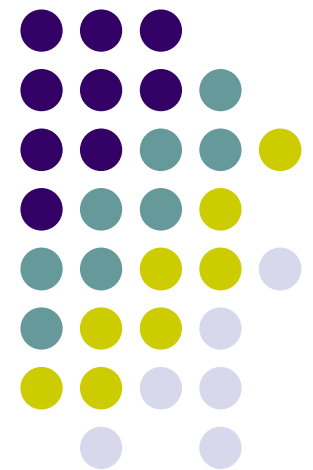


Oracle SQL*Plus

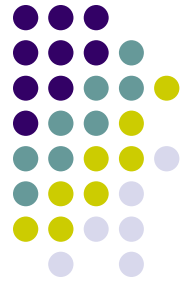
CIS 331: Introduction to Database Systems





Topics:

- **Common SQL*Plus commands**
- **TAB table (not quite a table, but we will think of it as a table for the time being)**



Password and @

- **PASSWORD**

Changes the password for the current user. Alternatively, on older Oracle servers, PASSWORD is not recognized as a command, so you have to work around with

ALTER USER *username* IDENTIFIED BY *password*

- **@**

You can use @ to call a SQL script. If you downloaded the demo.sql SQL script into your SQL directory, you can execute it by typing @Z:\SQL\demo.sql (or just @Z:\SQL\demo, if you do not specify the file extension, SQL*Plus will assume it is .sql)



Describe, Host

- **DESC**

Shorthand and a synonym for DESCRIBE. Shows the columns in a table with the appropriate datatypes, and constraints, if appropriate (if a particular field nullable, for example).

- **HOST**

Opens a shell window.



Edit, /

- EDIT

Edits the last typed SQL command. Useful if you made a typo and do not want to practice your typing skills over and over again. Notice that edit brings back the last SQL command, not the SQL*Plus command. (What is the difference between a SQL and a SQL*Plus command?)

- /

Executes the last SQL command once again.



Set / Show, Comments

- **SET / SHOW**

Sets and displays SQL*Plus settings. Two of the basic settings are LINESIZE and PAGESIZE. You can also type SHOW ALL to see all settings in SQL*Plus.

- **COMMENTS**

There are several ways to specify a comment inside a SQL script:

```
-- This is a comment  
rem This is another way to specify a comment  
remark This is another way to specify a comment  
/* This is another way to specify a comment */
```



Prompt, Tab

- **PROMPT**

At this moment think of PROMPT as a command which echoes to the screen whatever you type after it. So

```
PROMPT yourname
```

outputs *yourname* to the screen.

- **TAB**

To check which tables you have in the database under your account, you can check the tab table (strictly speaking, tab is not a table, but more about this in time to come), by typing

```
SELECT * FROM TAB;
```