DAL: How to Access Different ORACLE Instances

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TOPIC --

We're actively implementing DAL on a VAX/VMS system to access ORACLE
databases. We have an "instance" of ORACLE that is used for "production",
and another instance that is used for test purposes.

How can we configure DAL (either in the LOGIN.COM, or DAL PREFERENCES file,
or whatever) so that we can seamlessly choose whether to access the test or
production version of ORACLE?

DISCUSSION ---

Although Oracle allows you to configure more than one ORACLE database on a
VAX, a given VMS user sees one system-wide ORACLE database, and Data Access
Language provides access to that database.

Instances refers to the detached processes that provide ORACLE users with
read and write access to the database and to the area of shared VMS memory
where data is cached for quick access. Because multiple instances can
exist on the same CPU or within a VAX cluster, every instance must be
identified by a unique system identifier (SID). The current value of the
logical ORA_SID identifies the SID of the instance that will access the
database when you start the ORACLE system.

Please consult ORACLE Installation and User's Guide for accessing multiple
instances, but generally when more than one system is running, ORACLE 5.x
users will connect to the database that is indicated by the current value
of ORACLE$SID. ORACLE 6.x depends on a line in the LOGIN.COM file which
defines the default instance and database. It looks like this:

  $ @device:[directory]orauser_nodename_orasid

where nodename_orasid is the name of the node where you will access
ORACLE and the SID of the ORACLE instance accessed.

Once you set up ORACLE correctly for multiple instances access, the only
thing you have to do for DAL is described in the following Tech Notes:

The DAL V1.2 Oracle database adapter as supplied is linked with Oracle
Image Identifier "S". If your installation has selected a different image
identifier, then two assign statements must be supplied in either the
system login file or the user's login file in order to point DAL to the
correct Oracle images:

        Oracle V5.1.22

                $assign/nolog device:[directory]ORACLEx.EXE ORACLES
                $assign/nolog device:[directory]ORACRTLx.EXE ORACRTLS
                                                      ^
                Where "x" is the Oracle Image --------|
                Identifier.

        Oracle V6.0

                $assign/nolog device:[directory]ORACLEx.EXE ORACLES
                $assign/nolog device:[directory]ORACRTLx.EXE ORA_CRTLS
                                                      ^
                Where "x" is the Oracle Image --------|
                Identifier.

Keywords: <None>

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