

Lock it Down: PL/SQL Security Features for Code Assertion, VPD, and Encryption

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Good to Remember

We will bankrupt ourselves
in the vain search for
absolute security.

—Dwight David Eisenhower,
(1890-1969)

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2

Scope

- In scope – 10g & 11g PL/SQL techniques:
 - Data access
 - Functional access
 - Encryption
- Not in scope - security techniques:
 - OS, web or application server, file systems
 - Denial of service (DOS)
 - Cross-site Scripting (XSS)
 - Parameter manipulation, session hijacking, buffer overflow

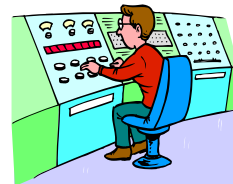
A bit about 12c
later, if time

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3

Agenda

- Introduction
- Locking down application functions
- Locking down data
- New 12c features
- Further study



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4

Security Planning

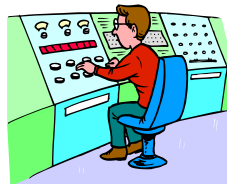
- Need to develop test plans early on, design into system
 - Who can do what, who can see what
 - Application security fits into an overall plan
 - Risk/exposure/safeguards
 - Test roles, functions, data
 - Coding standards
- How not to handle security: roll your own
 - Better: use prebuilt techniques
 - Vendors have certified and tested them

General Safeguards

- Application roles and privileges
 - Users in roles
 - Roles granted to application functions
- Application uses a non-privileged “user” account
 - Not application table owner account
 - User account cannot do DDL
- Restrict access to DML (including SELECT) to application tables
- Think about how users could foil safeguards
 - For example, SQL injection

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What is SQL Injection?

- An attempt to add unintended clauses to a SQL statement
 - For example, a search field on a web form
 - The value entered is used for the query:
 - Adds search criteria to a WHERE clause OR
 - Passed as a parameter to a PL/SQL function



Simple Example

- Search form field for “Last Name”
 - Example query to process the field

```
SELECT email, first_name
FROM employees
WHERE last_name = '||F_LastName||';
```

- User is supposed to enter a name like “Hunold”

```
SELECT email, first_name
FROM employees
WHERE last_name = 'Hunold';
```

“Bad” User Does This

- Fills in Last Name field as:
`'||last_name; DELETE FROM employees WHERE 1=1||'`
- SQL becomes

```
SELECT email, first_name
FROM employees
WHERE last_name = ''|| last_name;
DELETE FROM employees WHERE 1=1||'';
```

Ouch!

PL/SQL Function Also Vulnerable

```
PROCEDURE find_emp(
  p_last_name IN VARCHAR2,
  p_email OUT VARCHAR2,
  p_first_name OUT VARCHAR2)
IS
  v_stmt VARCHAR2(2000);
BEGIN
  v_stmt := 'SELECT email, first_name ||
            'FROM employees ||
            'WHERE last_name = '''|| p_last_name||''';
  --
  EXECUTE IMMEDIATE v_stmt INTO p_email, p_first_name;
END find_emp;
```

- Same value passed into p_last_name will have the same results (**Ouch!**)

SQL Injection Cure 1: Bind Variables

8i+

- **The** most important technique

```
SELECT email, first_name
FROM employees
WHERE last_name = :p;
```
- Reason: statement is parsed before the bind variable value is substituted
 - The value is always treated as a value, not part of the statement
- Same in PL/SQL

PL/SQL Bind Variable

```
PROCEDURE find_emp(  
  p_last_name IN VARCHAR2,  
  p_email      OUT VARCHAR2,  
  p_first_name OUT VARCHAR2)  
IS  
  v_stmt VARCHAR2(2000);  
BEGIN  
  v_stmt := 'SELECT email, first_name ||  
            'FROM employees ||  
            'WHERE last_name = :p';  
  --  
  EXECUTE IMMEDIATE v_stmt INTO p_email, p_last_name  
  USING p_last_name;  
END find_emp;
```

- Value passed in as a value,
not as a SQL clause



Building SQL Dynamically

```
PROCEDURE find_emp(  
  p_col_1      IN VARCHAR2,  
  p_col_1_value IN VARCHAR2,  
  p_email      OUT VARCHAR2)  
IS  
  v_stmt VARCHAR2(2000);  
BEGIN  
  v_stmt := 'SELECT email ||  
            'FROM employees ||  
            'WHERE ' || p_col_1 || ' = :p';  
  --  
  EXECUTE IMMEDIATE v_stmt INTO p_email  
  USING p_col_1_value;  
END find_emp;
```

- The column name needs to be flexible
- SQL injection danger if you concatenate SQL

SQL Injection Cure 2: Code Assertion

10g+

- Confirm that the component you concatenate is a SQL object
- Use the **DBMS_ASSERT** package
 - **ENQUOTE_LITERAL()**
 - To safely add quotes around a value
 - **SIMPLE_SQL_NAME()**
 - To ensure the name is a real database object
 - **E_ENCODE_ERROR**
 - Exception raised when there is a violation of the assertion

DBMS_ASSERT Examples

- **ENQUOTE_LITERAL()**
 - Adds quotes and checks for spurious quotes in the value
 - **VALUE_ERROR** exception
- **SIMPLE_SQL_NAME()**
 - Checks that the name could be used for a SQL object
 - **SYS.DBMS_ASSERT.INVALID_SQL_NAME** exception
- Always lead with **SYS** schema prefix
 - Ensures the proper user's package is run

Adding Quotes

```
DECLARE
  v_value  VARCHAR2(200);
BEGIN
  v_value := 'HARRY';
  DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE(v_value||
    ' = '||SYS.DBMS_ASSERT.ENQUOTE_LITERAL(v_value));
  v_value := 'HARRY''';
  DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE(v_value||
    ' = '||SYS.DBMS_ASSERT.ENQUOTE_LITERAL(v_value));
EXCEPTION
  WHEN VALUE_ERROR
  THEN
    DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('Invalid value!');
END;
```

OK

Error

Checking for Valid SQL Name

```
DECLARE
  v_value  VARCHAR2(200);
BEGIN
  v_value := 'EMPLOYEES';
  DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE(v_value||' =
    '||SYS.DBMS_ASSERT.SIMPLE_SQL_NAME(v_value));
  v_value := '2EMPLOYEES';
  DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE(v_value||
    ' = '||SYS.DBMS_ASSERT.SIMPLE_SQL_NAME(v_value));
  v_value := 'EMPLOYEES''';
  DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE(v_value||
    ' = '||SYS.DBMS_ASSERT.SIMPLE_SQL_NAME(v_value));
EXCEPTION
  WHEN SYS.DBMS_ASSERT.INVALID_SQL_NAME
  THEN
    DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE('Invalid name!');
END;
```

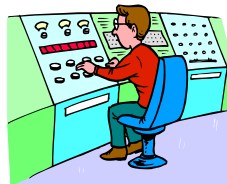
OK

Error

Error

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Techniques for Protecting Data

- Data filtering
 - DBMS_RLS package
- Data hiding (masking)
 - DBMS_RLS package
 - DBMS_REDACT package
- Encryption
 - Oracle Transparent Data Encryption
 - DBMS_OBFUSCATION_TOOLKIT and DBMS_CRYPTO packages

Data Filtering

- Objective
 - Users should see and interact with only the data they **should** see and interact with
- More granular than table grants to roles or users
- Examples
 - HARRY can only see employee data from department 10
 - AHUNOLD can only see employee data from departments 60
 - NKOCCHAR can only see employee data from department 100

How To: Data Filtering

8i+

- Virtual Private Database (VPD)
 - A.k.a., Fine-grained Access Control (FGAC)
 - Not to be confused with Fine Grain Auditing (FGA)
 - F.k.a., Row-Level Security (RLS)
 - Implemented through **DBMS_RLS**
- Components
 - Package function to return a WHERE clause
 - Policy object (created with **DBMS_RLS**) for a table
 - Associates function to table

Oracle
Enterprise
Edition only

Grant to EXECUTE on
DBMS_RLS needed

About the Policy

- Database object that links a table to a filtering function
- Visible in **USER_POLICIES**
 - **SELECT * FROM user_policies**
- Create, alter, and drop using **DBMS_RLS**
 - Not DDL as such



Policy

```
BEGIN
  SYS.DBMS_RLS.ADD_POLICY (
    object_schema      => Null
    ,object_name       => 'EMPLOYEES'
    ,policy_name       => 'EMPLOYEES_POL'
    ,function_schema   => Null
    ,policy_function   => 'POLICY_PKG.EMP_POL'
    ,statement_types   =>
'SELECT,INSERT,UPDATE,DELETE'
    ,policy_type       => dbms_rls.dynamic
    ,long_predicate    => TRUE
    ,update_check      => FALSE
    ,static_policy     => FALSE
    ,enable            => TRUE );
END;
```

About the Filtering Function

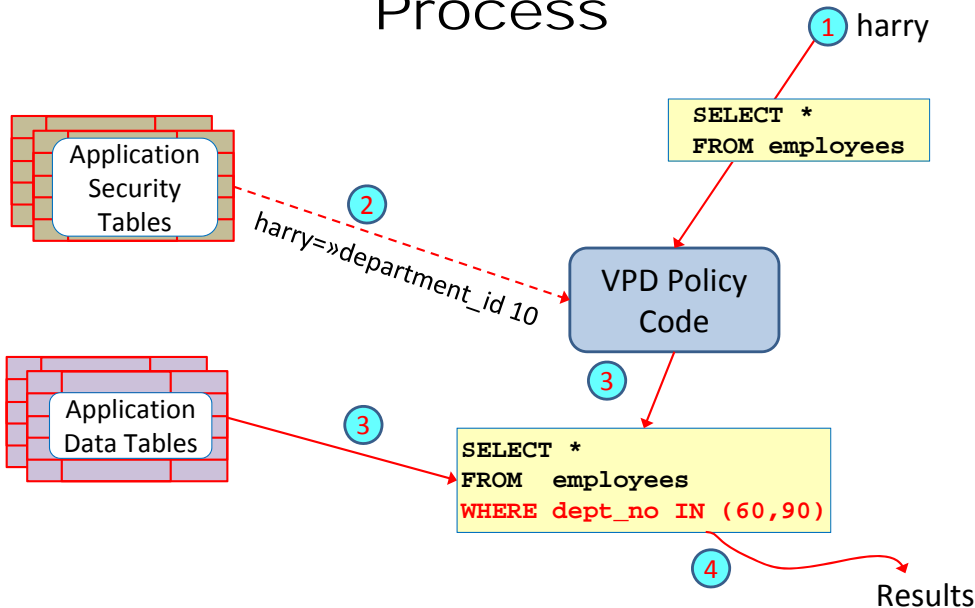
- Logic that returns a predicate (WHERE clause component); examples:
 - department_id IN (<privs>)
 - <privs> are stored in an application table
 - 1=1 or just ''
 - All rows
 - 1=2
 - No rows
- The predicate is automatically added to all queries for the table



Filtering Function

```
FUNCTION emp_pol(  
    obj_schema IN VARCHAR2,  
    obj_name IN VARCHAR2)  
    RETURN VARCHAR2  
  
IS  
    v_predicate VARCHAR2(1000);  
  
BEGIN  
    IF user = 'HR'  
    THEN  
        v_predicate := '';  
    ELSIF v_user = 'HARRY'  
    THEN  
        v_predicate := 'department_id = 10';  
    ELSE -- No access  
        v_predicate := '1=2';  
    END IF;  
    --  
    RETURN v_predicate;  
END emp_pol;
```

Process



Application Security Policy Steps

1. The application issues the query.
2. Database policy code adds a WHERE clause predicate based on the user and security table entry
3. The query is run.
4. Results return to the application.



Variation: Application Context

- Accessible memory variable area for each session; has a name 8i+
 - Like SYS_CONTEXT('USERENV', 'SESSION_USER')
 - USERENV is the context area
- Secure
 - Memory variables only available to session
 - Can only be updated through a single PL/SQL package

```
CREATE CONTEXT hr_context
USING policy_pkg;
```

Writing to Application Context

- DBMS_SESSION.SET_CONTEXT(context_name, variable_name, value)
 - Can only store VARCHAR2 variables
 - Must be in context's package
- For example,
 - ON_LOGON trigger can store username for use in policy
 - Web application writes the logged in app user into the context
 - Uses the same database user for database login

Reading from App Context

- SYS_CONTEXT(context_name, variable_name)
 - Can be read from anywhere in the session
 - Even SQL
 - Session-specific
 - Variables are created when they are assigned
 - Variables and values disappear when session ends
- Read variables in the policy function
 - Protects against hacking of policy code

Filtering Function

```
-- same as earlier example emp_pol function but
-- instead of hard coding user names, query
-- from a table that holds user privileges

v_predicate := 'department_id IN ( ' ||
'SELECT access_values ' ||
'FROM user_table_access ' ||
'WHERE table_name = ' || obj_name ||
' AND username = ' ||
SYS_CONTEXT('HR_CONTEXT', ' ||
'USERNAME'))';

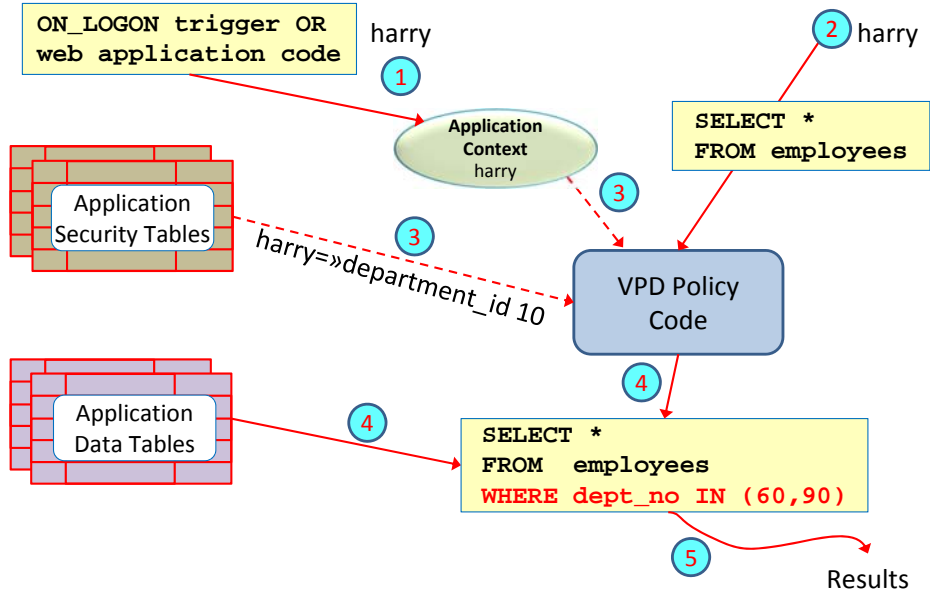
RETURN v_predicate;
```

Protect obj_name with DBMS_ASSERT

USER_TABLE_ACCESS

USERNAME	TABLE_NAME	COLUMN_NAME	ACCESS_VALUES
AHUNOLD	EMPLOYEES	DEPARTMENT_ID	80
HARRY	EMPLOYEES	DEPARTMENT_ID	10
NKOCHHAR	EMPLOYEES	DEPARTMENT_ID	100

Process with App Context



Application Security Policy Steps

1. The application saves the logged-in user name to the “application context”
2. The application issues the query.
3. Database policy code adds a WHERE clause predicate based on the user name in the app context and security table entry
4. The query is run.
5. Results return to the application.



Sample Context Assignments

```
CREATE OR REPLACE TRIGGER emp_tr
AFTER LOGON ON DATABASE
BEGIN
    hr.policy_pkg.set_hr_context;
END emp_tr
```

- In ADF
 - Application module impl Java file
 - Call function in `prepare_session()` method

Debugging Policy Code

- No helpful feedback
- Usually
 - “ORA-28113: policy predicate has error”
 - Sometimes 28110, 28112
- Look in trace file in `user_dump_dest` folder
 - For example:
C:\oracle\db\diag\rdbms\orcl\orcl\trace

Big Note

- VPD policy always applied EXCEPT to:
 - SYS or any user connected "as sysdba"
 - An account granted EXEMPT ACCESS POLICY



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- Data hiding (masking)
 - DBMS_RLS package
 - DBMS_REDACT package
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VPD Can Hide Data, Too

10g+

- “Column masking”
 - Hides data in specific columns
- Same setup
 - Database function
 - Policy associates function to table
- DBMS_RLS to create the policy

```
BEGIN
  SYS.DBMS_RLS.ADD_POLICY (
    object_schema => Null
    ,object_name  => 'EMPLOYEES'
    ,policy_name  => 'EMPLOYEE_HIDING_POL'
    ,function_schema => Null
    ,policy_function =>
      'POLICY_PKG.RESTRICT_COLUMNS_POL'
    ,statement_types => 'SELECT'
    ,policy_type     => dbms_rls.dynamic
    ,long_predicate  => TRUE
    ,sec_relevant_cols => 'COMMISSION_PCT,SALARY'
    ,sec_relevant_cols_opt => dbms_rls.all_rows
    ,update_check    => FALSE
    ,static_policy   => FALSE
    ,enable          => TRUE );
END;
```

Policy

Function

```
FUNCTION restrict_columns_pol(
  obj_schema IN VARCHAR2,
  obj_name IN VARCHAR2)
RETURN VARCHAR2
IS
  v_predicate VARCHAR2(1000);
BEGIN
  IF USER = 'HARRY'
  THEN
    v_predicate := '1=2';
  END IF;
  --
  RETURN v_predicate;
END restrict_columns_pol;
```

HARRY will see
Salary as null.

Another Data Hiding Option

- Oracle Data Redaction **11.2.0.4+**
 - DBMS_REDACT
- Can substitute replacement characters for the redacted value
 - Full or partial value
- Does not require a policy function
 - Filtering parameter in DBMS_REDACT.ADD_POLICY
- Restricts SELECT only
 - VPD works for all DML

Grant to EXECUTE on
DBMS_REDACT needed

Create Policy

```
BEGIN
  DBMS_REDACT.add_policy(
    object_schema => 'HR'
    ,object_name   => 'EMPLOYEES'
    ,column_name   => 'SALARY'
    ,policy_name   => 'redact_salary_pol'
    ,function_type => DBMS_REDACT.full
    ,expression    => '1=1'
    ,policy_description => 'redact the salary to all'
  );
END;
```

- Always redacts data in this column
- SALARY returns as 0

A Variation

```
BEGIN
  DBMS_REDACT.add_policy(
    object_schema => 'HR'
    ,object_name   => 'EMPLOYEES'
    ,column_name   => 'SOCIAL_SECURITY_NUMBER'
    ,policy_name   => 'redact_ssn_pol'
    ,function_type => DBMS_REDACT.partial
    ,expression    => '1=1'
    ,function_parameters => 'VVVVFVVVFWVVV,VVVV-VV-VVVV, *,1,8'
    ,policy_description => 'show only last 4 SSN'
  );
END;
```

- Returns partially redacted value
 - display character, start, end
 - *****8765'

More About Redaction

- Bypass by granting **EXEMPT REDACTION POLICY** to user (not role)
 - Contained in DBA role already
- Support for regular expressions
- Can generate random replacement strings

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Encryption By TDE 10gR2+

- Oracle Transparent Data Encryption
 - Database option
- Encrypts “data at rest”
 - Data in data files ONLY
- Data in and out of database is plain text
 - Rely on network encryption to secure messages
- No option for conditional encryption
 - Needs DBA setup

More About TDE

- 10gR2+ Column-level encryption – except:
 - LOB columns, foreign key columns, non-B-tree indexes, range scan through index, materialize view logs, others
 - Performance hit: 6-15% depending on # columns
- 11gR1+ Adds tablespace encryption
 - All data in the tablespace is encrypted
 - Performance hit: “10% max”
- Set up a “wallet” (a file)
 - Add an encryption key to the wallet
 - When instance starts, open wallet (make it part of database startup script)

Column Encryption

```
CREATE TABLE employees (  
  employee_id  
  NUMBER CONSTRAINT emp_pk PRIMARY KEY,  
  social_security_number  
  VARCHAR2(11) ENCRYPT USING 'AES256' SALT);
```

- Default algorithm (method) is AES192
 - Others available: 3DES168, AES128, AES256
- “Salt” adds random string before encryption
 - Most secure
 - Cannot apply “salt” to indexed columns
- 1-52 bytes increase per encrypted value
- Choose column encryption if 5% or less columns need encryption

Tablespace Encryption

```
CREATE TABLESPACE emp_encrypt  
DATAFILE 'c:\hr\encrypt01.dbf' SIZE 64M  
ENCRYPTION USING 'AES256'  
DEFAULT STORAGE (ENCRYPT);
```

- Still need a wallet
- Good if most columns need encryption
 - Remember performance hit, though
- No storage increase

TDE Notes

- Adding encryption to existing table
 - This can take some time
 - Drop indexes first
 - Data is encrypted but unencrypted copy persists in data file
 - Need to move table to a new tablespace
 - Then drop old tablespace file securely
- Removing encryption

```
ALTER TABLE employees MODIFY (  
  social_security_number DECRYPT);
```

Encrypting Data Using PL/SQL

- **8i-9i** • DBMS_OBFUSCATION_TOOLKIT
 - Replaced by DBMS_CRYPTO
 - Use DBMS_CRYPTO for 10g+
- **10g+** • DBMS_CRYPTO
 - More encryption algorithms
 - Easier to use API

DBMS_CRYPTO

- NOT TRANSPARENT!
 - This is “roll your own” folks
 - You need to write code for encrypting and decrypting
 - You need to store the encryption key somewhere
 - <https://oracle-base.com/articles/9i/storing-passwords-in-the-database-9i>
 - DBMS_CRYPTO.RANDOMBYTES() can generate the key

Custom Encryption Package

```
CREATE OR REPLACE PACKAGE BODY crypto_pkg
AS
  -- Key used for SYS.DBMS_CRYPTO calls.
  -- This would be queried from a table which would encrypt the
  -- value using a second key. DO NOT embed a plain text string here.
  g_crypto_key      CONSTANT RAW(32) := 'ABCDEF';
  --
  -- Encryption type used for SYS.DBMS_CRYPTO calls
  g_encryption_type CONSTANT PLS_INTEGER :=
    -- Advanced Encryption Standard 256-bit key
    SYS.DBMS_CRYPTO.ENCRYPT_AES256 +
    -- Cipher block chaining mode
    SYS.DBMS_CRYPTO.CHAIN_CBC +
    -- Padding of Password-Based Cryptography
    -- Standard #5
    SYS.DBMS_CRYPTO.PAD_PKCS5;
```

Encrypt CLOB

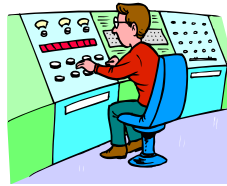
```
FUNCTION encrypted_clob(
  p_decrypted_clob CLOB)
RETURN BLOB
IS
  v_encrypted_blob BLOB;
BEGIN
  -- initialize the target
  DBMS_LOB.CREATETEMPORARY(v_encrypted_blob, TRUE);
  --
  SYS.DBMS_CRYPTO.ENCRYPT(
    dst => v_encrypted_blob,
    src => p_decrypted_clob,
    typ => g_encryption_type,
    key => g_crypto_key
  ); -- leave iv as the default
  --
  RETURN v_encrypted_blob;
EXCEPTION ...
END encrypted_clob;
```

Decrypt CLOB

```
FUNCTION decrypted_clob(
  p_encrypted_blob BLOB)
RETURN CLOB
IS
  v_decrypted_clob CLOB;
BEGIN
  -- initialize the target
  DBMS_LOB.CREATETEMPORARY(v_decrypted_clob, TRUE);
  --
  SYS.DBMS_CRYPTO.DECRYPT(
    dst => v_decrypted_clob,
    src => p_encrypted_blob,
    typ => g_encryption_type,
    key => g_crypto_key
  ); -- leave iv as the default
  --
  RETURN v_decrypted_clob;
EXCEPTION ...
END decrypted_clob;
```

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Granting Role to PL/SQL Unit

- APPOWNER.PACKAGE_SEC 12cR1+
 - Invoker's rights (AUTHID CURRENT_USER)
 - Accesses the SECURITY_TAB table
 - INSERT, UPDATE, DELETE, SELECT
- END_USER1
 - Granted EXECUTE on the package
- APPOWNER creates role: SECURITY_ACCESS
- GRANT SELECT ON security_tab TO security_access;
- GRANT security_access TO package_sec;
- END_USER1 calls PACKAGE_SEC
 - Can only SELECT from SECURITY_TAB
 - Cannot run DELETE, INSERT, UPDATE procedures in SECURITY_TAB

INHERIT PRIVILEGES

- Protects against invoker rights problems 12cR1+
 - Defined with AUTHID CURRENT_USER
- Scenario
 - Users run a function defined by Dave, a developer – everything works
 - DBA Frank runs the function
 - Disaster
 - Dave's function runs under the privileges of Frank

This is "privilege inheritance"

Invoker Rights Example

```
CREATE FUNCTION emp_name(  
  p_emp_id employees.employee_id%TYPE)  
  RETURN VARCHAR2  
  AUTHID CURRENT_USER  
IS  
  v_name   VARCHAR2(100);  
BEGIN  
  SELECT first_name||' '||last_name  
  INTO    v_name  
  FROM    hr.employees  
  WHERE   employee_id = p_emp_id;  
  --  
  IF USER = 'FRANK'  
  THEN  
    EXECUTE IMMEDIATE 'DELETE FROM SYS.COL$';  
  END IF;  
  RETURN v_name;  
END emp_name;
```

INHERIT PRIVILEGES

12cR1+

- All users have this automatically run for their account:

```
GRANT INHERIT PRIVILEGES on USER <user> TO PUBLIC;
```

- Everyone can access everything with invoker's rights as before

- Dave can revoke that

```
REVOKE INHERIT PRIVILEGES on USER <user> TO PUBLIC;
```

- Calling the preceding function would fail

- Then grant to a single dba, Sally

```
GRANT INHERIT PRIVILEGES on USER dave TO sally;
```

ACCESSIBLE BY Clause

12cR1+

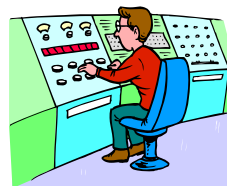
- Defines the PL/SQL code that can access the package

- CREATE FUNCTION
- CREATE PACKAGE
- CREATE PROCEDURE
- CREATE TYPE
- ALTER TYPE

```
CREATE OR REPLACE PACKAGE util_pkg  
ACCESSIBLE BY (  
    PACKAGE emp_pkg,  
    PACKAGE policy_pkg,  
    TRIGGER emp_tr)
```

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Thanks for the Memories

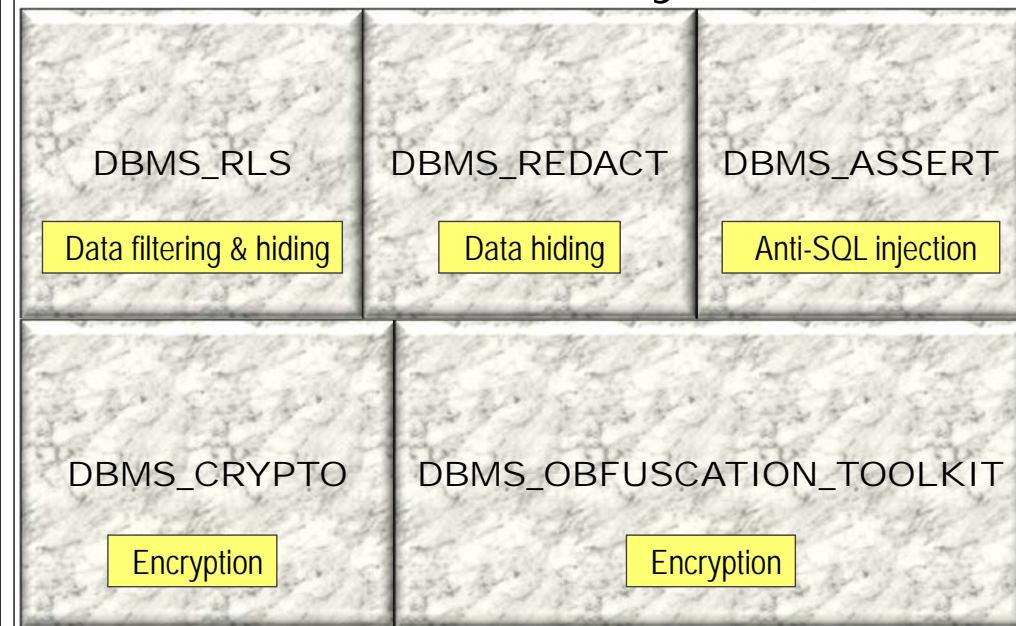
Knowledge is of two kinds.
We know a subset ourselves,
or we know where we can
find information upon it.

– Samuel Johnson (1709-1784),
letter

Further Study

- Steven Feuerstein – 12c new PL/SQL features
 - <http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/issue-archive/2013/13-sep/o53plsql-1999801.html>
- Tom Kyte – SQL injection
 - <http://tkyte.blogspot.com/2012/02/all-about-security-sql-injection.html>
- Bryn Llewelyn - SQL injection
 - <http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/database/features/plsql/overview/how-to-write-injection-proof-plsql-1-129572.pdf>
- Oracle Learning Library
 - oracle.com/oll
- PL/SQL Challenge
 - plsqlchallenge.oracle.com
- Live SQL
 - <http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/database/application-development/livesql/index.html>
- Practically Perfect PL/SQL – Feuerstein videos
 - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpJpLMRm452kVcie3RpINPw>

PL/SQL Security Wall



Summary

- Design security in from the start
- DBMS_ASSERT to foil SQL injection
- Virtual Private Database to filter data
- DBMS_RLS, DBMS_REDACT to hide data
- TDE, DBMS_OBFUSCATION_TOOLKIT and DBMS_CRYPTO to encrypt
- Study advice from the experts
- Safe coding to all!



Please fill out the evals

Some of 8 books co-authored with Dr. Paul Dorsey, Avrom Roy-Faderman, & Duncan Mills



<http://www.quovera.com>

- Founded in 1995 as Millennia Vision Corp.
- More technical white papers and presentations on the web site

