

DCII Lessons Learned-Designer #001

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Action:

Add (new lesson learned)
 Modify (add to an existing lesson) Lesson Learned ID: _____
 Delete (if problem has been resolved and should not recur) Lesson Learned ID: _____

Type:

Problem (a problem to avoid, or work-around)
 Recommended practice (potential standard)

Category:

Designer Developer Oracle Database UNIX
 SQL*plus SQL*loader Oracle Reports Impromptu
 Powerplay Other (please specify: _____)

Project Phase: Not Applicable Analysis(Concept Development)
 Design Development Deployment

Statement of Problem (Be concise and precise):

Oracle Designer allows a primary key to be defined that includes attributes that may be NULL. I believe this is a hold-over from database version 7.34 that allowed physical implementation of this construct which is no longer supported in Oracle 8.

Statement of Solution or Work-around:

The above problem caused us to delete all tables that were created by designer and all modules using them and then re-starting the transformer process. We decided this was easier than manually figuring out the scope of the impact on our data model. A very common key structure had been coded with NULL allowed for one part of the PK. (Department, Transfer_Department, Basic_Symbol almost always has a NULL Transfer_Department) Sequence numbers will be assigned in place of the primary key. A unique index will be used for the business key.

Recommended Practice:

Never allow a NULL attribute to participate in a primary key. Oracle 8.x database will not support this construct.