Oracle Database 11g PL/SQL Programming (Oracle Press)
Design Feature-Rich PL/SQL Applications

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Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is the first technical/computing book that I have ever read cover to cover. In fact I read this book cover to cover with multiple iterations of chapters that were difficult for me (e.g., Chapter 6
I have been a PL/SQL Developer for over 6 years. I thought I was doing pretty well but it turns out I was doing a limited number of things in my development experience over and over again. The ease with which I was writing functions and procedures, organizing the same in packages and utilizing a very few of the more advanced features like BULK COLLECT and BULK UPDATE was a deceptive set of convenient facts: Thanks to this book I now know how much I didn't know and I have a more than vague feeling that even now my ship is still relatively close to shore. There is much more the the "sea of PL/SQL", if you'll allow me that much of a poetic license! I was particularly surprised to find out how little I knew about Oracle functions after having written so many over the years. Pipelined functions? I had never heard of them! Creation options? Eh...those either! I did not know you could used mixed notation to make a call to a procedure with multiple parameters. The book has some typographical/copy and paste-type issues which threw me off in the beginning. It's likely not the book as much as it is my personality: I'm a classically trained musician from another life (a MUCH younger life) so you can imagine that I might be predisposed to being a stickler for details. In the end, I finished this book because it was thorough, clear, deep (the way I like it!)

Oracle Database 11g PL/SQL Programming by Michael McLaughlin. New York, 2008 by McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. As business processes and problems rely more and more on reporting and data analysis from Oracle databases, there is an increasing need for personnel that have a working knowledge of the PL/SQL language. In this book, the author intends to teach those just beginning to learn PL/SQL the basic concepts through some of the more challenging capabilities of the language. McLaughlin does quite a respectable job of accomplishing this difficult task. Throughout the book a reader is supplied with example code that works as prescribed, personal experiences illustrating code hazards and successes for various applications, figures demonstrating how code works in complex situations, appendices abundant with relevant information for easy reference and finally even a bit of humor here and there. Although the intended audience is new users, experienced PL/SQL programmers would benefit as new features in 11g are explained and clarified with code examples. There are many ways to present methods for learning programming languages, ranging from brief explanations with code snippets to extraordinary or mind numbing details with few or no examples. In the former case many gaps exist and a reader is usually left without a clue as to how to use the language at all, let alone effectively. And in the latter case, by the time a reader finishes a paragraph she is left wondering how to use and apply the
material in a realistic scenario. In this book McLaughlin balances the two extremes to provide a consistent method useful for both new and experienced programmers. Clearly and succinctly he presents a topic and then provides an easily understandable example.

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