

CONNECT INTERNAL Desupport

Oracle Security Product Management

THE GOAL

The `CONNECT INTERNAL` feature and command/syntax in the Oracle database will no longer be supported in Oracle8i Release 8.2 and onwards.

WHY THIS FEATURE (AND ITS SYNTAX) IS BEING DESUPPORTED

There are too many methods by which an Oracle user can connect as a DBA user type. Thus, the potential number of vulnerabilities associated with these connection types also increases. To maintain homogeneity across all Oracle product platforms, to minimize the risk of identification and authentication security bugs and to provide stricter accountability of DBA user type connections, `CONNECT INTERNAL` will be desupported in Oracle8i Release 8.2 and onwards.

`AS SYSDBA` and `AS SYSOPER` will be the only types of connections by which a user can connect to Oracle8i Release 8.2 as a DBA user.

HISTORY

The discussion on the desupport of `CONNECT INTERNAL` was initiated in 1997.

`CONNECT INTERNAL` has also been on the deprecated features list as early as Oracle7. For example, the Oracle7 Release 7.3, Server Administrator's Guide had the following writeup on page 1-6:

“The following method for authenticating database administrators replaces the `CONNECT INTERNAL` syntax provided with earlier versions of the Oracle7 Server (`CONNECT INTERNAL` continues to be supported for backwards compatibility only).”

This warning has been repeated in subsequent guides as well. It should also be noted that the Oracle8i Administrator's Guide does not mention `CONNECT INTERNAL` as a method by which an Oracle user can make a privileged DBA user type connection.

The desupport of `CONNECT INTERNAL` will be put into effect in Oracle8i Release 8.2, so please read the following sections in detail as they elaborate upon the impact that this desupported feature may (or will) have on your Oracle installations.

WHAT IS CONNECT INTERNAL?

CONNECT INTERNAL is one of the commands that the Oracle database server interprets as a request from a user to connect (logon) as a database administrator (DBA) user. A DBA user is one of three types of user that Oracle recognizes. The other two types are OPER user and normal user.

HOW CAN I CONNECT AS A DBA USER ON UNIX?

There are three current methods by which you can connect to the database as a DBA user:

1. CONNECT INTERNAL
2. CONNECT / AS SYSDBA
3. CONNECT USERNAME/PASSWORD AS SYSDBA

Only the CONNECT INTERNAL method is scheduled to be desupported in Oracle8i Release 8.2.

HOW CAN I CONNECT AS A DBA USER ON WINDOWS NT ONLY?

There are four current methods by which you can connect to the database as a DBA user on NT:

1. CONNECT INTERNAL
2. CONNECT INTERNAL/PASSWORD
3. CONNECT / AS SYSDBA
4. CONNECT USERNAME/PASSWORD AS SYSDBA

Both CONNECT INTERNAL and CONNECT INTERNAL/PASSWORD are scheduled to be desupported in Oracle8i Release 8.2.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CONNECTING INTERNAL AND CONNECTING AS SYSDBA?

None; there is no difference once you have connected to the database. As far as Oracle is concerned, whether you CONNECT INTERNAL or AS SYSDBA, you are connected as a DBA user.

I USE CONNECT INTERNAL EVERYWHERE AND ALL THE TIME. WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO AVOID USING IT?

If you have connected to the database using Server Manager (Line Mode), replace all your CONNECT INTERNAL commands with CONNECT / AS SYSDBA

If you have connectd to the database using SQL*Plus /NOLOG, replace all your CONNECT INTERNAL commands with CONNECT / AS SYSDBA.

NOTE

- Server Manager will be desupported in Oracle8i Release 8.2 as well. As such, SQL*Plus will be able to support the following syntax:
 - SQLPLUS / AS SYSDBA
 - SQLPLUS / AS SYSOPER
 - SQLPLUS USERNAME/PASSWORD AS SYSDBA
 - SQLPLUS USERNAME/PASSWORD AS SYSOPER

WHERE CAN I GO FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Contact Oracle WorldWide Support with your enquiries.