

Database Extension: StorHouse and Oracle

Empowering Oracle Database Applications with StorHouse

StorHouse Benefits

■ New Business Insight

Detail data is required to develop new insights into customers, products, competitors and suppliers. Extending an Oracle database with StorHouse makes new, advanced business intelligence applications possible.

■ Enhanced CRM

The most popular Customer Relationship Management applications use Oracle. Effective CRM also requires historical data from every customer touch point. Together, Oracle and StorHouse can provide the required performance and scalability to satisfy the needs of these mission-critical applications.

■ Rapid Information Access

StorHouse-managed data is online and available to Oracle applications when it is required. StorHouse provides data without the delays usually associated with offline storage.

■ Reduced IT Costs

StorHouse extends Oracle databases to significantly reduce storage, storage management, and systems and database administration costs.

Oracle applications can transparently access terabytes-to-petabytes of enterprise-wide detail data managed by FileTek's StorHouse® data and access management system. StorHouse technology uniquely combines relational database management software with system management software that automatically administers a virtual hierarchy of diverse storage devices, including RAID, SATA RAID, Massive Arrays of Idle Disks (MAID), and erasable and WORM tape. StorHouse is the only storage management system capable of providing direct, row-level access to relational data on removable media such as tape. Oracle users can enjoy the benefits of StorHouse scalability, availability, accessibility, manageability, and cost-effectiveness while protecting their current investments in Oracle applications.

Why Use StorHouse?

Customer Relationship Management (CRM), eBusiness, Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and Data Warehousing initiatives put increasing demands on database technologies, including the requirement to manage and access massive amounts of information in a timely fashion. Analysts project that demand for information will rise over 100% per year for the next several years, with eBusinesses experiencing a 400% growth. In addition, complex queries and rapidly growing transaction volumes require new and more efficient querying methods. Together, Oracle and StorHouse offer an approach that leverages their respective strengths and eliminates the need to either aggregate detail data or offload it to tape archives that are practically inaccessible.

How Oracle and StorHouse Integrate

FileTek's database extension solution for Oracle enables users to access StorHouse tables directly from Oracle applications. StorHouse tables are simply defined as database links to Oracle using standard Oracle database administration and ODBC tools. Administrators can build views of StorHouse tables and use table synonyms. These views and synonyms shield users from needing to know where database tables actually reside. Oracle stored procedures, functions, and triggers are also supported.

Figure 1 depicts an Oracle query that joins customer information in an Oracle database with transaction data (for example, purchase information, clickstream data, or telephone call detail records) managed by StorHouse.

Technical Benefits

Investment Protection

Customers continue to use existing Oracle applications, DBA training and procedures, as well as Oracle hardware and software platforms.

Ease-of-Use

Oracle and StorHouse integration is straightforward and uses standard interfaces available from Oracle and FileTek.

Database Performance

StorHouse, rather than Oracle, manages historical, detailed transaction data. An Oracle database can be trimmed of extraneous data to improve its performance.

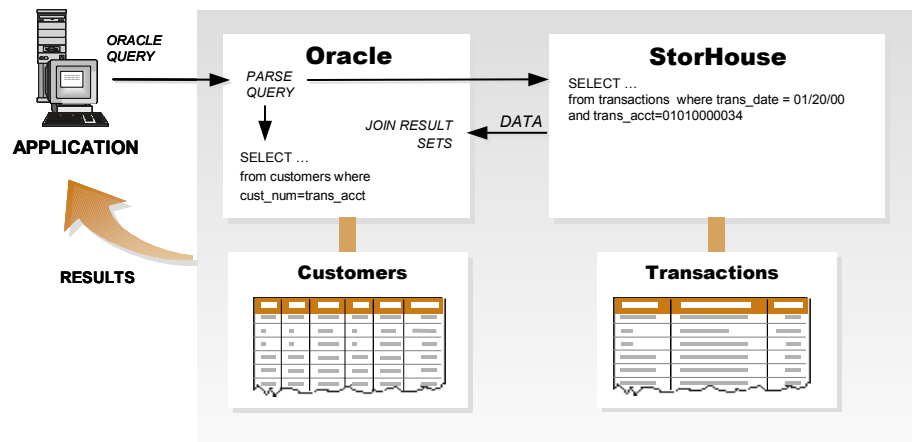
Reduced Backup Window

The volume of data Oracle manages can be reduced to minimize database backup windows. StorHouse automatically creates its own backups.

Network Performance

Applications selectively access only the data required to satisfy a request, not whole files of unrelated information. Less data is moved around corporate networks.

```
SELECT ...
from transactions, customers where trans_date = 01/20/00
and trans_acct=01010000034, and cust_num=trans_acct
```



1. Issue Oracle query
2. Oracle parses query
3. Query dispatched to Oracle and StorHouse tables
4. Each database processes query
5. Answer sets returned
6. Oracle joins results
7. Final result set returned to application

Figure 1: Application View

How Oracle Accesses StorHouse

Oracle/StorHouse connectivity requires Oracle 8i, release 2 (or higher) and FileTek's ODBC driver software. When Oracle parses a query, it passes StorHouse components, including predicates, directly to a StorHouse database. If a query involves data that resides only in StorHouse tables, StorHouse processes the query and returns the result set back to Oracle. Join processing for StorHouse tables occurs on StorHouse. When a query requires a join between tables on StorHouse and tables in an Oracle database, Oracle breaks the query into sub-queries and pushes them and their associated predicates to StorHouse where they are processed. StorHouse returns the result set to Oracle, which completes the join with Oracle tables.

Summary

It is rarely practical to manage all enterprise-wide detail data in a single Oracle database. Yet companies and Government agencies frequently require these important details for critical decision-making, customer care initiatives, regulatory compliance, and vendor management. Together, Oracle and StorHouse enable these processes by managing business details efficiently on StorHouse and retaining easy access to them through an Oracle application.

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