Prerequisites for the Oracle dashboard

Platform

The dashboard runs on any version of Windows (32-bit or 64-bit). Oracle database versions 9.2.0 and later are supported. The databases can be on any platform and virtual machines are fine.

Hard Drive Space

15MB free space if JRE is installed or 90MB if JRE is not installed.

Display

Color monitor at 1024x768 or higher resolution. Optimal resolution is 1280x1084 on a standard display and 1600x900, 1680x1050 or 1920x1080 on a widescreen display. The dashboard should display correctly when the resolution is set to the native resolution for the screen. The dashboard panels no longer attempt to resize components such as fonts and buttons to improve the appearance on non-native resolutions as there are too many for it to be practical.

Java

If you already have Java on your machine the dashboard will use it. If the Java version is too old it will ask you to download and unzip the JRE that is on the dashboard's download page. This does not change your environment so it is perfectly safe.

Perl

The Perl scripts use Perl modules that are bundled with the distribution so there is nothing to install.

Oracle Client

The dashboard uses JDBC for most of its queries so these can run without the Oracle Client. However some panels such as the SQL*Plus and Explore require the Oracle Client (a version with sqlplus.exe).

Database schema

To get the full features of the dashboard the installation script will ask your permission to create a small schema in a host database and a very small schema in each target database. Without this the basic features will still work but it will not give you the comparative listings across databases which is a valuable feature.

Installation

The person installing this software should be the database administrator. The installation tasks must be performed on a Windows machine where the Oracle Server is installed (XE is fine) or the Oracle Client is installed (use a version which includes sqlplus). The installation script looks for a tnsnames.ora file. If it finds one it uses each alias in the tnsnames file to construct the CONNECT strings in CTLFILE2. So the ideal tnsnames file is one which contains all your databases. If the installer found no tnsnames.ora file then you will have to fill in the CONNECT column in CTLFILE2 yourself. But it doesn't take long. The dashboard does not need a tnsnames file to run, it uses the CONNECT strings in CTLFILE2.

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