

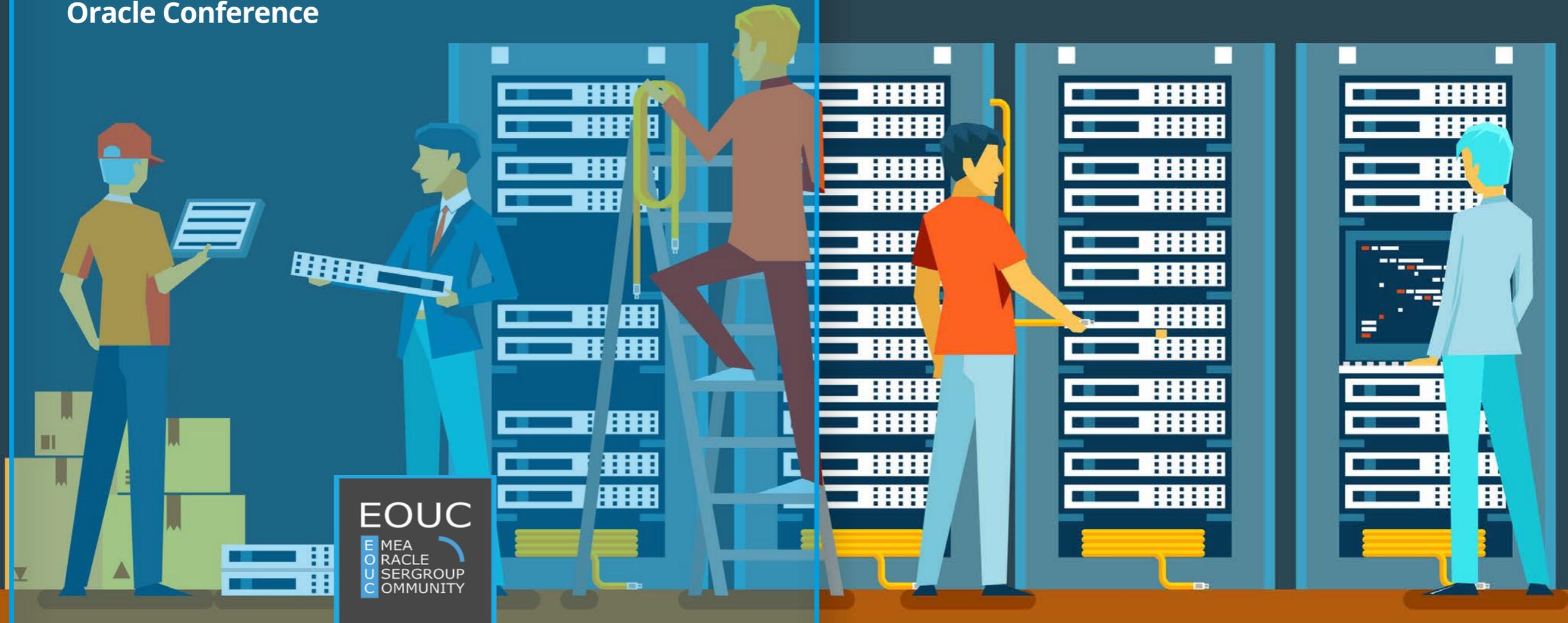
ORAWORLD

e-Magazine for Oracle Users published by the EOUC

Oracle & Java EE: The Story Continues

Next Generation IT: Current Status

BGOUG: A New Spin on the Oracle Conference





What's gonna happen with Java EE?

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Editorial

Dear Oracle User Group Community Members,

It is a great pleasure and honor for me to open this second edition of ORAWORLD Magazine, the voice of our EMEA Oracle User Group Community.

It was great to meet so many EMEA user group leaders at the EMEA user group leaders' summit held in Bucharest (Romania) last June. I strongly believe that the more we share our user group experiences, the better we can all benefit from each other, providing our users with improved offerings and solutions.

For those of you who are going to attend the upcoming Oracle OpenWorld conference in San Francisco, I would like to invite you to our traditional "Oracle User Group Forum" program on Sunday, September 18. This year we will have about 20 sessions led by well-known speakers from all over EMEA, plus the unique two-parts session, where Oracle ACEs from EMEA will share their favorite database features in our now traditional quick-fire sessions, arranged by Debra Lilley and Ralf Koelling.

The EMEA Oracle User Community will also have a booth in the exhibition area, so we invite you all to come and visit us, to share your thoughts and network with EMEA's user group leaders.

Again, I would like to thank the DOAG team for their wonderful work and the tremendous contribution to the success of this highly important user group magazine. Please share ORAWORLD Magazine and our website and invite your colleagues to subscribe for free or even contribute by submitting new content. I would like to remind you that we are especially interested in upcoming user group events, Call for Papers, successful conferences or any other useful information or interesting stories you would like to share with our Oracle user group community.

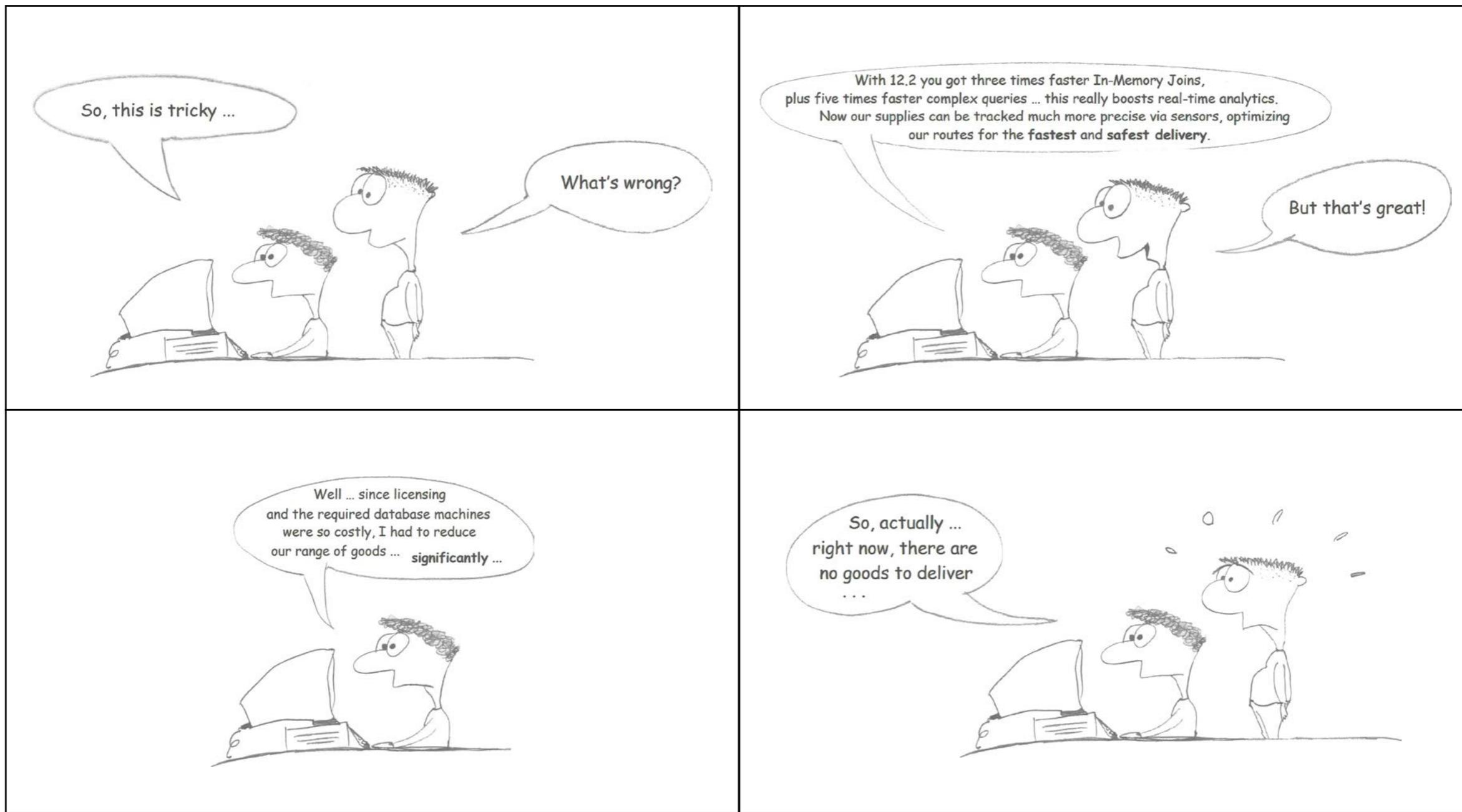
I am looking forward for your submissions and feedback.

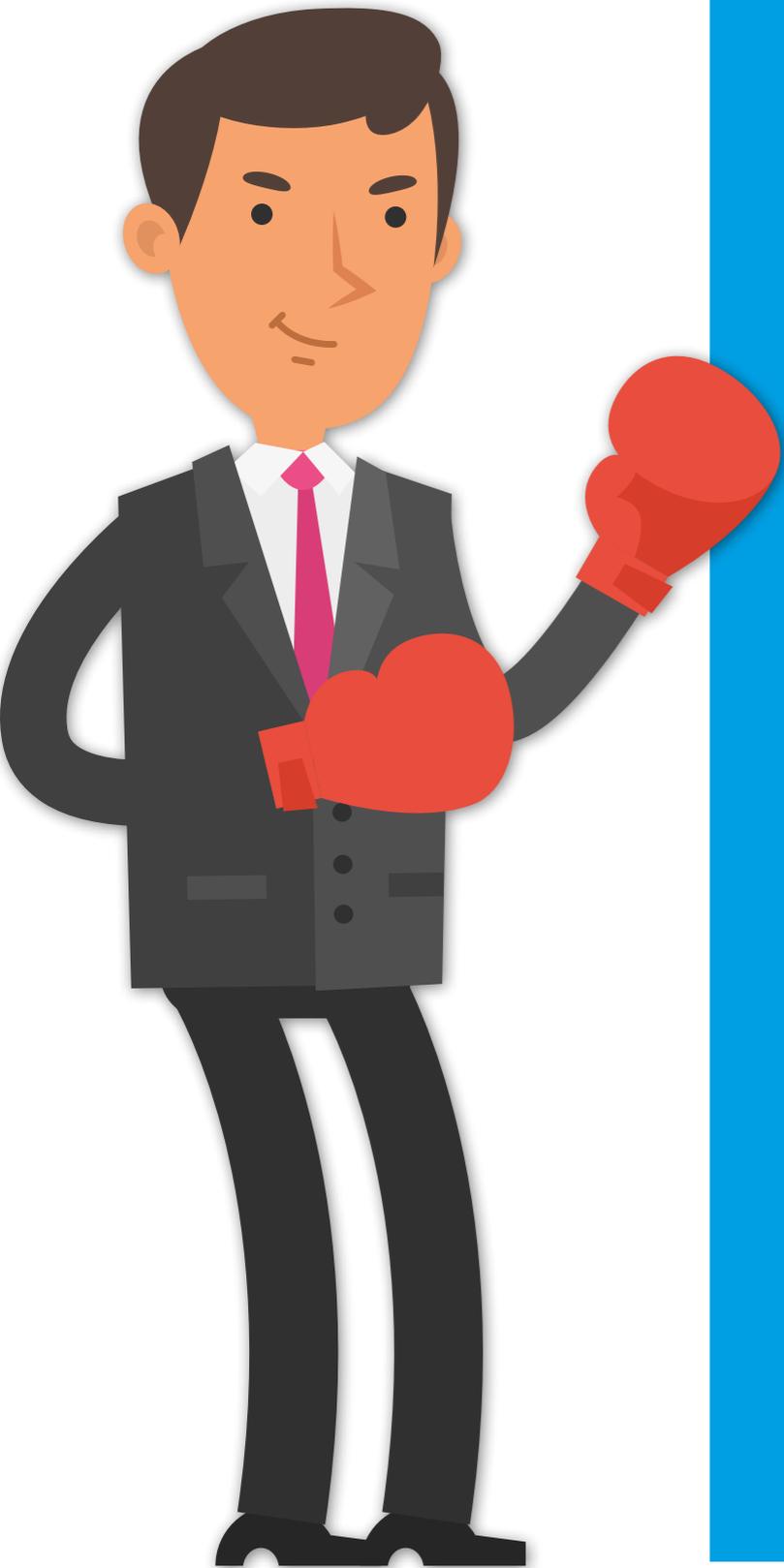
Yours,
Ami Aharonovich
iIOUG (Israel)



Ami Aharonovich
iIOUG (Israel)

The Downside of Database 12.2 Jan Peterskovsky





Number of the Quarter:

11,000

Showdown in Court: Oracle vs. Google

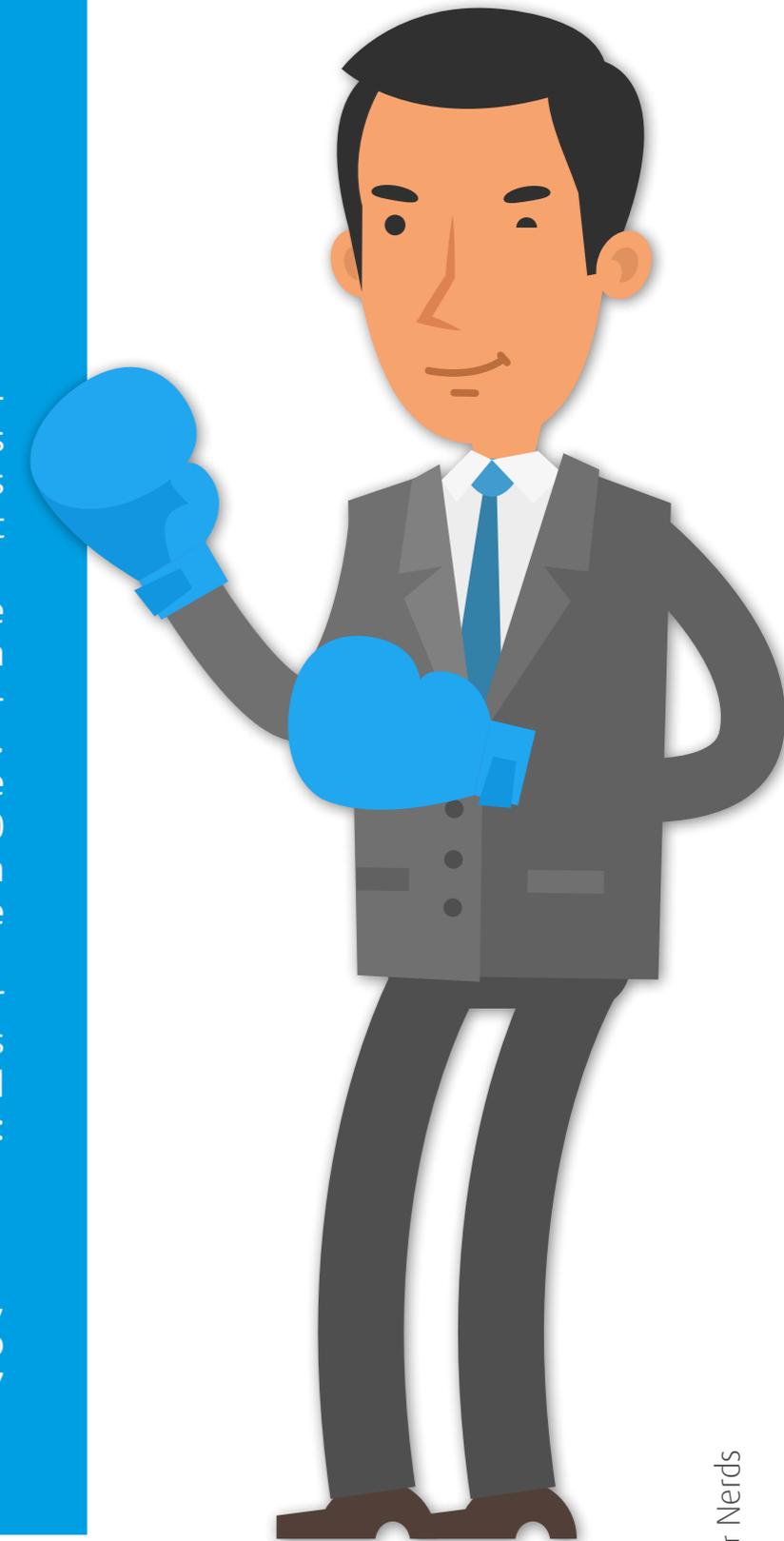
After a five-year legal dispute on several stages, Oracle recently argued that Google used copyrighted material in 11,000 of its 15 million lines of software code in Android OS, which powers most of the world's smartphones. Google, however, claimed that it made "fair use" of that code and owed nothing to Oracle.

When both parties met in court at the end of May, 2016, the jury had to decide the question whether Google's use of the Java code was „fair use“ under copyright law, or not. One way to answer that is to ask whether the amount of materials used (e.g. 11,000 lines of code) is substantial. Of course, Oracle and Google had different opinions on that matter: Google said that the 11,000 lines of Java code are less than 0.1 percent of Android's 15 million lines of code. Oracle, however, argued that it is more than all the code NASA used to control the Apollo moon landing.

The final verdict? The federal jury ruled unanimously in favor of Google, saying that Google's Android operating system does not violate copyright law, and thus meaning that Google can avoid paying royalties to Oracle. But that won't be the end of the story: Oracle vowed to appeal.

Oracle vs. Google

The quarrel between Oracle and Google started way back in 2010, right after Oracle acquired Sun Microsystems and the rights to Java patents. One year later, Oracle sued Google over its use of 37 Java APIs in its Android OS.





Sebastian Höing

Oracle and Java EE: The Story Continues

In recent months, Oracle lost quite some ground in the Java community. This can be attributed to their passiveness when it came to the future of Java EE, which the community often complained about. After some back and forth, and a wave of protests, including from the Java EE Guardians, this much is certain: The story continues. Nevertheless, Oracle has not yet announced how. In this interview, André Sept, Head of the DOAG Java Community, advises to be patient and explains why specifications, standards and processes are more important to the community than the technology.

André, after many protests and demands from the community, Oracle has recently promised that the development and support of Java EE would be continued. Time to be honest: Do you really believe in that?

At the moment I'm still unemotional about it. My advice is to wait until after the JavaOne Conference. What was last said online was indeed basically just to reassure the community. It wasn't a real statement. However, it is difficult how Oracle is responding to the matter. On the one hand, it is good to hear that they plan to continue, but it was similar with JavaFX: The community had problems to believe what Oracle was claiming.

Reading up on the latest news on the subject, one gets the impression that the development of Java and the community's influence are rather a tough matter. Is that correct?

Looking at the "Java Community Process" (JCP), to me, it seems that it's not that tough of a matter. I can familiarize myself at any time with Adopt-a-JSR and then engage in the Java EE topic. Here, it's less about Java policies, but really about the development. Here you can inform yourself, participate actively in discussions and cooperate. However, at the moment it's a viscous matter in so far as that the JCP currently lies idle due to the work of Oracle. Now, when something is being strategically prepared, an outsider will know nothing about it.

How can the community influence Oracle?

I'm a bit ambivalent here. If you look at the story of Sun Microsystems and the development process of the time, you have to say that Oracle is indeed more open about it than during the Sun times. But if you take recent developments into consideration, the whole story looks very different again. Now nobody knows exactly where they're heading towards. However, I don't want to be as gloomy about it as some have been in the community. Because, so far you can get involved in the Java User Group with the open JCP and Adopt-a-JSR, and work on the new Java standards.



André Sept
Head of the DOAG Java Community

What is your wish for the community?

That many people would still participate in Adopt-a-JSR and not bury their heads in the sand. The main thing is that people keep working on the subject, and keep their faith that it will go on.

Do you think that Oracle holds some surprises in store for the future of Java EE?

Not quite sure about that. But I would imagine that something could be happening. Perhaps we'll end up saying goodbye to the Java containers. To me, it doesn't matter under which platform Java EE runs. Whether it's WebLogic or any other container, like Docker, which runs in the cloud. My main concern is that the Java EE processes remain in the community. The good thing about them is the specifications and standards, not the Java EE technology itself.

What is your honest plea to Oracle?

I don't think that Oracle is aware of how many applications actually run with Java EE and how important Java EE is for companies, from a strategic point of view. That is really very annoying, because if I already have a standard, no matter what the technology, then it's worth gold.





Marina Fischer

“Improving Knowledge Together”: Tajikistan OUG Live Up to Their Slogan

Let's travel to one of the most eastern parts of the EOUC: Tajikistan! Having been founded in the autumn of 2014, the Tajikistan OUG (TAJOUG) is not only one of the youngest members of the Oracle user group community, but also one with lots of enthusiasm to share their knowledge and ideas with others. Read the interview with Rustam Khodjaev, TAJOUG's president, to learn more about your most eastern neighbor and their exciting plans for the future.

Why and when did you decide that Tajikistan needed an Oracle user group?

There were two main ideas in 2012/13 which led to the foundation of TAJOUG in the autumn of 2014: First, our small group of enthusiasts was wondering how to unite IT professionals, not via internet but through meetings in real life. Secondly, we understood that students need more practical knowledge and experience in regard to IT, as well as communication with IT professionals, which is why we thought it would be a good thing to organize meetings, seminars and conferences for both professionals and students.

How has your user group developed in the last two years?

Our very first conference took place on November 22, 2014. Since then, the number of events organized by TAJOUG has been constantly increasing: We organize annual conferences such as "Database Conf", "Java Conf", "Linux Conf" as well as an international conference – the "Tajikistan TechConf", which will be held for the second time this October. The number of our members is also growing: TAJOUG currently has about 70 members, most of whom are younger than 35 to 40.

What are the main goals of your user group?

Our aim is to unite professionals, specialists, fans of Oracle products as well as students, and provide them with a suitable plat-

form for sharing their experience. That is why our group's slogan is "Improving knowledge together".

Additionally, one of our main targets is to make IT popular among the younger generation, and to motivate young people to learn new and innovative technologies, in particular Oracle products. We have made the experience that once the students learn more about the Oracle Database, Java and Oracle Linux, they see that these products are used in all major companies in our country. This again helps them to understand that a good technical knowledge will provide them with perspective and high-paying jobs once they graduate. Their vision on IT is now changing, and even students who are not from the IT sphere join our group.

Third on the list is our aim to run "Oracle Academy" in universities and schools in Tajikistan. With support of Danny Gooris (Senior Manager Oracle Academy EMEA), Tom Scheirsen

(Director Oracle User Group Relations for APAC and EMEA), and Oracle Academy Russia, we were able to establish an educational program in two Tajik universities and a lyceum. Soon they will start to teach students and schoolchildren on Database and Java programming as per Oracle Academy program.

What are your plans for the upcoming years?

On the one hand, we would like to launch the Oracle Academy educational program in some other big universities and lyceums. In addition, we also plan to organize annual championships among IT specialists, students and children on Oracle Database, Java pro-



gramming, and Robotics. Regarding our conferences, we would like to establish our new annual “Robotics Conf”, which is supposed to attract young specialists to Robotics.

Last but not least, we hope to increase the number of women among our user group and among our board members. Due to the fact that opportunities for woman IT specialists are limited in Tajikistan, there are not many female IT specialists in our country. In order to change that we need to develop and introduce a new methodology and attractive programs for women which will give them a new opportunity for capacity building and career development particularly in the area of IT.

Do you already have existing collaborations with other user groups?

Yes, with Latvian OUG and Russian OUG. Last year we organized the first ever OTN Tour in Russian with them. This year we are also going to organize a mutual conference with them. We are ready and open to collaborate with all Oracle user groups!



Rustam Khodjaev
President TAJOUG (Tajikistan)

Twitter: @tajoug

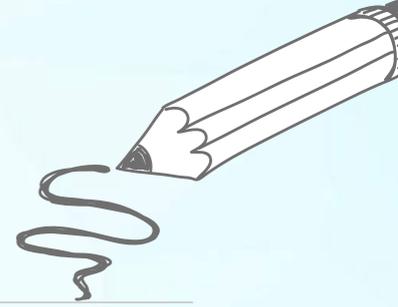
*facebook.com/
Tajikistan-Oracle-User-
Group-1021479171214505*

*[https://community.oracle.com/
groups/tajoug](https://community.oracle.com/groups/tajoug)*



Hi, my name is...

Heli Helskyaho



Who was your hero when you were young?

Elvis Presley

What was your favorite subject in school?

Mathematics

What did you want to be when you were little?

Author or actress

What are your hobbies?

Any kind of sports, cooking, reading, writing

Name three things you would bring to a deserted island:

I do not think I would survive without my phone :-D

What's your favorite...

- technical book? Any book by C.J.Date
- novel? Cannot name just one! Now reading detective stories.
- animal? Dog or cat
- color? Red
- food? Fish
- place on earth? Home! If that cannot be chosen then New York, Tokyo or Rome, depending on the day :-)

Your Twitter url

@helifromfinland

Your website/blog url

helifromfinland.wordpress.com



What do you do?

- CEO for Miracle Finland Oy
- PhD Student, researcher and lecturer at University of Helsinki
- Oracle ACE Director
- Ambassador for EOUC

Are you an Oracle User Group Member? If so, which one?

OUGF (Oracle User Group Finland) but actively attending other user group events too as a speaker

Since when are you a member?

2000 or 2001, cannot remember :-)

What made you become a member?

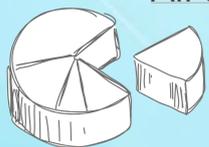
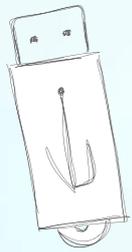
I left Oracle and wanted to join user group, at that time Oracle employees were not allowed to join

When was your first contact with Oracle technology?

Oracle Database 6

Which Oracle User Group would you like to meet, and why?

All of them!



Would you like to introduce yourself to the community as well? Then answer the questions and send us a photo to redaktion@doag.org

Cooperation Is the Power of Oracle User Groups

Marina Fischer

Heli Helskyaho is not only ambassador and representative of the EMEA Oracle Users Group Community, but also has been president of the Oracle User Group Finland for eight years now. In this interview, she tells us about her work of bringing user groups together, and how we can all benefit from cooperation and sharing our experiences across borders. In her opinion, one of the many good things about Oracle user groups all around the world is that “there is always somebody who can help you, and you do not have to experiment everything yourself and invent the wheel again, because somebody has already invented it.



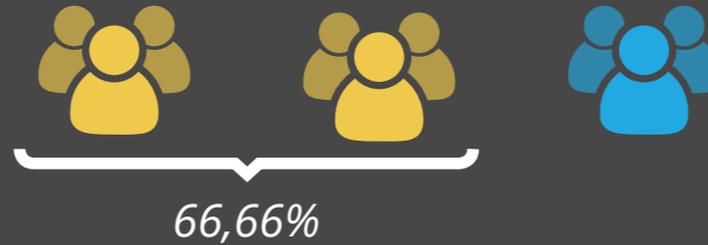
Marina Fischer

Next Generation IT: Current Status

Many countries nowadays suffer from a shortage of skilled IT staff. Skilled workers are becoming harder to find. What is the current state in the Oracle user groups? What do we do to attract more students and children towards IT? Twelve user groups from the EMEA region have participated in our survey. The following four pages illustrate the results.

Did you know that...

2/3 of the user groups asked stated that their country suffers from shortage of skilled IT staff.



What do OUGs do to attract future IT specialists?

Only **1/3** do have a program encouraging students or children to choose IT as their future field of profession, whereas **1/2** cooperate with schools or universities.



In school, computer science is taught in **92%** of the countries involved.



"Skilled people for specific niches and new technologies are hard to find."

"We are going to launch IT contests and championships to encourage students and children to learn IT"

"We invite students to help us in the conference halls while listening to the sessions."

"We have universities as members and cooperate with professors."

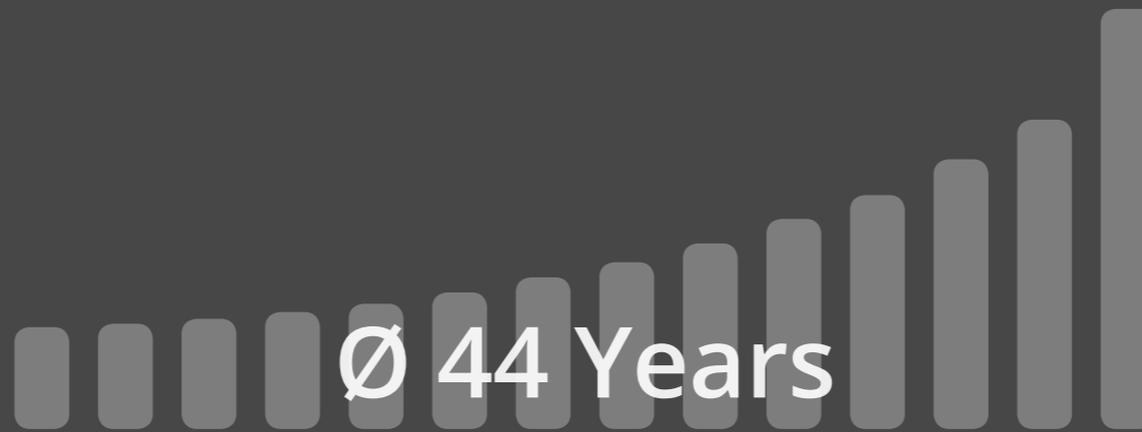
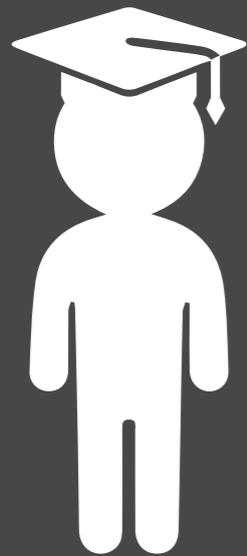
"Students get free tickets for our conferences."

"A two semester educational program in universities covers Oracle technologies."

"We are starting projects with refugees."



Are young IT specialists moving up to the OUG's board of directors?



22 Years

Youngest board member

68 Years

Oldest board member



35 Years

Average age of the „youngest“ OUG board

54 Years

Average age of the „oldest“ OUG board





Ambassador's Corner Heli Helskyaho

Dear user group leaders,
I hope you and your user group are doing well!

Real World Performance Tour

Is your user group interested in attending the Real World Performance Tour? If so, please contact Heli Helskyaho or Janny Ekelson as soon as possible.

Exciting Lectures of the Oracle Users Forum at Oracle OpenWorld

Oracle OpenWorld will take place on September 18-22 in San Francisco. EOUC will have several great presentations on Sunday at the Oracle Users Forum (<https://www.oracle.com/open-world/user-groups.html>). Make sure to attend these sessions and let your friends and colleagues know about them too!

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www.oraworld.org

Here is an overview of the EOUC lectures. Furthermore, EOUC will also have a booth in Moscone South – Database Showcase, Kiosk SDB-062. It will be open during the exhibition hours. Please come and visit us!

User Group Leaders' Summit 2016

The User Group Leaders' Summit will take place on Monday, November 14th, 2016 in Nuremberg, Germany, and is again

scheduled as a half-day meeting starting at lunchtime and ending with an evening reception for all attendees. For more information read the article on page 22.

I hope to see many of you at the Oracle OpenWorld!

Best regards,
Heli

Session	Title	Speaker
2630	EOUC Database ACES share their Favourite 'Database' Things - Part I	Debra Lilley (Certus Solutions) & Ralf Koelling (CGI Deutschland Ltd. & Co. KG)
4313	The Five Ways of Building Oracle Applications (Forms, APEX, ADF, JET, MAF)	Sten Vesterli (More Than Code)
2116	Introduction to the Big Data World	Heli Helskyaho (Miracle finland oy)
4586	What's new for machine learning with Oracle database and Hadoop	Eric Grancher (CERN)
2710	Migrating to 12c: 300 DBs in 300 days. What we learned.	Ludovico Caldara (Trivadis AG)
1149	Make your APEX Applications fly using JET components	Roel Hartman (APEX Consulting)
2706	Extending your backend Cloud Apps to Deliver your Front Office Needs PaaS/SaaS	Debra Lilley/Lonneke Dikmans
3678	Structuring an APEX application	Alex Nuijten (allAPEX)
1313	Single-Tenant 12c latest generation: the multitenant features for all editions	Franck Pachot (dbi services)
1127	My 13 DBA mistakes in 13 years	Julian Dontcheff (Accenture)
1450	Top tips for mastering the SOA Cloud Service	Robert van Mülken (AMIS Holding B.V.)
3506	Migration to ORACLE Database Cloud	Christian Trieb (Paragon Data GmbH)
1169	Real World experience with Oracle End-to-end Metrics	Lasse Jensen (EVRY)
1248	Okay, and now my database server crashed...	Jan Karremans (portrix.net GmbH)
4969	Exploring Oracle Database 12c Multitenant Best Practices for your Cloud	Ami Aharonovich (Dbaces-iloug)
4603	MAA with Fusion Middleware 12c and Oracle Database 12c: a Retail Case Study	Simon Haslam (eProseed) & Nikitas Xenakis (The Cooperative Group)
1269	Exploring Advanced SQL Techniques Using Analytic Functions	Zohar Elkayam (Brilix Ltd)







EOUC Leaders' Summit 2016 in Bucharest

Romania...

Marina Fischer

The Country of Vampires?

In her opening speech to this years' EOUC Leaders' Summit 2016, Mirela Ardelean, OUG Leader of Romania, introduced the attendees to her country and pointed out, jokingly, that there is no need to bring garlic with you when visiting Romania. From June 7 to 9, 2016, the user group leaders from 29 countries and 38 different user groups came together in Bucharest, Romania, for the EOUC Leaders' Summit. Again, the annual event was the perfect opportunity to network, share best practices, develop plans for working together – and to celebrate almost one million (936,600) Oracle user group members worldwide.

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Romania is indeed famous for the novel „Dracula“ by Bram Stoker, the Irish writer who made Transylvania, the historical region in the central part of Romania, more famous than any tourism promotion campaign ever could. However, the country has a lot more to offer: Romania is known for its great food, many historical buildings, beautiful landscapes – and very interesting sayings: Did you know that Romanians, linguistically speaking, do not have unusual ideas but „curly minds“ instead?

For the more than 50 attendees of this year’s EOUC Leaders’ Summit, the event was the perfect place to share and exchange their ideas on best practices and future collaborations with other user groups. One of the most prominent topics was the cloud, including talks and stories from Oracle as well as the European Commission and the Romanian Ministry of Communication and for the Information Society. In addition, the user group leaders were asked to take part in three „Power Round Tables“, in which they had the opportunity to discuss the journey to the cloud and share their experiences.

There were also many opportunities for networking and in-depth discussions about future collaborations. Oracle user group members in the EMEA region can look forward to several events, which will be planned and announced in more detail in the near future, including OTN Tour 2017, MySQL Tour 2017, Real Performance Tour 2017, and many more. In addition, Ralf Koelling from German OUC (DOAG), took the chance to invite all user group leaders to the „User Group Leaders’ Forum“, which will again take place during the DOAG 2016 Conference + Exhibition in Nuremberg, Germany, this November.

The EMEA Oracle User Group Community Leaders’ Summit takes place once per year. It is part of the Global User Group Leader Summit Tour, which takes place in Shanghai, Bucharest, Chicago, and Sao Paulo this year.



User Group Leaders' Summit 2016 & DOAG 2016 Conference + Exhibition Participation Granted by DOAG

The User Group Leaders' Summit will take place on Monday, November 14, 2016 in Nuremberg, Germany, and is again scheduled as a half-day meeting starting at lunchtime and ending with an evening reception for all attendees. After the event, the participants have the possibility to attend the DOAG 2016 Conference + Exhibition, one of the leading event in Europe for Oracle's database technology products. About 150 sessions will be presented in English, or simultaneously translated to English. The Conference takes place in Nuremberg from November 15th – 18th, 2016.

To promote the attendance the DOAG will grant one complimentary conference pass and provide a hotel room (three nights maximum) for one executive per attending user group.

The User Leader's Summit 2016 is thought to be an open and in-

dependent forum, where user groups share best practices and discuss emerging topics and concerns which arise in their daily work or which were brought up by their membership. Heli Helskyaho (OUGF, Finland) and Ralf Koelling (DOAG, Germany) as the appointed chairpersons of this forum invite all Oracle user groups to contribute. Of course Oracle representatives are also invited to participate. Proposals for the agenda should be addressed to the chairpersons.

For more information contact the chairpersons (Heli Helskyaho: heli.helskyaho@miracleoy.fi; Ralf Koelling: ralf.koelling@doag.org) or visit the website of the DOAG conference: <http://2016.doag.org/en/home>

This [video by DOAG.tv](#) shows some impressions of last year's meeting.



Participants of EMEA User Group Leader Summit 2016 subscribe for ORAWORLD magazine

Call for Papers

BGOUG Autumn Conference

November 11, 2016

Pravets, Bulgaria

CFP: September, 20

www.bgoug.org/en/events/details/98.html

Kscope17

June 25-20, 2017

San Antonio (Texas), USA

CFP: June 26- October 14, 2016

www.kscope17.com/submit-an-abstract



Events

JDK IO 2016

September 13-15, 2016
Copenhagen, Denmark
www.jdk.io

DOAG Financial Day

October 4-5, 2016
Stuttgart, Germany
<http://financialday.doag.org>

Nordic ACE Director Tour

October 11, 2016
Copenhagen, Denmark
www.nordicacetour.com

SOUG Day

September 20, 2016
Baden-Dättwil, Schweiz
sekretariat@soug.ch

Database Standard & Enterprise Edition compared offer

October 11, 2016
Paris, France
delegation@clubutilisateurs.org

Nordic ACE Director Tour

October 12, 2016
Oslo, Norway
www.nordicacetour.com

Exadata Exalogic implementation

September 27, 2016
Paris, France
delegation@clubutilisateurs.org

Sales forecasting / MRP / Production

October 11, 2016
Paris, France
delegation@clubutilisateurs.org

Nordic ACE Director Tour

October 13, 2016
Helsinki, Finland
www.nordicacetour.com

End-user support during deployment. Formation

September 27, 2016
Paris, France
delegation@clubutilisateurs.org

Primavera user Group

October 11, 2016
Paris, France
delegation@clubutilisateurs.org

Nordic ACE Director Tour

October 14, 2016
Stockholm, Sweden
www.nordicacetour.com

EPM/Hyperion user group – OOW debriefing session – SaaS inputs

September 27, 2016
Paris, France
delegation@clubutilisateurs.org

Public sector user group – Dematerialized invoices

October 11, 2016
Paris, France
delegation@clubutilisateurs.org

Connect Conference 2016

October 16-18, 2016
Port Edward, South Africa
www.connectconference.co.za

Migration 9.2 – PeopleSoft Update Manager

October 18, 2016
Paris, France
delegation@clubutilisateurs.org

BGOUG Autumn Conference

November 11 -13, 2016
Pravets, Bulgaria
www.bgoug.org/en/events/details/98.html

UKOUG Applications Conference & Exhibition 2016

December 5 – 7, 2016
Birmingham, UK
www.apps16.ukoug.org

HrOUG 2016 - Annual Croatian OUG conference

October 18 - 22, 2016
Rovinj, Croatia
www.connectconference.co.za

User Group Leader's Summit 2016

November 14, 2016
Nuremberg, Germany
heli.helskyaho@miracleoy.fi or ralf.koelling@doag.org

UKOUG JD Edwards Conference & Exhibition 2016

December 5 - 7, 2016
Birmingham, UK
www.jde16.ukoug.org

SOUG Day - Romandie

November 8, 2016
Lausanne, Schweiz
sekretariat@soug.ch

DOAG 2016 Conference & Exhibition

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

UKOUG Technology Conference & Exhibition 2016

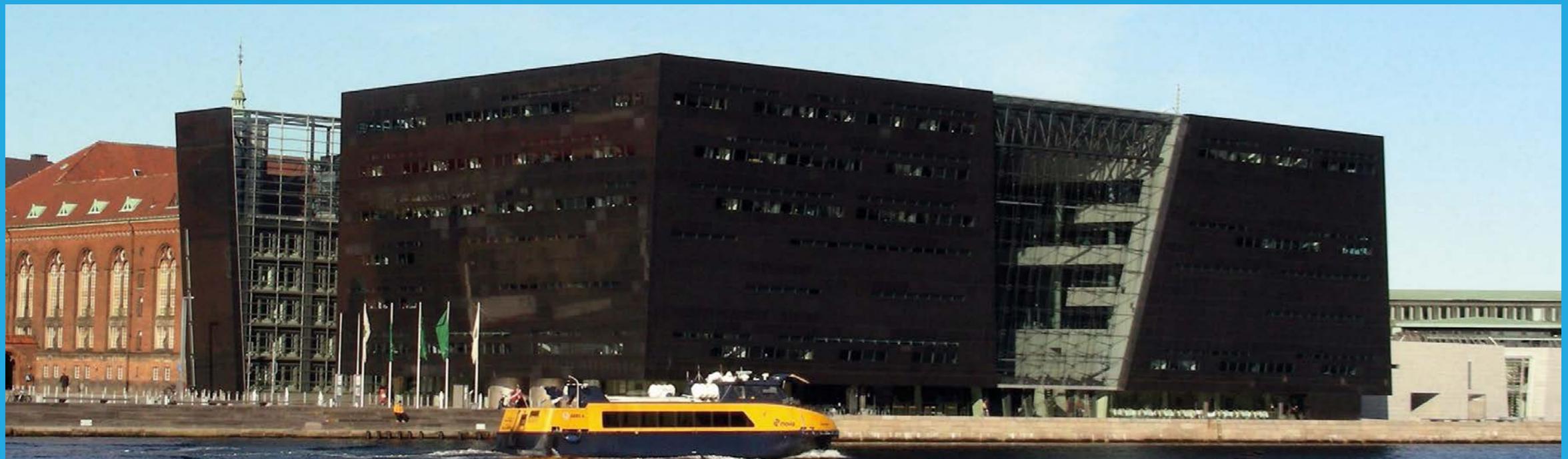
December 5 - 7, 2016
Birmingham, UK
www.tech16.ukoug.org

ITOUG Autumn Event

November 11, 2016
Milano, Italy
www.itoug.it

Schweizer Abend @ DOAG

November 15, 2016
Nuremberg, Germany
sekretariat@soug.ch



JDK IO is a conference that focuses on technical topics and on the ecosystem surrounding Java: programming language, platform, frameworks, virtual machine, enterprise service frameworks (JEE & Spring). The event consists of two days conference and one workshop day. It will take place from October 13-15, 2016 in Copenhagen, Denmark. JDK IO



BGOUG Conference

Jože Senegačnik & Mirela Ardelean

The twice-yearly meeting of the Bulgarian Oracle User Group is definitely a phenomenon in the Oracle universe. Set in beautiful countryside, the conference attracts many young people and even whole families. Through the past 15 years, it has grown successively and has become an international event. Two regular participants talk about their experiences.

Jože Senegačnik

My first visit to BGOUG goes back to April 2009 when the conference took place in Pamporovo, a well-known skiing resort south of Plovdiv. At the time, unlike today, only few international presenters were speaking at BGOUG.

I have always been amazed at how many young people attend the conference. Not just individuals, but whole families and even children participate in the famous Friday night party – a unique approach which cannot be found at many conferences. The fact that the two-day conference is organized twice per year also attracts many people.

The topics covered are very comprehensive and technical. In my opinion this is one of the reasons why the conference attracts so many young people starting their professional career. Generally, the number of participants is growing steadily, which is also a trend hard to achieve!

Mirela Ardelean, RoOUG (Romania)

It was in 2010 – one post on LinkedIn attracted my attention: BGOUG invited us to participate in their spring conference. I was curious to check the agenda and ... wow! Tom Kyte was one of the speakers. So I convinced our manager to support the undertaking and persuaded three other colleagues to join me. After a five hours drive – yes, Bucharest is close to the Bulgarian border – we reached Plovdiv, the town where the conference took place.

But... bad news first: Tom Kyte was not able to participate in person due to an ash cloud produced by the eruption of a sub-glacial volcano in Iceland. Instead, he gave his speech via the internet, which was quite interesting! I learned a lot of new stuff during the event – the presentations of Julian Dontcheff, Patrick Wolf and Tim Hall were especially impressive. What I liked most was the fact that the presentations were purely technical and the audience was quite active, asking many questions.

The conference is so popular, attendees have a tradition of visiting as many as they can; for counting how many conferences someone has attended, BGOUG builds its own scale: bronze level, silver level, gold level, platinum level. I am still at bronze level – that means less than eleven conferences. But one day I will reach silver status!





Harmony Conference Luis Marques

Harmony is by definition a quality of forming a pleasing and consistent whole. And that is a great fit for what happened this year at Harmony16 – a full world of Oracle speakers and participants placed in the middle of an unspoilt beach, a wild forest, and the Baltic Sea, sharing their knowledge and expanding their network in a building that used to be a bank training centre from 1963.

The first day started with the typical Finnish warm welcome, followed by the opening keynote. Opening keynotes are always difficult, since the speaker wants to get the participants ready for what is coming – therefore, the topic has to be chosen wisely. This time it was “Database Consolidation”, a very popular topic amongst the participants, especially the „core“ ones.

Three tracks covered topics like Core Technology, APEX, SQL, Big Data and Analytics, Business Applications, and Linux. Most of the talks were in English (which was no problem for the Finns, as they are very good at English), while there was also the opportunity to attend some very good talks in Finnish.

Some of the sessions were quite active, as question breaks regularly followed presentation phases, which helped to keep the speaker and the participants connected.

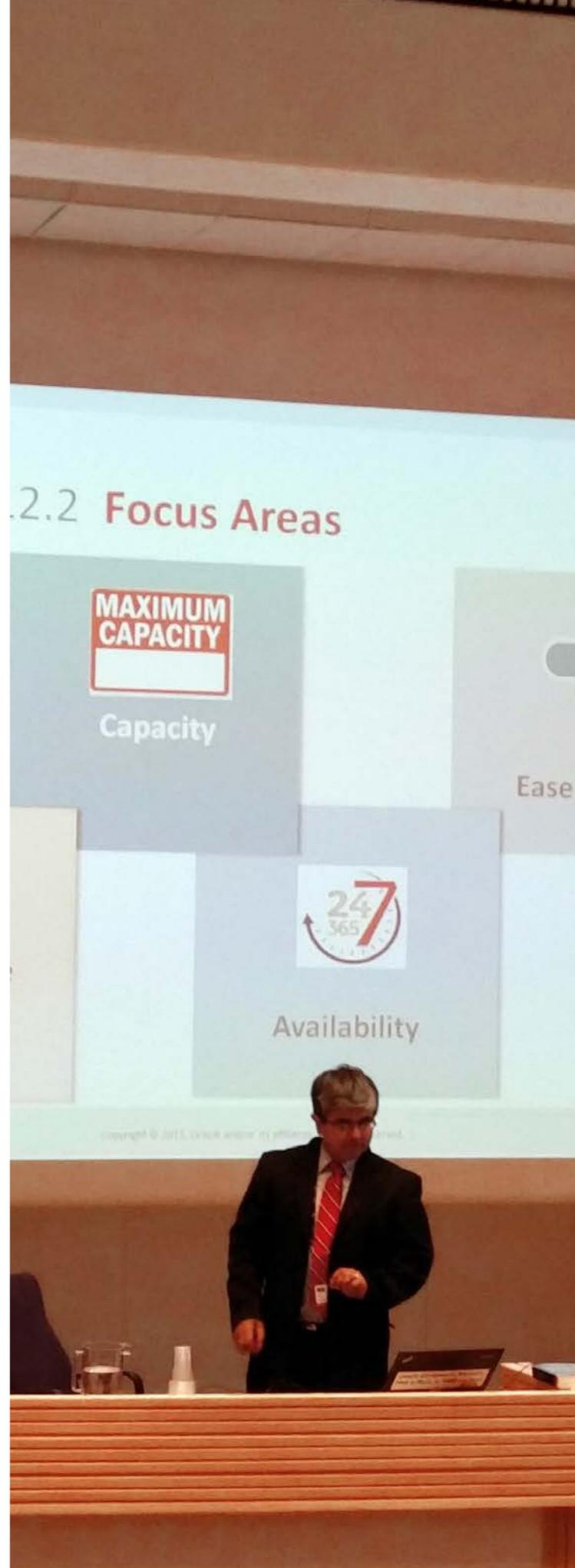
Dinner was followed by another fun event: the „Escape Room Games“. Random teams (a good idea for expanding the network) had to find a way to escape a room by finding a common code. Both brain and brute force strategies were in place by the participants, but according to the organizers nobody was able to escape before the clock. The Oracle community needs to improve on this, for the next Harmony Conference.

For those who wanted, sauna and drinks were available. Networking continued for long hours.

On day two, the perfect organization of this event became apparent. Pasi Jaakkola and his team were able to mobilize an Oracle Vice President for Data and In-Memory to speak about Sparc „In Silicon“ and „In Memory“.

And what is good usually ends very fast — it was an excellent conference with a top organization team, topped by the typical Finnish style. Thumbs up!

Some pictures can be found on Twitter using hashtag [#Harmony16](#).



OTN EMEA Tour Ciprian Onofreiciuc Stops in Bucharest

For the third year in a row, local Oracle user groups from the EMEA region have cooperated to organize a tour of the region: Oracle Technology Network (OTN) Tour. This year, the tour stopped in Dusseldorf (Germany), Milan (Italy), Baku (Azerbaijan), and finally Bucharest (Romania).



Ciprian Onofreiciuc
RoOUG Board (Romania)



On May 16, 2016, it was time for the OTN Tour to come to Bucharest. It was the fourth OTN EMEA Tour event of this year, this time with local support by Romanian Oracle User Group (RoOUG) and Bucharest University of Economic Studies. At the same time, the all-day event was the first big event organized by RoOUG and had a lot to offer: Oracle Ace Directors Christian Antognini, Joel Perez, Julian Dontcheff, Mark Rittman, and Bjoern Rost presented lots of interesting talks on the topics Cloud, BI, and RDBMS. In total, twelve sessions were delivered to almost 100 enthusiastic attendees.

All of the five Oracle rock stars were in Romania for the first time, but the location and the main hall of the event – the majestic Aula Magna of Bucharest University – doubled by a smooth organization of RoOUG and the university have made a lasting impression. Joel Perez later said: “I can highlight many things of this event but my top two are these: the place chosen for this event was amazing, special and elegant. The second one was the session’s organization, which was great from the beginning to the end.” Julian Dontcheff shared his impressions as well: “I got some of the most exciting and interesting questions from the audience I can ever think of. Everyone was so engaged during the presentations!”

According to Christian Antognini, all local OUGs did a good job: “I had the great pleasure to be part of the OTN EMEA Tour in Milan, Baku and Bucharest. Despite the obvious differences due to the three rather different cities and countries, at every location I experienced more similarities than differences. I was warmly welcomed by both the organizers and the attendees, and had the chance to talk with attendees that were eager to learn something new and to share their experiences in a specific area with me.”

However, OTN Tour is not dedicated only to guest speakers, but also to local speakers. One of the Cloud sessions was deliv-

ered by Horia Berca, Cloud Knowledge Management Expert at Oracle Romania, who talked about Oracle Database Public Cloud Service: “The session was quite interactive, I’ve received a bunch of good questions from the audience. The event was spiced with many good surprises from the organizers and was one of a kind in the current Oracle technologies landscape in Bucharest. Well done to all involved and hope to see you again next year!”

To conclude, we may say that hosting the OTN Tour is a good opportunity for OUGs, especially for small or new ones, to promote themselves, to become well-known in Oracle communities, and to increase the number of their members. We encourage any OUG to register to host such a great event!

How to become a host of OTN Tour?

Local Oracle user groups first need to register to host the tour on otnemea.com. From all the candidates, usually three or four destinations are selected. After the selection process follows a call for paper, the selection of speakers, approval of expenses, and travel arrangements. Then, the selected Oracle user groups start their main role: to organize the event.



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Editorial board:

Registered office: DOAG Dienstleistungen GmbH
Tempelhofer Weg 64, 12347 Berlin, Germany
www.doag.org,
Director Fried Saacke,
AG Berlin Charlottenburg HRB 95694B,
VAT ID DE240700058
Contact: redaktion@doag.org
Editor-in-chief (ViSdP): Dr. Dietmar Neugebauer

Other authors (in alphabetical order):

Ami Aharonovich, Mirela Ardelean, Mylène Diacquenod, Marina Fischer, Heli Helskyaho, Sebastian Höing, Rustam Khodjaev, Luis Marques, Ciprian Onofreiciuc, Jan Peterskovsky, Jože Senegačnik, André Sept

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