTL D
   where B.BUSINESS_UNIT = D.BUSINESS_UNIT
       AND B.VOUCHER_ID = D.VOUCHER_ID) EXPRESS_PAY
, B.BANK_SETID
, B.BANK_CD
, B.BANK_ACCT_KEY
...
FROM PS_VOUCHER A
, PS_PYMNT_VCHR_XREF B
WHERE A.BUSINESS_UNIT = B.BUSINESS_UNIT
     AND A.VOUCHER_ID = B.VOUCHER_ID
...
```



# Subquery Factoring\*

---

```
with PS_VCHR_HLD_VW AS (  
    SELECT A.BUSINESS_UNIT, A.VOUCHER_ID  
    ...  
    FROM PS_VOUCHER A, PS_PYMNT_VCHR_XREF B  
    ...  
)  
SELECT BUSINESS_UNIT, VOUCHER_ID, BANK_SETID  
, BANK_CD, BANK_ACCT_KEY, NAME1, INVOICE_ID  
, GROSS_AMT, TXN_CURRENCY_CD  
, TO_CHAR(SCHEDULED_PAY_DT, 'YYYY-MM-DD')  
, PYMNT_HOLD, PYMNT_HOLD_REASON, APPR_STATUS  
, EXPRESS_PAY, VENDOR_ID  
FROM PS_VCHR_HLD_VW F  
WHERE '12345' IN (  
    SELECT X.OPERATING_UNIT FROM PS_DISTRIB_LINE X  
    WHERE F.VOUCHER_ID = X.VOUCHER_ID  
    AND F.BUSINESS_UNIT = X.BUSINESS_UNIT)
```

\* aka Common Table Expression (CTE)



# Plan with Scalar Subqueries

<b>Id</b>	<b>Operation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>A-Time</b>
1	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX ROWID	PS_VENDOR	00.01
2	INDEX UNIQUE SCAN	PS_VENDOR	00.01
3	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX ROWID	PS_VCH_APPR_DTL	00.01
4	INDEX UNIQUE SCAN	PS_VCH_APPR_DTL	00.01
5	NESTED LOOPS		07:55.59
6	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX ROWID	PS_PYMNT_VCHR_XREF	06:14.85
7	INDEX SKIP SCAN	PSBPYMNT_VCHR_XREF	13.86
8	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX ROWID	PS_VOUCHER	01:39.57
9	INDEX UNIQUE SCAN	PS_VOUCHER	01:37.19
10	INDEX RANGE SCAN	PSCDISTRIB_LINE	05.91
9	Access=	"A"."BUSINESS_UNIT"="B"."BUSINESS_UNIT" AND "A"."VOUCHER_ID"="B"."VOUCHER_ID"	
9	Filter=	IS NOT NULL	
10	Access=	"X"."OPERATING_UNIT"= '12345' AND "X"."BUSINESS_UNIT"=:B1 AND "X"."VOUCHER_ID"=:B2	



# Convert “in SQ” to Join

---

```
with PS_VCHR_HLD_VW AS (  
  SELECT A.BUSINESS_UNIT, A.VOUCHER_ID  
  ...  
  FROM PS_VOUCHER A, PS_PYMNT_VCHR_XREF B  
  ...  
)  
SELECT BUSINESS_UNIT, VOUCHER_ID, BANK_SETID  
, BANK_CD, BANK_ACCT_KEY, NAME1, INVOICE_ID  
, GROSS_AMT, TXN_CURRENCY_CD  
, TO_CHAR(SCHEDULED_PAY_DT, 'YYYY-MM-DD')  
, PYMNT_HOLD, PYMNT_HOLD_REASON, APPR_STATUS  
, EXPRESS_PAY, VENDOR_ID  
FROM MI_VCHR_HLD_VW F, PS_DISTRIB_LINE X  
WHERE X.OPERATING_UNIT = '12345'  
  AND F.VOUCHER_ID = X.VOUCHER_ID  
  AND F.BUSINESS_UNIT = X.BUSINESS_UNIT
```



# Plan after “Unnest”

<b>Id</b>	<b>Operation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>A-Time</b>
1	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX ROWID	PS_VENDOR	00.03
2	INDEX UNIQUE SCAN	PS_VENDOR	00.02
3	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX ROWID	PS_VCH_APPR_DTL	00.03
4	INDEX UNIQUE SCAN	PS_VCH_APPR_DTL	00.01
5	NESTED LOOPS		01:37.64
6	NESTED LOOPS		01:37.55
7	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX ROWID	PS_PYMNT_VCHR_XREF	22.78
8	INDEX SKIP SCAN	PSBPYMNT_VCHR_XREF	03.29
9	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX ROWID	PS_VOUCHER	01:14.30
10	INDEX UNIQUE SCAN	PS_VOUCHER	14.23
11	INDEX RANGE SCAN	PSCDISTRIB_LINE	00.09
	8 - access("B"."PYMNT_ID"=' ' )		
	filter("B"."PYMNT_ID"=' ' )		
	10 - access("A"."BUSINESS_UNIT"="B"."BUSINESS_UNIT" AND		
	"A"."VOUCHER_ID"="B"."VOUCHER_ID")		
	11 - access("X"."OPERATING_UNIT"='12345' AND		
	"A"."BUSINESS_UNIT"="X"."BUSINESS_UNIT" AND		
	"A"."VOUCHER_ID"="X"."VOUCHER_ID")		



# Plan after “Unnest”

<b>Id</b>	<b>Operation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Starts</b>	<b>Rows</b>
1	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX	PS_VENDOR	15	15
2	INDEX UNIQUE SCAN	PS_VENDOR	15	15
3	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX	PS_VCH_APPR_DTL	21	21
4	INDEX UNIQUE SCAN	PS_VCH_APPR_DTL	21	21
5	NESTED LOOPS		1	24
6	NESTED LOOPS		1	10,099
7	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX	PS_PYMNT_VCHR_XREF	1	284,029
8	INDEX SKIP SCAN	PSBPYMNT_VCHR_XREF	1	476,577
9	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX	PS_VOUCHER	284,029	10,099
10	INDEX UNIQUE SCAN	PS_VOUCHER	284,029	252,931
11	INDEX RANGE SCAN	PSCDISTRIB_LINE	10,099	24



# Transitive Closure

---

```
with PS_VCHR_HLD_VW AS (  
    SELECT A.BUSINESS_UNIT, A.VOUCHER_ID  
    ...  
    FROM PS_VOUCHER A, PS_PYMNT_VCHR_XREF B  
    ...  
)  
SELECT BUSINESS_UNIT, VOUCHER_ID, BANK_SETID  
, BANK_CD, BANK_ACCT_KEY, NAME1, INVOICE_ID  
, GROSS_AMT, TXN_CURRENCY_CD  
, TO_CHAR(SCHEDULED_PAY_DT, 'YYYY-MM-DD')  
, PYMNT_HOLD, PYMNT_HOLD_REASON, APPR_STATUS  
, EXPRESS_PAY, VENDOR_ID  
FROM MI_VCHR_HLD_VW F, PS_DISTRIB_LINE X  
WHERE X.OPERATING_UNIT = '39002'  
    AND F.VOUCHER_ID = X.VOUCHER_ID  
    AND F.BUSINESS_UNIT = X.BUSINESS_UNIT
```





# Plan after Transitive Closure

Id	Operation	Name	A-Time
1	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX ROWID	PS_VENDOR	00:00.07
2	INDEX UNIQUE SCAN	PS_VENDOR	00:00.05
3	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX ROWID	PS_MI_VCH_APPR_DTL	00:00.09
4	INDEX UNIQUE SCAN	PS_MI_VCH_APPR_DTL	00:00.02
5	NESTED LOOPS		00:33.85
6	NESTED LOOPS		00:33.82
7	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX ROWID	PS_PYMNT_VCHR_XREF	00:32.07
8	INDEX SKIP SCAN	PSBPYMNT_VCHR_XREF	00:04.10
9	INDEX RANGE SCAN	PSCDISTRIB_LINE	00:01.46
10	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX ROWID	PS_VOUCHER	00:00.03
11	INDEX UNIQUE SCAN	PS_VOUCHER	00:00.01
8	- access("B"."PYMNT_ID"=' ' ) filter("B"."PYMNT_ID"=' ' )		
9	- access("X"."OPERATING_UNIT"='12345' AND "B"."BUSINESS_UNIT"="X"."BUSINESS_UNIT" AND "B"."VOUCHER_ID"="X"."VOUCHER_ID")		
11	- access("A"."BUSINESS_UNIT"="B"."BUSINESS_UNIT" AND "A"."VOUCHER_ID"="B"."VOUCHER_ID")		





# Query Block Names

```
SELECT ...
FROM VCHR_HLD_VW F
, PS_DISTRIB_LINE X
WHERE F.VOUCHER_ID = X.VOUCHER_ID
      AND F.BUSINESS_UNIT = X.BUSINESS_UNIT
      AND X.OPERATING_UNIT = '12345'

SELECT A.BUSINESS_UNIT
, A.VOUCHER_ID
, (select C.NAME1 from PS_VENDOR C
     where C.SETID = B.REMIT_SETID
           AND C.VENDOR_ID = B.REMIT_VENDOR) NAME1
, (select D.EXPRESS_PAY from PS_VCH_APPR_DTL D
     where B.BUSINESS_UNIT = D.BUSINESS_UNIT
           AND B.VOUCHER_ID = D.VOUCHER_ID) EXPRESS_PAY
, B.BANK_SETID
, B.BANK_CD
, B.BANK_ACCT_KEY
...
FROM PS_VOUCHER A
, PS_PYMNT_VCHR_XREF B
WHERE A.BUSINESS_UNIT = B.BUSINESS_UNIT
      AND A.VOUCHER_ID = B.VOUCHER_ID
...
```

## Query Block Name / Object Alias

```
1 - SEL$2 / C@SEL$2
2 - SEL$2 / C@SEL$2
3 - SEL$3 / D@SEL$3
4 - SEL$3 / D@SEL$3
5 - SEL$16C51A37
7 - SEL$16C51A37 / X@SEL$4
8 - SEL$16C51A37 / B@SEL$1
9 - SEL$16C51A37 / B@SEL$1
10 - SEL$16C51A37 / A@SEL$1
11 - SEL$16C51A37 / A@SEL$1
```



# Add Hints

---

```
with PS_VCHR_HLD_VW AS (...)
SELECT /*+ INDEX(@SEL$16C51A37 X@SEL$4 PSCDISTRIB_LINE)
INDEX_RS_ASC(@SEL$16C51A37 B@SEL$1 PS_PYMNT_VCHR_XREF)
INDEX_RS_ASC(@SEL$16C51A37 A@SEL$1 PS_VOUCHER)
LEADING(@SEL$16C51A37 X@SEL$4 B@SEL$1 A@SEL$1)
USE_NL(@SEL$16C51A37 B@SEL$1)
USE_NL(@SEL$16C51A37 A@SEL$1)
INDEX_RS_ASC(@SEL$3 D@SEL$3 PS_VCH_APPR_DTL)
INDEX_RS_ASC(@SEL$2 C@SEL$2 PS_VENDOR) */
BUSINESS_UNIT, VOUCHER_ID, BANK_SETID, BANK_CD
, BANK_ACCT_KEY, NAME1, INVOICE_ID, GROSS_AMT
, TXN_CURRENCY_CD, TO_CHAR(SCHEDULED_PAY_DT, 'YYYY-MM-DD')
, PYMNT_HOLD, PYMNT_HOLD_REASON, APPR_STATUS
, EXPRESS_PAY, VENDOR_ID
FROM MI_VCHR_HLD_VW F, PS_DISTRIB_LINE X
WHERE X.OPERATING_UNIT = '12345'
      AND F.VOUCHER_ID = X.VOUCHER_ID
      AND F.BUSINESS_UNIT = X.BUSINESS_UNIT
```



# Plan with Hints

Id	Operation	Name	A-Time
1	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX ROWID	PS_VENDOR	00.01
2	INDEX UNIQUE SCAN	PS_VENDOR	00.01
3	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX ROWID	PS_VCH_APPR_DTL	00.01
4	INDEX UNIQUE SCAN	PS_VCH_APPR_DTL	00.01
5	NESTED LOOPS		00.01
6	NESTED LOOPS		00.01
7	INDEX RANGE SCAN	PSCDISTRIB_LINE	00.01
8	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX ROWID	PS_PYMNT_VCHR_XREF	00.01
9	INDEX RANGE SCAN	PS_PYMNT_VCHR_XREF	00.01
10	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX ROWID	PS_VOUCHER	00.01
11	INDEX UNIQUE SCAN	PS_VOUCHER	00.01

```
7 - access("X"."OPERATING_UNIT"='12345')
8 - filter(("B"."PYMNT_ID"=' ' AND ... ))
9 - access("B"."BUSINESS_UNIT"="X"."BUSINESS_UNIT" AND
          "B"."VOUCHER_ID"="X"."VOUCHER_ID")
11 - access("A"."BUSINESS_UNIT"="B"."BUSINESS_UNIT" AND
           "A"."VOUCHER_ID"="B"."VOUCHER_ID")
```



# Plan with Hints

---

<b>Id</b>	<b>Operation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Starts</b>	<b>Rows</b>
1	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX	PS_VENDOR	15	15
2	INDEX UNIQUE SCAN	PS_VENDOR	15	15
3	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX	PS_VCH_APPR_DTL	21	21
4	INDEX UNIQUE SCAN	PS_VCH_APPR_DTL	21	21
5	NESTED LOOPS		1	24
6	NESTED LOOPS		1	28
7	INDEX RANGE SCAN	PSCDISTRIB_LINE	1	395
8	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX	PS_PYMNT_VCHR_XREF	395	28
9	INDEX RANGE SCAN	PS_PYMNT_VCHR_XREF	395	395
10	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX	PS_VOUCHER	28	24
11	INDEX UNIQUE SCAN	PS_VOUCHER	28	28



# Compare to Baseline (~9 min)

<b>Id</b>	<b>Operation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Starts</b>	<b>Rows</b>
1	NESTED LOOPS		1	15
2	NESTED LOOPS OUTER		1	284,029
3	NESTED LOOPS		1	284,029
4	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX	PS_PYMNT_VCHR_XREF	1	284,029
5	INDEX SKIP SCAN	PSBPYMNT_VCHR_XREF	1	476,577
6	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX	PS_VENDOR	284,029	284,029
7	INDEX UNIQUE SCAN	PS_VENDOR	284,029	284,029
8	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX	PS_VCH_APPR_DTL	284,029	252,931
9	INDEX UNIQUE SCAN	PS_VCH_APPR_DTL	284,029	252,931
10	TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX	PS_VOUCHER	284,029	15
11	INDEX UNIQUE SCAN	PS_VOUCHER	284,029	15
12	INDEX RANGE SCAN	PSCDISTRIB_LINE	284,014	15



# Techniques Used

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- ✓ **Scalar Subqueries**
- ✓ **Subquery Factoring**
- ✓ **Transitive Closure**
- ✓ **Un-nesting – Convert “in” Subquery to Join**
- ✓ **Hints**





# Information Used

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- ✓ **dbms\_xplan.display\_cursor**
- ✓ **Rowsource Timing Information**
- ✓ **Rowsource Starts and Actual Rows**
- ✓ **Access and Filter Predicates**
- ✓ **Outline**
- ✓ **Index Definitions**
- ✓ **Application Knowledge**

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