



14. KONFERENCIJA HRVATSKE UDRUGE ORACLE KORISNIKA

13. - 17. LISTOPAD 2009. ROVINJ

Appllication Express – How to become an Apex Developer

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Denes Kubicek

Oracle ACE APEX Developer of the Year 2008

Blog & Tools:

http://www.deneskubicek.blogspot.com/

http://apex.oracle.com/pls/otn/f?p=31517:1

http://www.opal-consulting.de



I have answered over 3000 Emails regarding Apex within the last 12 Months. The most of the questions – over 80 % – came from users with little or no knowledge about Apex:

- 1. Forms Developers
- 2. Oracle DBA's
- 3. J2EE Developers
- 4. Programmers with a background different than Oracle

How?

Why?

Where?

Please help...

ľm stuck.

It doesn't work...

Could you please...?

I am desperate

• • • •

Viele Fragen darüber, wie man mit APEX anfangen sollte

"...I am pushing Apex and Dashboards this year to augment my customer base of mainly Oracle Forms/Reports/Discoverer using App Server (which I really dislike!)."

"...I work for local government in Belfast, Northern Ireland. I have been an Oracle FORMS developer for about 8 years, and within the last 8 months have moved over to Oracle APEX."

"I recently finished my first Oracle certification: OCA PL/SQL Developer. I feel I'm at a cross roads now. My company uses three competing technologies: Forms, J2EE, and ASP. Based on my current knowledge set I've decided not to pursue ASP so it's between PL/SQL and J2EE.

I've been using Apex now for a little over a year and love it! But Oracle seems to be leaving Forms in favor of J2EE and the ADF. I wonder if Apex has a similar shelf life. Where do you feel my time learning is better spent? Does J2EE really offer any advantages over Apex?"

"...our main application (development) technology is based on Oracle products (9i DB IAS - Forms). Now, we are starting a new (small) project, which don't need such a massive solution (as Oracle Forms). Could you please help us and advise how to start with Apex?"

"...I am an Oracle Forms/PL/SQL developer but am just beginning to explore the capabilities of Apex.

I consider your demo application to be the an excellent contribution to the Apex development community.

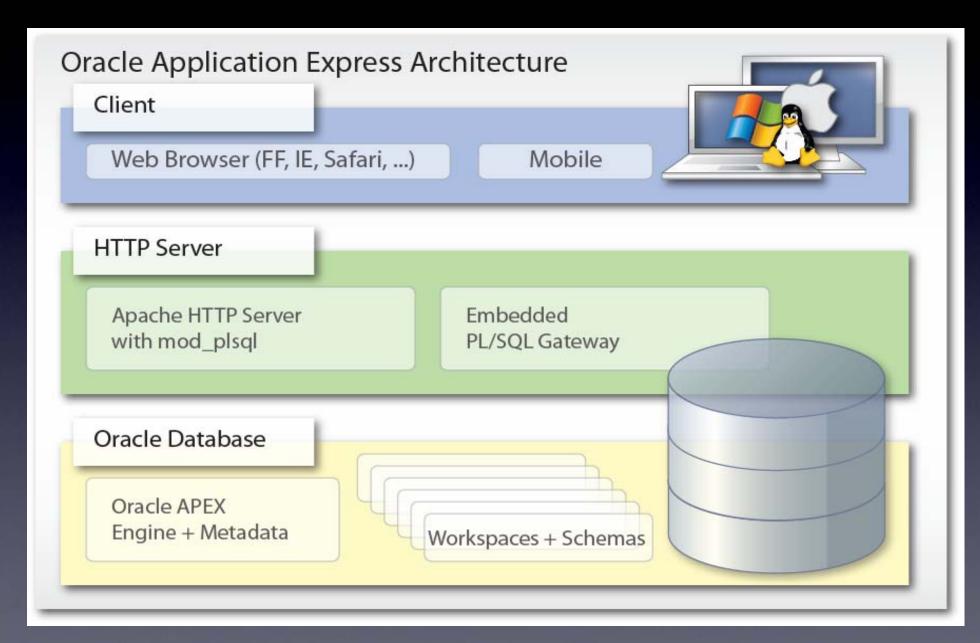
It has sparked my determination to become an Apex developer of some competence."

- 00. You always wanted to start developing Database driven Web Applications but you didn't know which tool to use? I will show you how to start using APEX going through the ten most important topics about APEX you need to know.
- 10. APEX Basics what do you need to know about APEX Architecture?
- 20. APEX Resources Top 10 APEX-Websites.
- 30. The most important WEB-Development Tools which tools do you need for an efficient work with APEX?
- 40. APEX Documentation often underestimated but very usefull.
- 50. Which program languages do I need to start developing with APEX?
- **60.** Knowing the most important APEX-Functionalities.
- 70. Layout is APEX also good for "normal" websites?
- 80. Scalability is APEX also good for programming of "big" Applications?
- 90. Quality Control of APEX Applications which tools can I use for that?
- 100. What else can I do to get even better?

APEX Basics – what do you need to know about APEX Architecture?



...this is easy to understand



Apex Architecture - Client

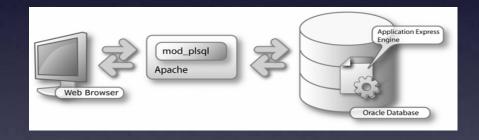


- pure HTML Pages (no Java-Applets)
- CSS
- Java-Script
- Development + Runtime in a Browser

Apex Architecture – HTTP Server



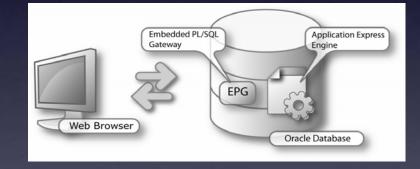
- 3-Tier with an Apache Server
- Static Files in a File System
- Communication using mod_plsql
- FAST!



Apex Architecture – HTTP Server

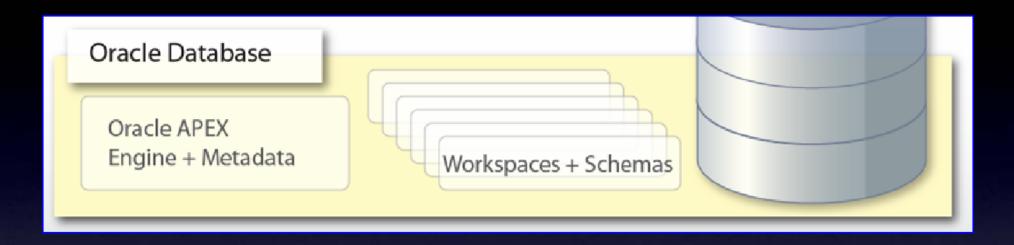


- 2-Tier with a "built-in" Webserver in 11g and XE
- less "moving" parts



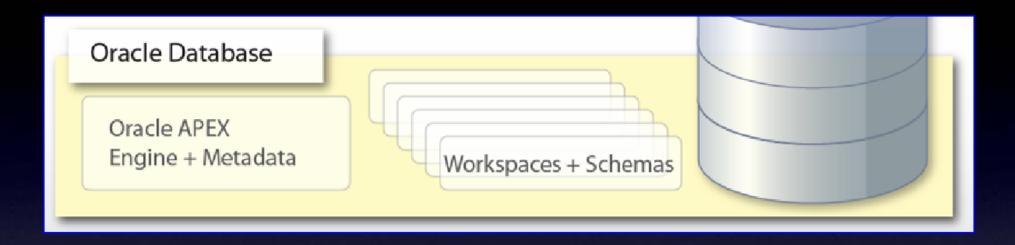
- Communication using Embedded PL/SQL Gateway
- Sometimes Performance Problems?!!

Apex Architecture – Oracle Database



- APEX is running in the Database
- APEX Engine written in PL/SQL
- Application Metadata stored in Tables
- Session State stored in Database

Apex Architecture – Oracle Database



- Business-Logic stored in Packages
- Reusing Business-Logic created in Oracle-Forms
- Direct Access to ALL Database Features

Apex Architecture – Oracle Database

- FLOWS_XXXXXX till 3.1
- APEX_XXXXXX from 3.2

Switching between versions just as easy as:

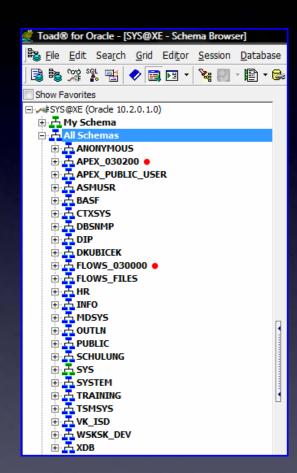
```
ALTER SESSION SET CURRENT_SCHEMA = APEX_030200;

exec

apex_030200.wwv_flow_upgrade.switch_schemas('FLOWS_030000','APEX_030200');
```

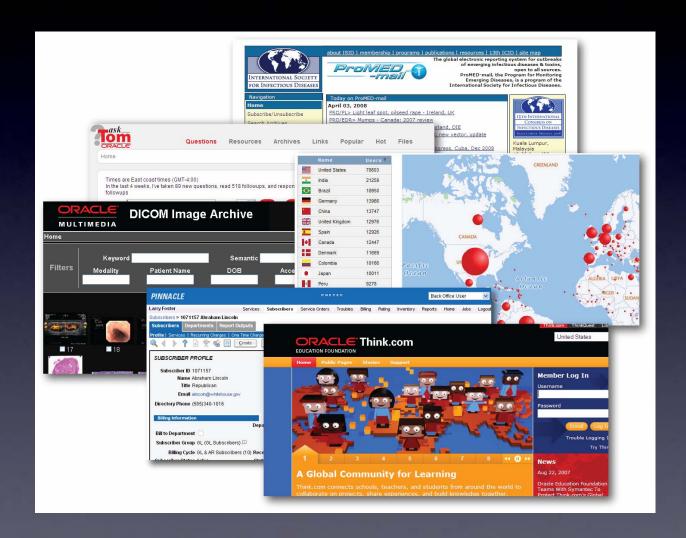
```
ALTER SESSION SET CURRENT_SCHEMA = FLOWS_030000;

exec
flows_030000.wwv_flow_upgrade.switch_schemas('APEX_030200','FLOWS_030000');
```



Apex Architecture – Oracle Database Direct Access to ALL Database Features

SQL
PL/SQL
RAC
Spatial
OLAP
Flashback
Web Services
Oracle Text
Multimedia
Analytic Functions
Globalization
XML DB



20. APEX Resources - Top 10 APEX-Websites



These are the Top 10 APEX-Websites

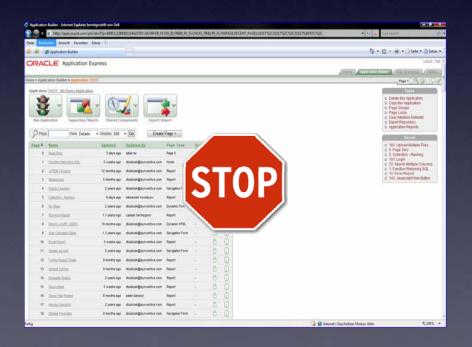
http://apex.oracle.com
http://forums.oracle.com/forums/forum.jspa?forumID=137
http://www.oracle.com/technology/products/database/application_express/
http://www.oracle.com/global/de/community/index.html
http://apex.oracle.com/pls/otn/f?p=4550
http://apex.oracle.com/pls/otn/f?p=31517
http://www.deneskubicek.blogspot.com/
http://daust.blogspot.com/
http://daust.blogspot.com/
http://www.inside-oracle-apex.com/

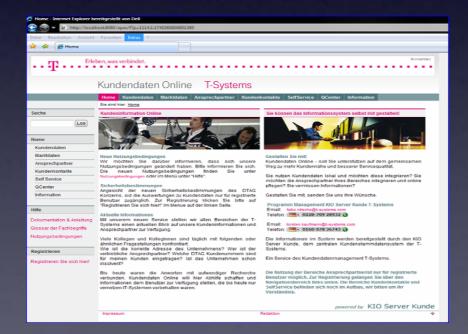
30. The most important WEB-Development Tools



Was sollten Sie und was sollten Sie nicht?

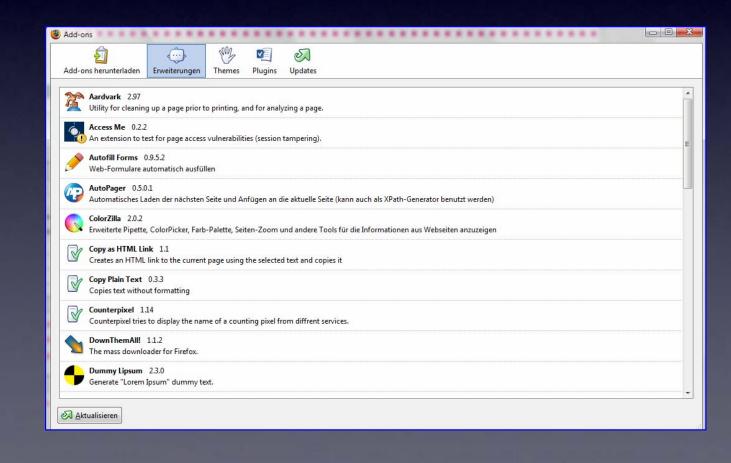
- Use Firefox for developing Apex Applications
- NEVER use IE for development
- USE IE for Testing of your Applications





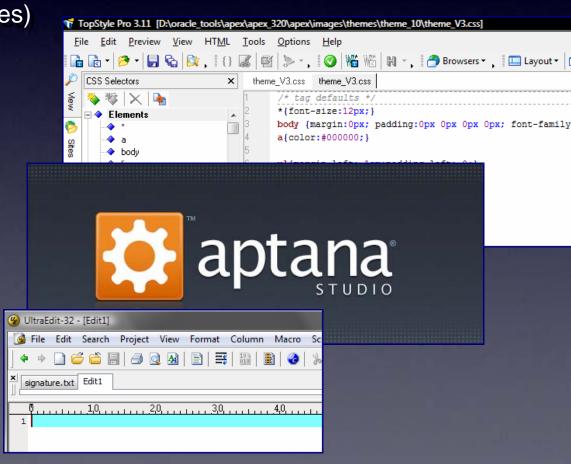
Use Firefox Plugins

- WebDeveloper Toolbar
- Firebug
- Font-Finder
- IE View
- Image Zoom
- Screen Grab
- Measure It
- Color Picker
- Aardvark



Other Tools

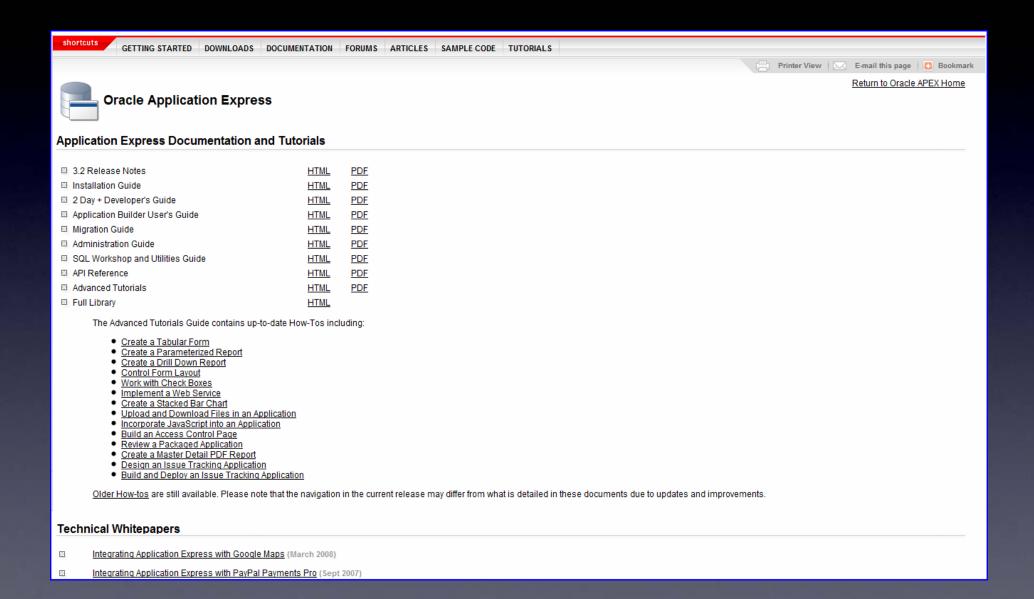
- Paint (images)
- http://www.gifworks.com/cgi-bin/gifworks.pl?com=transfer_open
- Adobe Photoshop (images, pictures)
- First Page 2006 (html)
- Top Style Pro (.css)
- Aptana IDE (javascript)
- Ultra Edit (text, code)
- Multiple Browser (IE, FF, Opera)



APEX Documentation – often underestimated but very usefull.



Use the Apex Documentation



PL/SQL API's

http://download.oracle.com/docs/cd/E10513_01/doc/apirefs.310/e12855/toc.htm

APEX_UTIL
APEX_MAIL
APEX_ITEM
APEX_APPLICATION
APEX_COLLECTION
APEX_LANG
APEX_LANG
APEX_LOSTOM_AUTH
APEX_LDAP
APEX_INSTANCE_ADMIN
APEX_UI_DEFAULT_UPDATE



PL/SQL API's

apex_util

```
apex_application_global.vc_arr2

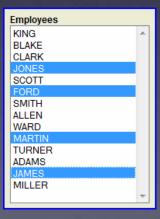
Array
```

apex_util.string_to_table String => Array

apex_util.string_to_table
 Array => String

apex_util.get_session_state

Item Session State



```
DECLARE
    l_vc_arr2    apex_application_global.vc_arr2;

BEGIN
    l_vc_arr2 := apex_util.string_to_table
(:p84_employees);

FOR i IN 1 .. l_vc_arr2.COUNT
    LOOP
    HTP.p (l_vc_arr2 (i) || '</br>');
    END LOOP;

END;(p_string);
END;
```

PL/SQL API's

apex_application

- g_fxx und g_fcs Arrays
 Tabular Forms Column Value
- g_user current Apex User
- g_flow_id, g_flow_step_id Application and Page ID
- g_request current Request
- g_debug Debug
- g_message Create own APEX-Messages.



```
DECLARE
   v_user   VARCHAR2 (40);
BEGIN
   v_user := apex_application.g_user;
   HTP.p ('User: ' || v_user);
END;
```

```
BEGIN
   apex_application.g_user := 'USER';
END;
```

```
BEGIN
    apex_application.g_notification := 'Message!';
END;
```

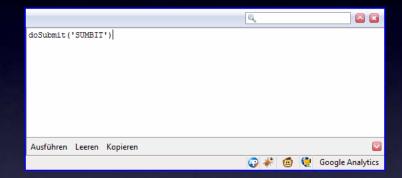
Javascript API's

http://download.oracle.com/docs/cd/E10513_01/doc/apirefs.310/e12855/javascript_api.htm#CDEEIGFH

moteda of accument.getElementDylE

\$S - \$s('f07_0003', '22')

Sets the value of an item



doSubmit ('REQUEST')

Creates a SUBMIT Request for conditional processing

\$x_Hide, \$x_Show, \$x_Toggle, \$x_Remove

...and lots of other functions.

50. Which program languages do I need to start developing with APEX?



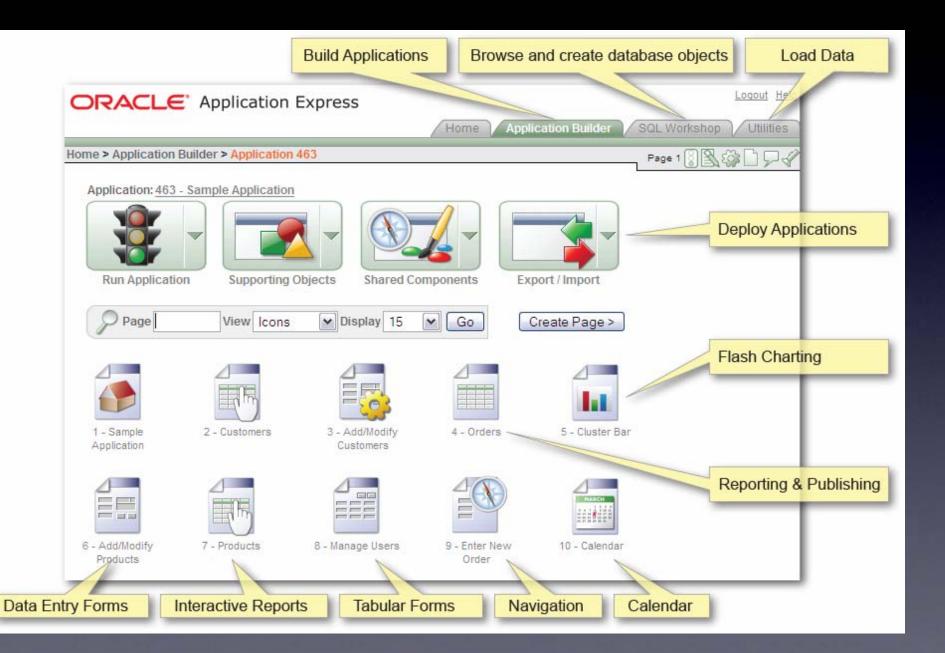
Learn the proper Programming Languages and Techniques

- SQL for Business Users, RAD Developers and Enterprise Developers
- PL/SQL for RAD Developers and Enterprise Developers
- Javascript and Ajax for enhanced development WEB 2.0
- HTML for modification and development of own templates
- CSS for enhanced web layout and development of Corporate Layouts
- other programming languages and tecniques

60. Knowing the most important APEX-Functionalities.



Understand the Apex Development Environment



Know about Apex Out-of-the-Box Features



Reports

Forms

Charts

Calendar

Templates

Navigation



Validations



Computations



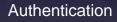
Web Services

Email Services



Translation Services





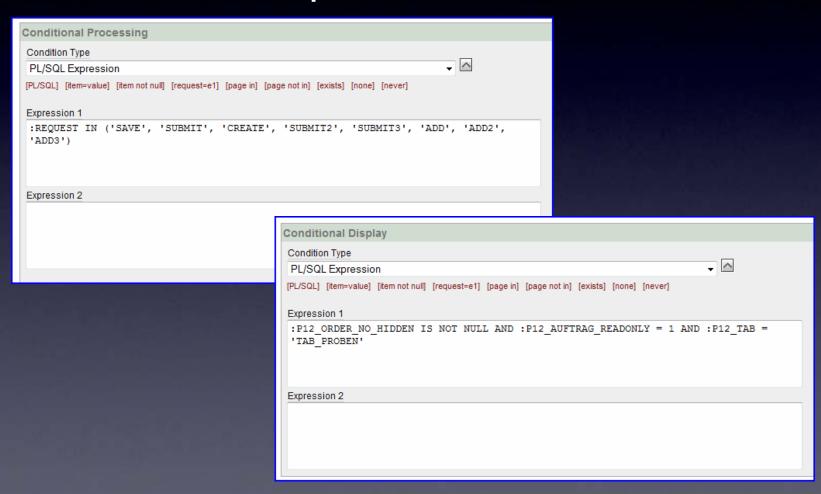


Session State
Management

Logging & Monitoring

Understand Apex Conditional Processing

use PL/SQL Expressions



Understand Apex Validations

use PL/SQL Function Returning Error Text

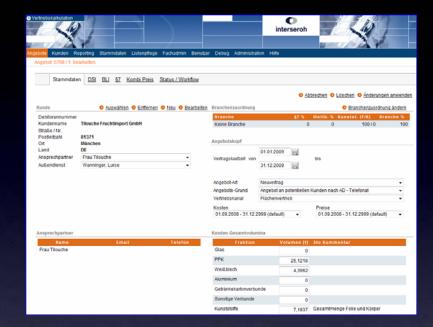
```
DECLARE
  v_billing_type
                  NUMBER := 0;
  v_billing_cost
                  NUMBER;
BEGIN
   FOR c IN (SELECT billing_type, billing_cost
               FROM bas_billing
              WHERE method_sk = :p12_method_sk
                AND SYSDATE BETWEEN valid_from_date AND valid_to_date)
  LOOP
     v_billing_type := c.billing_type;
     v_billing_cost := c.billing_cost;
   END LOOP;
  IF v billing type = 2 AND :p12 hours IS NULL
   THEN
      RETURN
                'Die gültige Abrechnungsmethode ist pro Stunde. '
             | Der Anzahl der Stunden ist leer!';
   ELSIF v_billing_type = 0
  THEN
      RETURN
                'Die gültige Abrechnungsmethode ist nicht vorhanden. '
             | Der Auftrag kann nicht abgeschlossen werden!';
   END IF;
END;
```

70. Layout – is APEX also good for "normal" websites?



...create your own Business Applications in a Corporate Layout



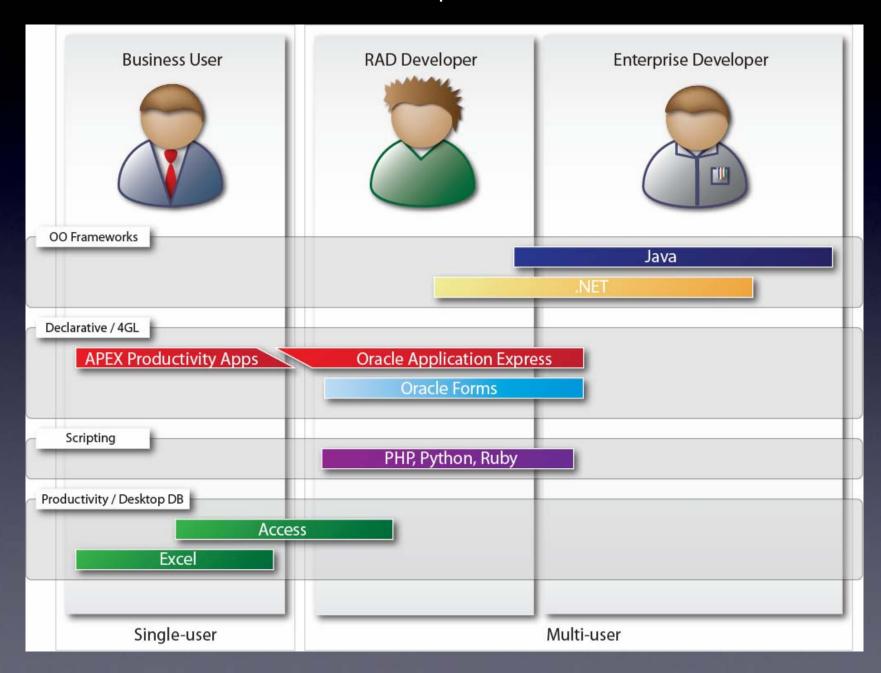




80. Scalability – is APEX also good for programming of "big" Applications?



Developers



Apex Architecture Flexibility in Use



Hosted Service



Company Corporate Service

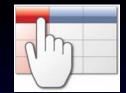


Department-Server



Local Database (Oracle XE)

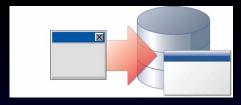
Applications



Online Reporting & Publishing



Web-Application Development



Enhancing Oracle Forms



Spreadsheet Web-ification



Access-Replacement

Apex for Business Users

- Excel Import Wizard
- MS Access Migration Tools



http://www.oracle.com/technology/products/database/application_express/migrations/oracle_application_express-application_migration_workshop.pdf http://www.oracle.com/technology/tech/migration/workbench/index.html

- Apex Productivity Applications - Packaged Applications

http://www.oracle.com/technology/products/database/application_express/packaged_apps/packaged_apps.html

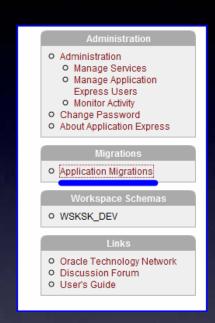
- Interactive Reports using Wizard - no SQL Knowledge required

Apex for RAD Developers (PL/SQL and Forms Developer)

- Application Migrations
- Converting Oracle Forms into Apex

http://dl.getdropbox.com/u/120066/APEX%2032%20-%20Forms%20Migration.m4v

- Apex Productivity Applications - Packaged Applications

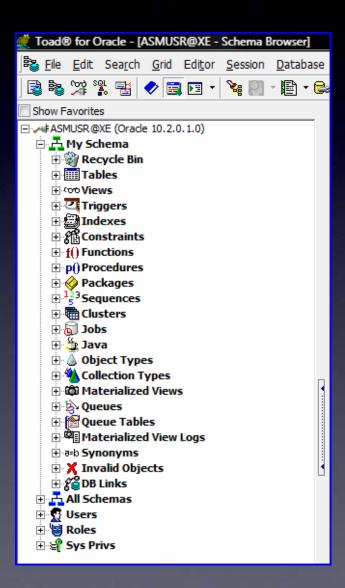


http://www.oracle.com/technology/products/database/application_express/packaged_apps/packaged_apps.html

- Declarative 4GL Development
- Fast learning curve

Apex for Enterprise Developers

- Direct Access to all Database Features
- Web-Service Integration
- Providing Web Services using OC4J and PL/SQL
- Many Security Features, especially in 3.2
- Integration with SSO, Active Directory, LDAP
- Performance issues easier to debug



90. Quality Control of APEX Applications – which tools can I use for that?



Use APEX Views

ORACLE Application Express

Home > Utilities



Data Load/Unload



Generate DDL



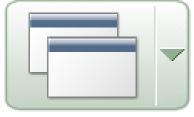
Object Reports



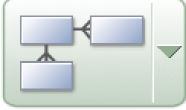
Recycle Bin



Database Monitor



APEX Views



Schema Comparison



About Database

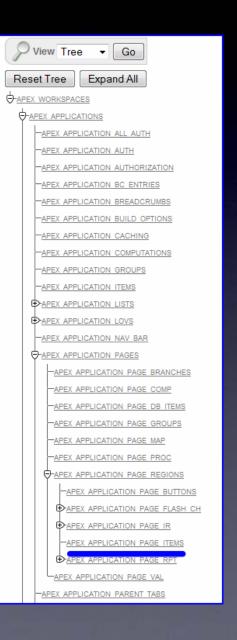
APEX Views





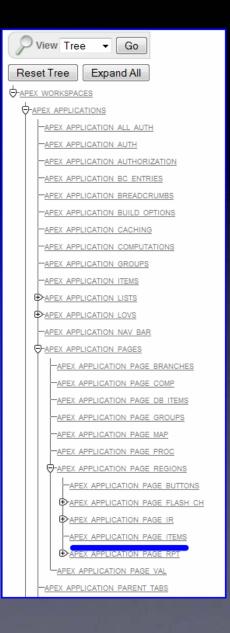


Create Generic Code using Apex Dictionary Views

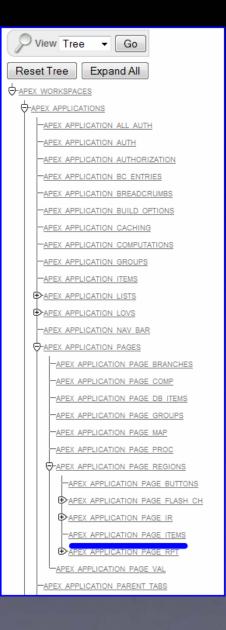


```
application_name, page_id, item_name, display_as,
SELECT
         item label template
    FROM apex_application_page_items
   WHERE item label template LIKE '%Label with Help'
         AND display as <> 'Hidden'
ORDER BY application_name, page_id, item_name;
SELECT
         application name, page id, item name,
         display as, label alignment
    FROM apex application page items
   WHERE label_alignment <> 'Left' AND display_as <> 'Hidden'
ORDER BY application name, page id, item name;
SELECT region id
  FROM apex_application_page_regions
 WHERE application_id = :app_id
   AND page id = :app page id
   AND region name = 'Export Report';
```

Monitor Apex Applications using Apex Dictionary Views

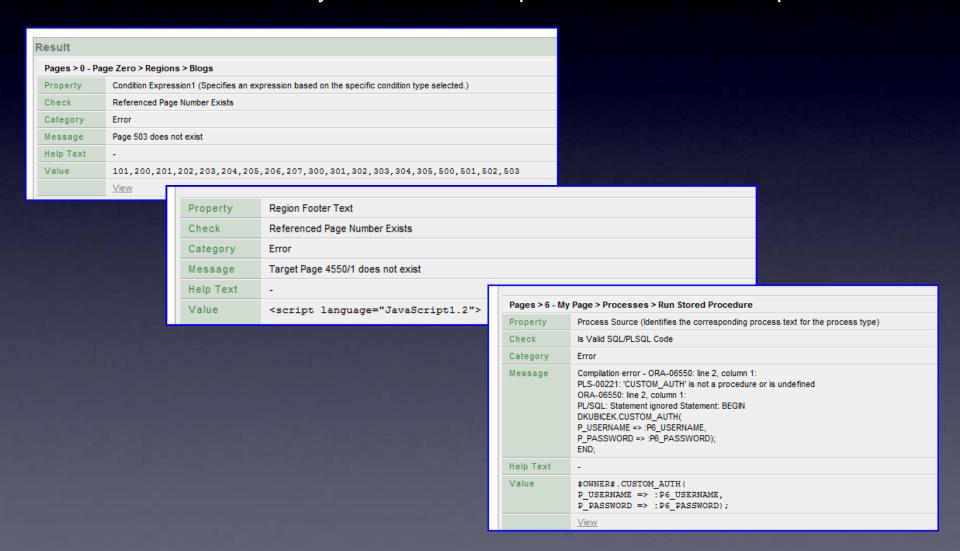


Develop you own Quality Checks using Apex Dictionary Views



Use APEX-Essentials for a Quality Control of your Applications

- Powerfull Tool created by Patrick Wolf - http://www.inside-oracle-apex.com



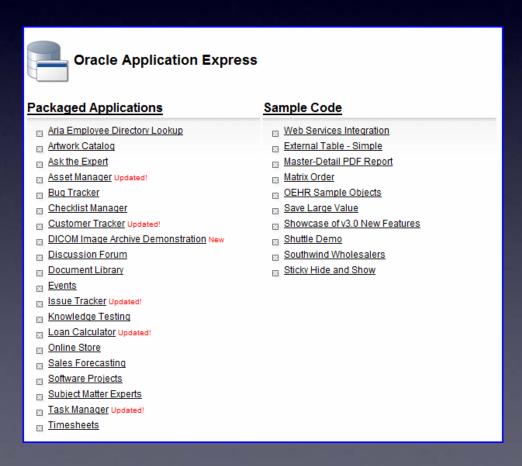
100. What else can I do to get even better?



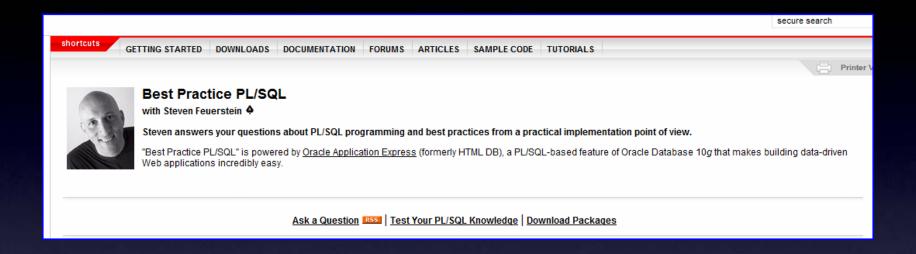
Explore Packaged Applications

http://www.oracle.com/technology/products/database/application_express/packaged_apps/packaged_apps.html

Great Resouce of Code and Solutions



SQL and PL/SQL - Plenty of Resources available



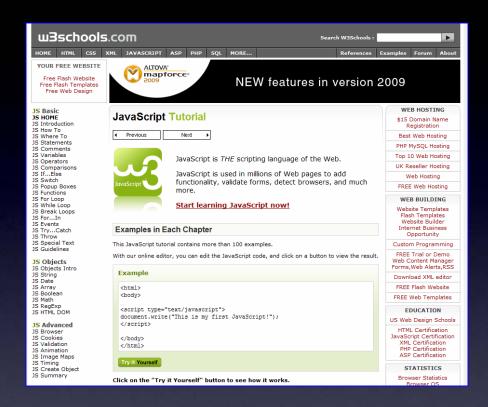
http://www.oracle.com/technology/pub/columns/plsql/index.html

http://www.techonthenet.com/oracle/index.php

http://www.orafaq.com//

http://www.asktom.oracle.com

Javascript - no need to reinvent the wheel



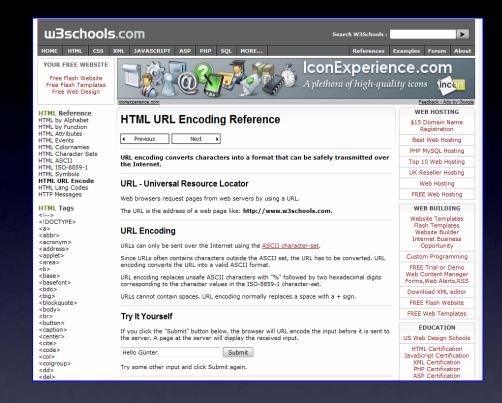
http://www.w3schools.com/js/default.asp

http://www.sitepoint.com/books/dhtml1//

http://www.dynamicdrive.com//

http://jquery.com//

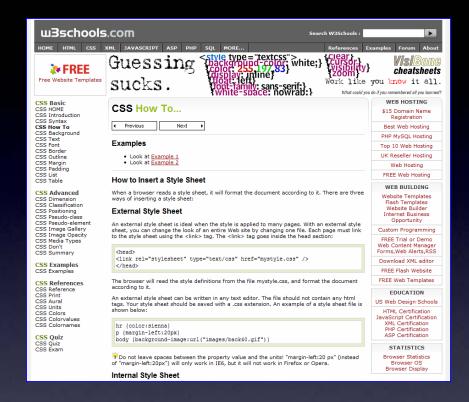
HTML Knowledge



http://www.w3schools.com/html/default.asp

...and many, many others

CSS Knowledge



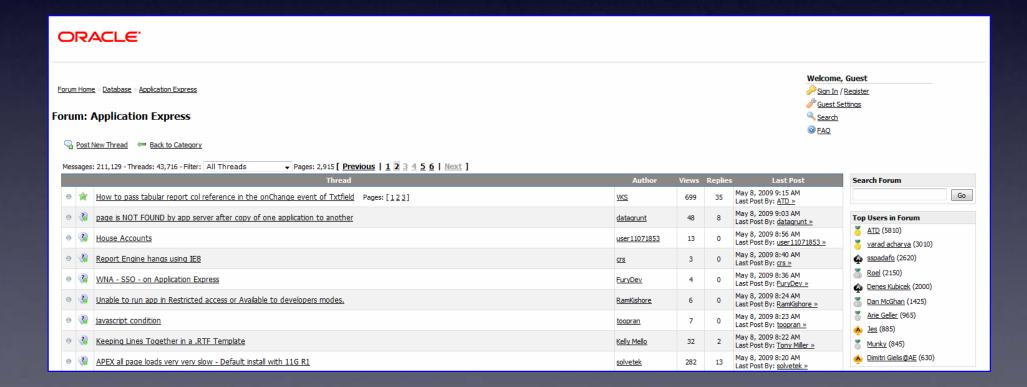
http://www.w3schools.com/css/css_howto.asp

http://www.csszengarden.com//

Become a part of the great Apex Community

- Participate in the Oracle Forums by asking Questions or helping others in solving their issues

http://forums.oracle.com/forums/forum.jspa?forumID=137

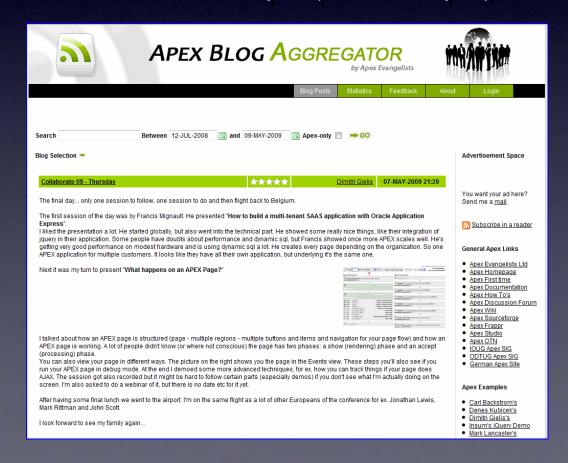


Become a part of the great Apex Community

-Read the Apex Blogs

http://www.apexblogs.info/pls/apex/f?p=113:8:0

with access to all known resources for Apex (written in Apex)



Become a part of the great Apex Community

-Use Apex Demo Applications

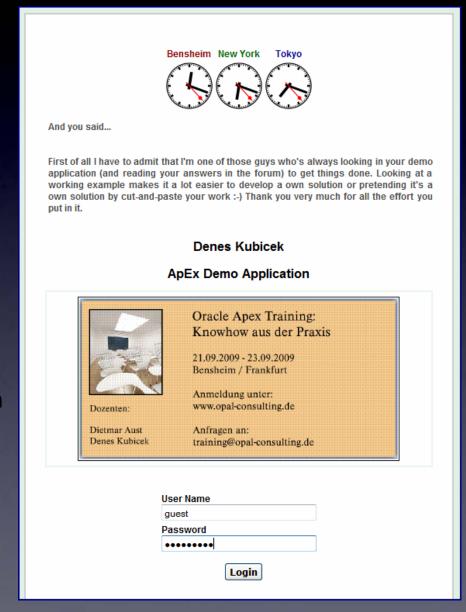
http://apex.oracle.com/pls/otn/f?p=31517:1

With over 250 Examples including full code and Step-by-Step explanations

Over 1200 Registered Users of the Workspace

4000 Pageclicks a day

The most visited non-comercial application on apex.oracle.com



Format your Code

- Make it readable
- Use formating Tools (like Toad)
- It is easier to debug
- You will have one standard

```
🧗 Toad® for Oracle - [ASMUSR@XE - Editor]
File Edit Search Grid Editor Session Database Debug View Utilities Window Help
🌬 🕛 餐 🕆 📫 🎠 🔻 🐬 (...) 😭 🚡 🚰 늘들 💣 🖼 💣 🖟 🔛 😭 🖺 🕒 🔀 🖺 🖺 🕒 🖎 😘 🕬 🖂 🗚 ABC abc Abc
รณ์ <No name>
      /* Formatted on 2009/05/08 18:31 (Formatter Plus v4.8.8) */

    □ SELECT aat.application_id, aat.tab_name, aat.tab_page,

            aat.authorization_scheme_id, aap.authorization_scheme_id
       FROM apex_application_tabs aat,
            (SELECT page_id, authorization_scheme_id
               FROM apex_application_pages
              WHERE application_id = 100 AND authorization_scheme_id IS NOT NULL) aap
       WHERE aat.tab_page = aap.page_id
         AND aat.application_id = 100
         AND aat.authorization_scheme_id IS NOT NULL
        AND aat.authorization_scheme_id <> aap.authorization_scheme_id;
```

...and...

...never just copy / paste someone else's code.

Try to understand what it does.

That will save you a lot of time.

Q&A

Thank You.