

ORAWORLD

e-Magazine for Oracle Users published by the EOUC

Forms 12c: Back to the Future

Women in the User Groups

**Collaborate 16: 1.400 Lectures
in the Eldorado of Chance**

Welcome, ITOUG!



May 2016, Edition #1



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Have a comment? Suggestion?
Want to submit an article proposal?
Here’s how to do it.

Editorial

Dear Oracle User Group Community Members,

I am absolutely thrilled and honored to relaunch the new edition of the EOUC newsletter, this time with a completely new look and feel thanks to the enormous help from the wonderful people at DOAG and their unconditional contribution to the EMEA user group community.

I have no doubt that this new and redesigned newsletter will provide us with a better and more effective and enjoyable way to stay in touch with each other and help us to empower each other with more visibility and information with regards to what is going on in the EMEA Oracle user community. Together, by better sharing and getting to know each other, we can build a better community and help each other grow and improve our individual user group activities as well as reach new levels of collaborations and better work and do things together as one large user group community.

We are now going into a period of time with many activities going on in our community, which includes many user group events, call for papers, the Oracle Open World call for papers and of course the EOUC leaders meeting in Bucharest in June. So I invite you all to sit back and enjoy this wonderful e-Magazine and I'm sure you will be able to find here everything you were looking for about user group activities in the EMEA region.

A very big thank you again for the great people at DOAG and their amazing efforts to make this dream come true, and a very special thank you to Dr. Dietmar Neugebauer, former DOAG President, and Mr. Fried Saacke, DOAG CEO, and last but not least, of course thank you, our EOUC readers, for your ongoing contribution and cooperation throughout the year. We all hope you will find this new e-Magazine useful and enjoyable and we encourage you to send us your thoughts, feedbacks or any other comments you might have. I am looking forward for your feedback...

*Ami Aharonovich
iIOUG (Israel)*



Ami Aharonovich
iIOUG (Israel)

Editorial

Dear readers,

I am happy to announce that the online platform for the ORAWORLD Magazine is finally live on www.oraworld.org! A very big thank you goes to Ami Aharonovich for initiating the EOUC Newsletter, which can be seen as the precursor to the ORAWORLD Magazine. Without his vision to unite all user group members of the EMEA Oracle User Group Community on one single platform and his strong dedication as Chief Editor to the EOUC Newsletter, all of this would not have been possible. It has been an amazing journey and I am looking forward to see your vision reaching even further with ORAWORLD Magazine.

I would also like to thank you, our readers, for dedicating and contributing your time, knowledge and feedback to the previous EOUC newsletter. With the new ORAWORLD Magazine, we hope that you will keep up with your great support and we are very much looking forward to your contributions.

If you would like to hand in any articles, ideas, or tips for future issues of the Magazine, you now have the opportunity to do this directly on our website – no registration required. Simply submit your file via the form on the bottom of the page. You only have to enter your name, your email and a short description, attach your file and you are done. If you would like to upload several files, please upload them as a single ZIP file.

In the archive on our website, you can from now on find all previous issues. Again, no login is required, so the magazine is available for everyone. Please feel free to share it with anyone who might be interested. And if you don't want to miss the next issue of the ORAWORLD Magazine, please make sure to sign up for our newsletter.

Please take the chance to share information with others and become an active part of ORAWORLD. Let me assure you that you are in very good company: More than 20 Oracle user groups contribute to the magazine. Thank you again for your support!

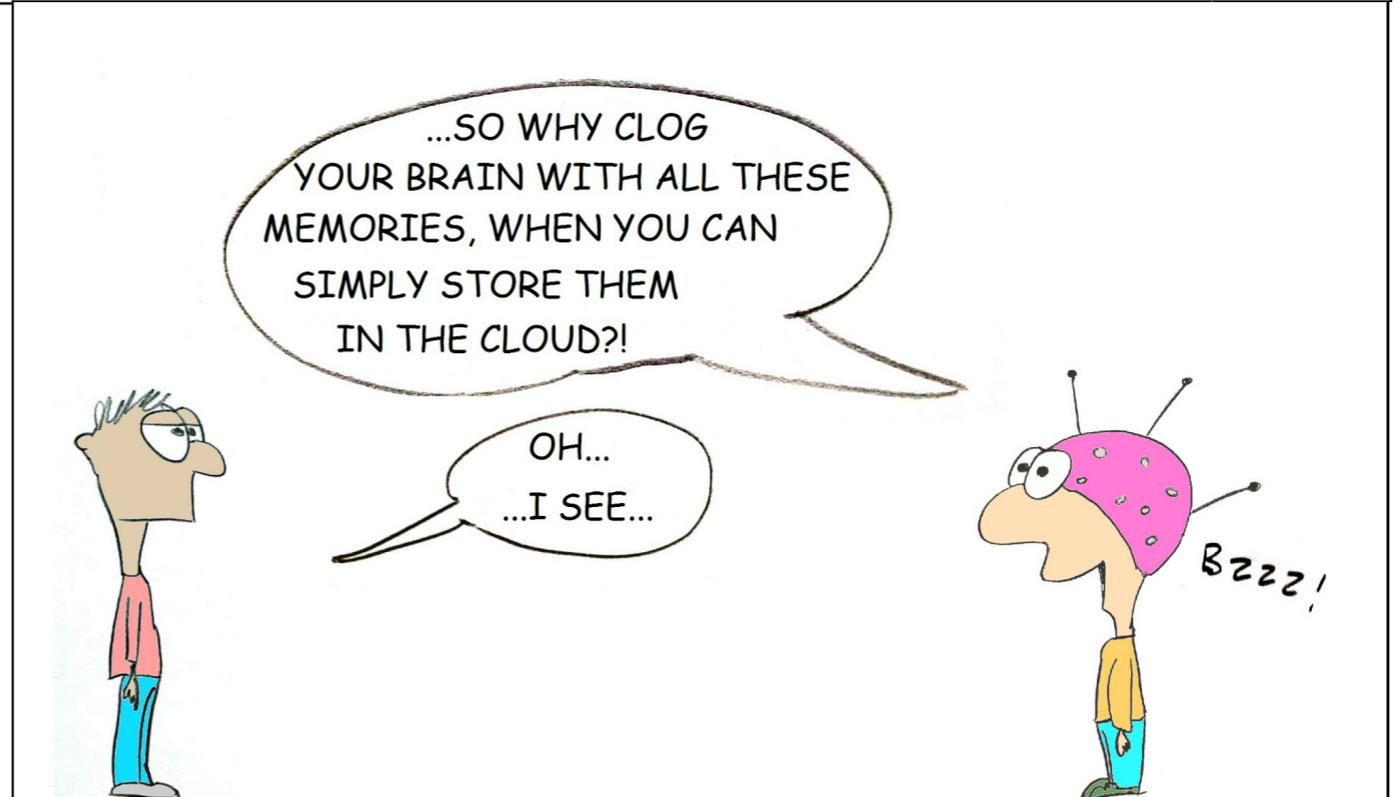
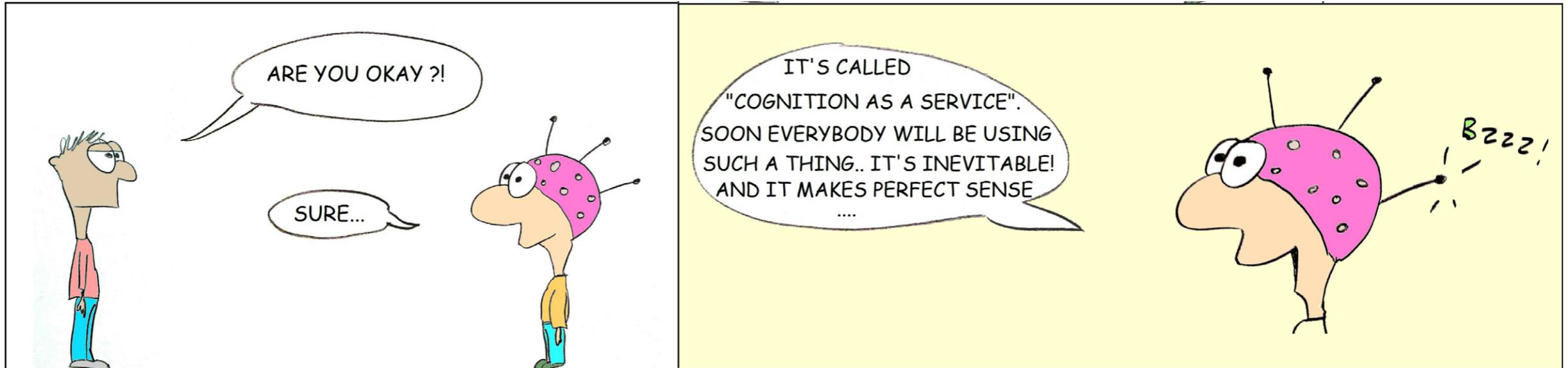
Dr. Dietmar Neugebauer
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Dr. Dietmar Neugebauer
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Jan Peterskovsky

Cognition-as-a-Service



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www.oraworld.org



Marius Fiedler

Forms: Back to the Future?

For years, the Oracle Community has been speculating about when Forms would take its last breath. But the release of version 12c and a joint project by Samsung, Auraplayer and Oracle for the New Yorker "Metropolitan Transportation Authority" (MTA) have now given the Forms scene new momentum. If you think that Oracle Forms is dead and buried you are quite wrong: Michael Ferrante and his team are already working on the successor version Forms 13.

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“Please welcome #OracleForms 12c to the stage,” wrote Michael Ferrante, Principal Product Manager of Oracle Forms, on October 23rd, 2015 and reaped 49 Retweets and 27 Likes on Twitter with this message. A reason for the Forms community to rejoice; after all, they had waited almost four years for a successor version of release 11gR2.

During this period, the Forms developers didn't have an easy time. The future of the popular development trio Forms, Designer, and Reports was more than uncertain: After Oracle terminated the development of Designer, the users have been worried about the future of Forms and Reports. However their worldwide commitment to the conservation of both tools resulted in a Statement of Direction. From there on it was clear: Forms and Reports will be delivered; but significant innovations are no longer to be expected.

Forms is not dead, it just smells funny

However, the official document conceals but essential information: the time frame. For Forms developers a long period of waiting begins. The product manager shows up at conferences empty-handed for several consecutive years and while the overall number of migration projects in the Forms environment grows rapidly, Oracle Middleware 12c is released without Forms. The developers accept the mocking comments from colleagues with stoic calmness. “Forms is dead,” is what some say, “Forms is not dead,” say the others, “it just smells funny.”

After the Tweet from October 23rd, everything changes abruptly: Diligent testing is going on and new features are tried out. Shortly thereafter you can read the first reviews online. The main thrust: Forms 12c contains valuable innovations, shows an increased performance and raises a new standard in terms of modernization.

Forms Project at the Mobile World Congress

But that's not the end of the story: Unexpected shifts in the development of Forms took place only in February 2016, in an envi-

ronment where you really would not expect Forms at all. Oracle, Samsung and Auraplayer introduce a joint project for the “New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority” (MTA) at the Mobile World Congress (MWC) in Barcelona and provide a Forms based application that is linked to the “Oracle Mobile Cloud Service” and can be run on a Samsung tablet. In the future, MTA employees will be able to take their notes directly on the mobile device using the application, including photos and drawings, right after investigating an accident site, without any further ado. The application can of course be used offline.

The top innovations in Forms 12c

This project shows why the American community is so enthusiastic about the 12c release: The software giant turned the right knobs, especially in the areas of modernization and “look & feel”. With the new Customizable Color Schemes in conjunction with the “Oracle Look and Feel (OLAF)” colors, dialog masks and applications can be adjusted to ones personal taste. Instead of having to choose between nine predefined colors, now own settings using HEX code or RGB values can be defined.

The release is also a success from a technical point of view: Many say that the migration of the application to 12c is totally easy. Gerd Volberg, for example, who is a Forms specialist, describes the upgrade as the “easiest migration of all times”, which is ultimately owed to the migration wizard.

BI Publisher as an alternative for Reports

Very welcomed, as well, is the declarative inclusion of the “BI Publisher”. The reporting tool, with its native inclusion is a worthy alternative to the widespread “Oracle Forms and Reports”. Meanwhile, users can pull up “BI Publisher” reports straight from a mask without any complex programming. In addition, four different options for the execution are offered. This eliminates a mandatory dependency on a browser.

There are also some smaller features hidden in the new



Forms version. Here it pays off to take a look at the individual components. For example, the feature “Idle Time launches Trigger”. With this simple command users can find out whether or not and how long the application has not been active. The user can thus close inactive masks automatically or manually after a certain period of time.

Licensing: The Oracle Logic

That almost sounds like a story with a happy ending, if it weren't for the shadow the licensing issue cast onto the release. When before a repository database was not necessary for the stand-alone version (Forms and Reports only), this changes with this release. And calls for new licensing.

With the release of the Weblogic Server 12c, the “Oracle Platform Security Service” (OPSS), a layer for roles and authentication, was embedded into the database. Since Forms accesses the

OPSS administration via the Enterprise Manager, the database as a repository becomes necessary with version 12c for Forms. Customers, however, who bought Forms and Reports as part of the “Internet Application Server Enterprise Edition” or the “Weblogic Server Suite” do not require an additional license, but can use the repository database as a free “Restricted Use” version.

How does the story end?

36 years after its first release in the late 1980's, Forms is still a popular and widely used tool. A few years ago, even convinced Forms developers said that they would still recommend Forms as a back-end application unconditionally. The framework would, however, reach its limits in cloud and mobile environments. Now, the MTA project shows that it can work even here. So the question now is whether Forms smells less funny with these new prospects.



Jan Peterskovsky

#letswreckthistogether: The Origin of an Internet Phenomenon

The hashtag #letswreckthistogether appears increasingly in the online communication among APEX enthusiasts. It is especially omnipresent on Twitter. But where did the hashtag actually come from, and what does it mean for the APEX community?

Oracle Application Express is on the rise, that is for sure. During many international conferences, the hashtag #orclapex came in second of all tweeted hashtags, just behind #oracle. The APEX community is clearly very active, and it is growing steadily. Immerse yourself deeper into the developer community's conversations and you will find striking hashtag: #letswreckthistogether. The hashtag is not only popular on Twitter & Co., it is also sported on laptops, T-shirts and coffee mugs. So what does this tag word mean to the community, and why is it increasingly appearing, especially in recent months?

To find an explanation, we will have to take a step back: To many

web developers, APEX is a real boon, as writing thousands of lines of code is no longer necessary, the development environment can be extended with plug-ins, and applications can be accessed from any browser, no matter what platform it uses. "If Java represents a camping trip, then APEX is the five-star hotel. With APEX, developing finally is fun again!", says Jürgen Schuster, IT consultant and initiator of the APEX networking platform apex.world.

Developer Community in best shape

Simultaneously, the development environment in IT is still a niche: Even though APEX is a good choice in 99 percent of all





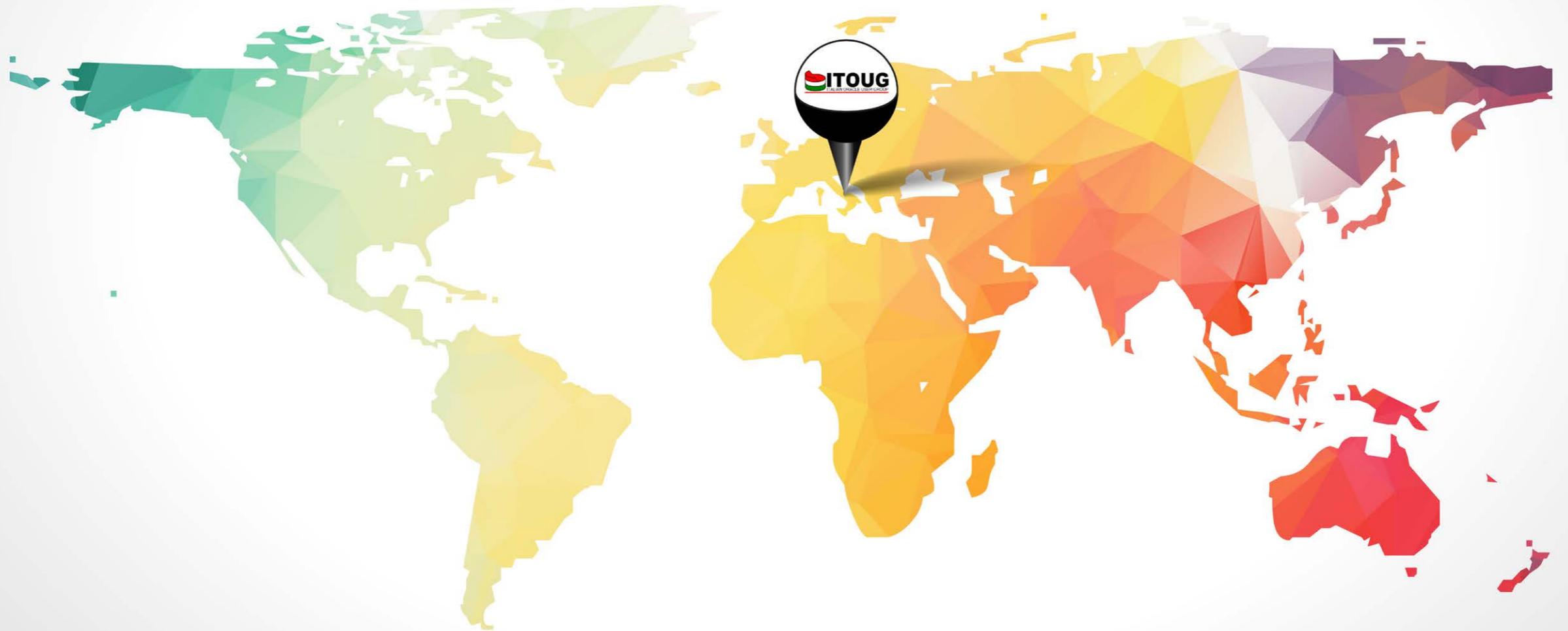
cases, rumor has it that it is unsuitable for the development of larger applications. Something the APEX community now wants to set straight. Joel Kallman, Director APEX Development at Oracle, took the chance at his appearance at the Kscope15 Conference to deliver a fiery speech.

Kallman called the community to propagate their displeasure with the disinformation via blogs and social media, and thus to help APEX to its rightful role in the developer community. "Around the world, customers are using APEX for small, medium and large applications", said the Head of Development in an interview at the Oracle Open World 2015. "That needs to get into

people's heads! We will simply counter the rumors with facts and truths". — #letswreckthistogether was finally born.

"Let's wreck this together" — in context, this basically means: "Let's do away this nonsense together". The idea of having a community comes to full fruition here, because such a goal can only be achieved together. And the APEX community has already proven in the past that it is capable of doing it. Good luck.





Marina Fischer

„It’s important to be part of a community!”

The Italian Oracle User Group (ITOUG) is one of the newer user groups with a little more than 100 members so far. Having been founded in 2014 by an initial group of seven, ITOUG is still finding itself, but already has some exciting plans for 2016.





Ludovico Caldara
Co-founder of ITOUG (Italy)

<http://www.itoug.it>
Twitter: @IT_OUG

Having worked as an Oracle DBA in Italy for 12 years in the fast-paced environment of a big datacenter with no opportunity to contribute to the community, Ludovico Caldara moved from Italy to Switzerland three years ago. There, he started a new life as consultant, speaker, teacher, workshop organizer, Oracle ACE and active blogger. "It was then when I realized how important it is to be part of a community. So after joining the board of the RAC SIG as well as SOUG, a team of six others and I decided it was time to create a user group in Italy," Caldara recounts.

However, the start of ITOUG has not been an easy one: They started merely as a group of people, with no offices or budgets. Having launched their website in late 2014, they still had not yet organized any events or activities.

First events in May

So after a rather quiet start, ITOUG want to hit the ground running this year. They have been organizing their first ever event in May, hoping to establish some regular events in the future, focusing for a start on the Oracle Database. For 2016, they are also thinking about starting some webinar series.

"ITOUG's main goal is to become a reference for all the Italian-speaking Oracle professionals that need a platform for sharing knowledge and experiences," Caldara states. "Most of the famous Italian bloggers and speakers I know do not live in Italy, and our aim is to change that."

Still, Italy is a tough market when it comes to communities. According to Caldara's experiences, most of the Italian companies do not care about community involvement. In addition, the salary drop in comparison to the rest of Europe is also problematic when it comes to membership fees. That is why ITOUG might stick to a free membership in the beginning, hoping to cover the costs with sponsors.

Despite all the difficulties, Caldara seems confident about the future of ITOUG: "I do not know if we will succeed, but we will try hard to survive and make the ITOUG rise."





Marina Fischer

Women in IT / ORACLE User Groups

Women are still a minority in many IT-related jobs. There are, however, many initiatives trying to change that. We thought it was time to ask: What is the current state of women in the Oracle user groups?

Many studies have shown that the trend towards more female IT professionals should be a desirable goal for everyone: They found that gender-diverse teams are more productive and achieve better results than homogeneous teams. However, in most countries around the world, the number of women in IT is still significantly low. Even at Google, Facebook or Twitter, only about 30 percent of the employees are women. Considering only the technical jobs at these companies, the number of female employees decreases to merely 10 to 15 percent.

Today, with the increasing shortage of IT professionals, it seems more important than ever to get more women in IT. That is why more and more initiatives and projects aim to change the industry's image. Female role models, programs at universities and schools as well as meetups, workshops and networking opportunities are seen as a great way to start changing the image of IT as an almost exclusive male domain, although it has to be seen how these actions will influence the actual number of women in the information technology sector.

As an example, let's take a look at the Oracle user groups: How many women are on their boards or among their mem-

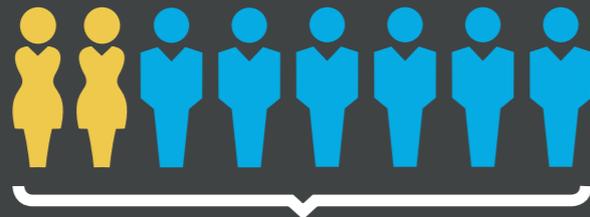


bers? What do user groups do to get more women in IT? So far, 13 user groups have participated in our survey. The following two pages illustrate the results.



Did you know that...

Only **2** out of **8** board members of the international Oracle user groups are women

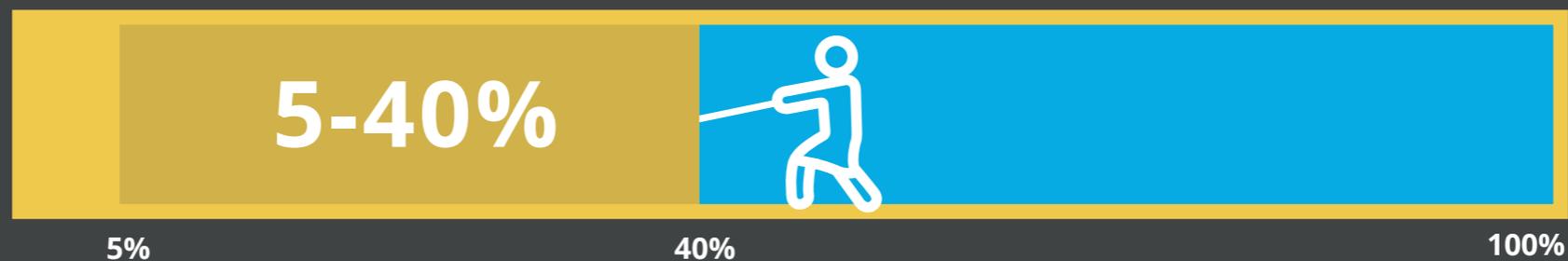


That is 24% only.



Among the interviewed user groups, there were only 2 female Presidents.

Percentage of women among the user groups' members



however, the number is perceived to be increasing...



What do user groups do to get more women in tech?

Only 1 out of 13 user groups does have a „Women in IT“ initiative.
4 user groups are thinking about it or are working with others on similar projects.

We need:
“Quotas”
“Equal pay”
“Attractive programs needed”

We need to:
“collaborate with universities”
“start in schools”

We need:
“role models needed”
“encouragement”



Jan Peterskovsky

„We are changing the future of the Global Oracle User Community“

As Director User Group Relations for the area Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA), Tom Scheirsen connects Oracle user groups within the region and beyond. User groups from around the globe benefit from his work.



Tom Scheirsen
Director User Group
Relations for EMEA

<https://community.oracle.com/community/usergroups>
Twitter: @tscheirs



Together, users can achieve more. True to this motto, Tom Scheirsen, Director User Group Relations EMEA at Oracle, promotes cooperation among the user groups. "With our activities we want to help various user groups in Europe, the Middle East and Africa to network even more and connect them with the global community."

International exchange

Scheirsen and his team organize, among other things, the annual Regional Summits, where international group representatives exchange their experiences made with best practices and new products. "We are seeing an increased interest in the events," says Scheirsen and seems pleased. "Last year, the room was full and every seat was taken. Representatives of about 50 user groups from more than 45 countries gathered, which was really impressive." The next Regional Summit will take place in Bucharest from June 7 to 9, 2016.

Scheirsen is also active at Oracle OpenWorld. User group representatives have the opportunity at the popular User Group Sunday and the Group Leader's Lunch to network across borders in a relaxed atmosphere and exchange their views on the latest developments. Scheirsen admits, "although OpenWorld is of course an Oracle event, the issues raised by user groups are in the foreground."

State-of-the-art community portal

However, his largest current project is the User Community Portal, which was launched at Oracle OpenWorld 2015. Here, Scheirsen wants to take a step further. "We are changing the future of the global community. A new generation of Oracle users has taken the stage. They are highly connected and they are at home on the Internet." The portal feature list reads in

accordance with the zeitgeist: Event Calendar, Blogs, Twitter Wall, Status Updates à la Facebook, Groups Feeds, Polls. At the same time, the portal does not only address individual user group representatives. The new portal is aimed specifically at global end users.

"Ultimately, our goal is to promote the active groups and position them as part of a large global community." The benefits for user groups are also quite practical: Groups can promote their events and acquire members on their own pages within the portal. "Using a spotlight function, we also draw attention to new user groups and special events," explains Scheirsen. Four user groups had the opportunity to test the new portal in a beta version: JUG Africa, All India Oracle Users Group (AIOUG), Oracle Development Tools User Group (ODTUG), and the Oracle Academy.

Sponsorships for user groups

As Director User Group Relations EMEA, Scheirsen also supports the internationalization of user groups financially. In 2013, the Membership Initiative was launched. This is a global support program that rewards exceptional ideas for recruiting new members. Here, a committee of former user group representatives evaluates the quality of submitted proposals. "In the first round alone, the program generated more than 20,000 new contacts for the user groups," Scheirsen rejoices. In order to be eligible for funding, the topics of the user groups have to be aligned to the top Oracle campaigns: Cloud, Analytics or Systems.

Whether funding, international summits or community portal: The offer is aimed at Oracle user groups around the globe. *If you have not done so already, now is the right time to become involved!*





Heli Helskyaho

Ambassador's Corner

The EMEA Oracle User Group Community Leaders' Summit

The EOUC Leaders' Summit takes place in Bucharest, Romania, on June 7–9. The Ambassador election on June 9 is the top topic on the agenda. One day prior to the vote, the candidates have the possibility to introduce themselves. A committee of five members has planned the thematic organization for the remaining sessions.

Oracle OpenWorld: User Group Forum preparations in full swing

This year, the Oracle OpenWorld will take place from September 18–22 in San Francisco. As usual, the Oracle user groups take responsibility for the organization of the opening day, the User Group Forum, sharing lots of useful practical experiences and honest evaluations of Oracle products with the rest of the community.

Milena Gerova (BGOUG, Bulgaria) will help by counting the votes for the sessions that will represent the EMEA Oracle User Group (EOUC). We are again looking forwards to a very exiting lecture program! If you plan to attend the conference, don't forget to visit us in the exhibition!

OTN EMEA Tour

The OTN EMEA Tour has been conducted successfully from May 10-16 in four countries. Nine international speakers took part in the tour.

The Russian Speaking OTN Tour

We are looking for Russian speaking presenters for the next tour in Russia, Tajikistan and Latvia. In 2015 the tour was a great success and it will be even better this year. Anyone interested in presenting please contact Heli Helskyaho (heli@miracleoy.fi).



Janny Ekelson
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jekelson@fedex.com



Heli Helskyaho
OUGF (Finland)
heli@miracleoy.fi

What is an EOUC Ambassador?

With Heli Helskyaho (OUGF, Finland) and Janny Ekelson (OBUG, Benelux), the EOUC counts two ambassadors operating as central contacts for the EOUC informal network as well as for Oracle. In addition, the Ambassadors are responsible for EOUC activities and inform the participating groups at regular intervals on the happenings in the user group scene. The two EOUC ambassadors are elected by the EOUC members in a rotation principle for a two year term.



Call for Papers

UKOUG Apps16, JDE16 & Tech16

*December 5 – 7
Birmingham, UK*

Cfp: April – May 31
www.ukoug.org/conferences

DOAG Conference + Exhibition

*November, 15 – 18
Nuremberg, Germany*

Cfp: April 1 – June 8
<http://2016.doag.org/de/home/>

HrOUG 2016

*October 18 – 21
Rovinj, Croatia*

Cfp: May 1 – July 1
<http://2016.hroug.hr>
info@hroug.hr

Javaland 2017

*March 28 – 30, 2017
Cologne, Germany*

Cfp: June 21 – October 16
www.javaland.eu
office@javaland.eu



Events

Support Commission – Users training during the deployment

May 31
Paris, France
delegation@clubutilisateursoracle.org

UKOUG Hyperion & EPM Event 2016

June 16
London, UK
www.ukoug.org/2016-events/ukoug-hyperion-epm-2016

Software Asset Management

June 16
Paris, France
delegation@clubutilisateursoracle.org

AOUG Anwenderkonferenz 2016

June 21
Vienna, Austria
www.aoug.at/Event/388

Comparison between databases Standard Edition & Enterprise Edition

June 23
Paris, France
delegation@clubutilisateursoracle.org

Kcscope 16

June 26 – 30
Chicago, USA
<http://kscope16.com/>

UKOUG Applications' Journey to Cloud

July 7
London, UK
www.ukoug.org/2016-events/ukoug-applications-your-journey-to-cloud-2016/?utm_source=sidebar&utm_medium=banner&utm_campaign=cloud_c4p

DOAG Conference + Exhibition

November 15 – 18
Nuremberg, Germany
<http://2016.doag.org>



Collaborate 16: 1,400 Lectures in the Eldorado of Chance

It is regarded as the ultimate among the events of user groups and as the greatest conference of and for users within the Oracle universe: The Collaborate owes its popularity - it annually attracts around 20,000 international Oracle professionals to Las Vegas - not only to its venue in the middle of luxury hotels and casinos. The organizers offer within just five days an impressive 1,400 presentations in 17 parallel tracks. From April 10 to 14, the Oracle community met again in today's Eldorado of chance. We took a look at the eleventh consecutive Collaborate.



Year after year, more and more officials and members of various user groups from all over the world attend the Collaborate. Due to the geographical location of the venue, more than 20 user groups from North America, Canada and South America alone will be on the spot. Then there are the strongly growing groups from the EMEA region. For some years now, both the UK Oracle User Group (UKOUG), as well as the German Oracle User Group (DOAG) have been there annually.

193 countries worldwide

Since the beginning, the Collaborate has been serving as a platform and forum for Oracle database technologies and business applications. The target audience is made up of power users of Oracle products and decision-makers from the IT industry, from about 23 percent of all 193 recognized countries in the world.

A look at the registrations shows an increasingly exotic cross section: Among the participating countries are China, Iceland, India, Japan, Qatar, Malaysia, the Philippines, Trinidad and Tobago and the United Arab Emirates, for example. So there is no lack regarding internationality.

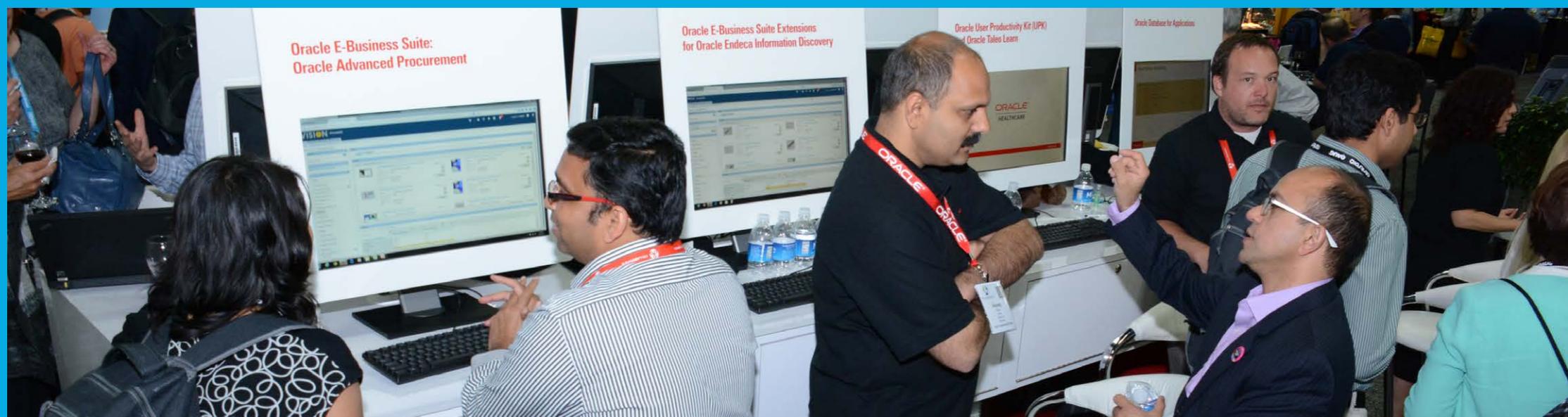
Also, the tracks of this year's conference could not have been more varied. Both trend and cornerstone topics of the community are equally covered: "Big Data", "Business Intelligence", "Cloud Computing", "Database", "Development Tools", "Engineered Sys-

tems", "HCM" and "Middleware", just to name a few.

Once more, in 2016, networking was a priority. For this reason, the organizers planned (beyond the scope of the formal program) various SIG meetings, a "Women in IT" lunch as well as a panel discussion on the topic, a "Young Professionals" forum, and more. It was also possible to talk to the development and marketing teams behind the Oracle products live and in persona. Here, participants had the chance to gather information about products, get first-hand tips and tricks, and see previews of new versions at any time.

New in 2016: "International Exploration Series"

In particular, the present user groups benefited from talking to other members, end users and each other. Most groups have identical problems, but they normally do not solve them together. Instead, everyone sits behind closed doors working on their own solutions. This year the AOUG (Austria), DOAG (Germany) and SOUG (Swiss) were involved in the local organization with the implementation of their own stream. With the newly created "International Exploration Series", end users of the EMEA region were specifically addressed for the first time in the history of the Collaborate. On two consecutive days of the conference, problems and solutions specific to Central European countries were discussed.





Johannes Ahrends

Exceptional Conference at Sea

From March 10-12, 2016, the Oracle User Group Norway Conference took place on a very special stage: the “Color Fantasy”, a ferry that crosses over between Oslo and Kiel. Johannes Ahrends, Managing Director at CarajandB GmbH and responsible for the topics Database Administration and Standard Edition at the German Oracle User Group DOAG was on board as a speaker. Here is his report from his experiences.

With the premises on the water, moving with constant speed between Oslo and Kiel, the conference offered quite an extraordinary backdrop. More than 300 participants and about 90 speakers formed a close community for 48 hours and talked about all kinds of issues present in the Oracle world. From Core Technology to APEX and Forms on to Business Solutions, participants were able to deepen their knowledge in up to seven parallel streams. Some presentations were in Norwegian, but the Scandinavians' very good command of the English language ensured that the international audience felt welcome. It seemed that all continents were represented. However, it was not easy to ensure the necessary attention for the presentations. Even though the quality was very high and the speakers were excellent – at least I can say so for the Core Technology topics – the participants often drifted off, gazing at the snowy Oslo Fjord through the glass side walls. In addition, participants could demonstrate their skills in four high quality racing simulators. Not too bad to clear one's

mind between extensive discussions. Because as usual, the breaks with conversations between speakers and participants offered a lot of entertainment and knowledge transfer.

Unforgettable Experience

Friday morning was a little calmer, when some participants took advantage of the short stopover in Kiel for a short detour on solid ground. Even the most exciting lectures could not stand up to the opportunity. However, the conference organizers had taken this into account and reduced the number of lectures on that morning. They did a really great overall job, I must say. When it was "Cast off" at 2:00 on Friday, the rooms filled up again.

My conclusion: An unforgettable experience that I was able to share with many nice people from all over the world. Ship O'hoi and many thanks to Ann-Sofie Often and Jon Petter Hjulstad and the entire Norwegian team.



ORAWORLD is a publication of the EOUC — EMEA ORACLE USERGROUP COMMUNITY

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