Oracle Application Express (APEX): Overview

**Presenter’s Name**

Presenter’s Title
Organization, Division or Business Unit
Month 00, 2019
Data – The World’s Most Valuable Resource

Data driven organizations are 23 times more likely to acquire customers, 6x as likely to retain those customers, and 19x as likely to be profitable as a result. ³

“Information has replaced technology as the central and most critical asset to be managed by organizations. As a result, business leaders must shift to using the value of information as basis for new planning & funding models.”

- Doug Laney, Research Vice President, Gartner ⁴

Uber is Worth 70X More Than Hertz – Uber is 52% corporate transport market share compared to rental cars total of 33% in Q4/16¹

$430B Advantage to Data Driven Organizations²

Source:
1. wolfstreet.com
2. IDC
3. McKinsey Global Institute
4. Gartner

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Managing Data in Spreadsheets Is Challenging

Data Validation – Manual and error prone

Data Integrity – Cannot guarantee accuracy of data in multi-user environment

Data Security – Cell locking is ineffective

Data Sharing – Excel is sluggish and hard to share

- Error Prone Manual Involvement: 95%
- Outdated / Data Silo: 38%
- Ineffective Data Redaction: 60%
- Too Slow and Too Hard to Share: 33%

Source: Oracle Internal Survey
Demonstration
Introduction
What Is Oracle APEX?

A low-code development platform that enables you to build scalable and secure enterprise apps with world-class features that can be deployed anywhere.
Oracle APEX

Database-centric web application development framework

Develop desktop and mobile web apps

Visualize and maintain database data

Leverage SQL Skills and database capabilities
Distinguishing Characteristics

App Development IDE is a web browser.

App definitions are stored in the database as meta data.

Page generation is efficient with only one request and one response.

No client software needed

Declarative – No code generation

Data processing done in the Database
Rapidly develop, customize, and deliver

Pre-built controls for security, authentication, database interaction, validation, session management and more...

Go from prototype to production in minutes
Modern, intuitive, accessible UI for any device
fully customizable and responsive apps
No-Cost Feature of the Oracle Database

• No-cost **fully supported** feature
  • Any number of apps, developers & end-users
  • Specialized Oracle Support Team
  • Versions: 11gR2, 12c, 18c, 19c
  • All DB editions: XE, SE2, EE

• Easy to install on-premises
  • Included by default with all editions of Oracle database
  • Download latest release from https://apex.oracle.com/otn
APEX Architecture

Oracle REST Data Services
(Weblogic, Jetty, Tomcat)
No Application Logic
Converts HTTP to database API calls

Oracle Database
(Pluggable or Dedicated, 11gR2 or Above)
Zero latency database data access
Dynamically driven by APEX metadata

Browser
Mid Tier
Database Tier
Oracle APEX + Oracle Autonomous Database

Included with New Always Free Service
Oracle Autonomous Database

- OLTP = Autonomous Transaction Processing (ATP)
- Analytics = Autonomous Data Warehouse (ADW)
- Fully Managed
- Includes Oracle APEX at no additional cost
Single Database Instance / Multiple Workspaces

- Workspaces used to define application definitions / Schemas hold data
- Many-to-many relationship between Workspaces and Schemas
- Instance Administrators manage the environment and schema access
- Departments can request more space, and access to a new schema
- For example, Oracle’s internal-only service [http://apex.oraclecorp.com](http://apex.oraclecorp.com) has over 5,000 Workspaces, covering every line of business in Oracle
Development / Deployment Options

**Local**
- Install on stand-alone laptops using Oracle Express Edition (XE) or full database version
- Simply upgrade APEX to the required version
- Can work completely disconnected

**On-Premise**
- Typically run by the IT Department
- IT generally both production operations service, and a service provider
- Departments responsible for application development

**Cloud**
- Deploy Internet applications
- Leveraged for fast application development, user acceptance and training.
- Prototyping & Proof-of-Concept
- Consulting companies develop for deployment on customer premise

Browser based application development framework enables efficient development & deployment
Shoot someone a URL – Check this out – Application Development
Oracle APEX Community

- Over 500,000 developers worldwide
  - Estimated from support requests, downloads, conferences, discussion forum activity
- More than 100 active bloggers
  - http://odtug.com/apex
- http://apex.oracle.com/community
  Consulting companies, books, success stories, quotes, commercial apps
http://apex.world

Community-authored site providing:

- Plug-ins
- Slack discussion channels
- Twitter feeds
- News
- Jobs
- Conferences
- Meetups
http://builtwithapex.com

- Showcases large diversity of types of applications and different themes
- Launched October, 2016
- > 150 sites published, more being added daily
Use Cases
Transform Your Spreadsheets to Web Apps in Minutes

Features

- Drag and Drop an XLS, CSV, XML, or JSON file
- Create table in Autonomous Database
- Upload data into new table
- Create App based on new table

Solutions

- Single source-of-truth
- Send out a URL not a file
- Secure, scalable, multi-user app
- Extend with Charts, Calendars, Validations, and more
Rapid Application Development

Build new business and productivity apps

Features

• Build apps in days / weeks not months / years
• Use powerful wizards to create fully featured apps
• Easily modify to meet changing requirements
• Rapidly iterate to production-ready app
• Low-code capabilities allow non-IT professionals to also build or help build apps

Solutions

• Opportunistic
• Simplistic, tactical apps to meet immediate need
• Webify paper processes
• Generally developed by one or two people
Modernizing Oracle Forms

Features

- APEX is the natural evolution of Forms
- Both based on SQL and PL/SQL
- Re-use DB packages, procedures, functions
- Easily train Forms Developers into developing with APEX

Solutions

- Proof-of-concept using subset of Forms apps
- Organization-wide apps, rather than back-office
- External apps for customers/partners
- Mobile-first apps
- Net new requirements
Extending Enterprise Systems

Features

- Extend ERPs and other enterprise software
- Provide organization-specific dashboards
- Improved workflows
- Fill gaps

Solutions

- Meet non-standard requirements
- Optimize common business functions
- Enhance data capture
- Integrate disparate data sources

See: Extend E-Business Suite using APEX - Official white paper
Build Large, Enterprise-scale Apps

**Features**

- Quickly build custom mission-critical apps
- Corporate data reporting and maintenance
- Merge separate data silos
- Build organization-wide self-reporting apps

**Solutions**

- *Simple deployment*
- *Single installation runs any number of apps*
- *Scale to hundreds of thousands of users*
- *Leverages enterprise features of Oracle Autonomous*
Product Components
Home Page

Comprehensive Development IDE, Web Application Development, and SQL Database Development
App Builder

Integrated Development Environment (IDE) with Application Development Graphical "Page Designer"

Features tight SQL and PL/SQL integration
App Builder - Page Designer
App Builder - Page Designer

- Multiple trees to view the page components
- Visualization of the page within the Grid Layout, and associated Gallery, allowing you to drag and drop components
- Update multiple attributes without leaving the page in the Property Editor
- Advanced Code Editor for defining SQL, HTML, CSS and text sections
- Highly configurable user interface:
  - Customize and refine view of page specific to current focus
  - Slideable panels
  - Drag and drop tabs
**App Builder – Code Editor**

Available for maintaining SQL, PL/SQL, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, and large text sections

- Syntax Highlighting
- Undo / Redo
- Find/Replace
- Auto completion
- Code validation
- Used in Page Designer, Component View and SQL Workshop
App Builder - Universal Theme

- Default theme for Oracle APEX applications
- Uses responsive HTML5 templates
- Grid-layout for HTML forms
- Modern flat-look
- Ships with a variety of pre-built theme styles
- jQuery Mobile Apps can be transitioned to Universal Theme
App Builder - Universal Theme

Theme Styles and Theme Roller

- Theme Styles provide a variety of different color schemes and styles for a single theme
- Defined as CSS file that is included in addition to the theme’s base CSS file
- Universal Theme includes several pre-built styles
- Additional styles can be easily generated using the built-in Theme Roller utility
App Builder - Universal Theme

Template Options

- Declarative CSS modifiers for HTML5 templates
- Enables developers to declaratively apply styles like borders, padding, icons, colors, size, etc.
- Uses easy-to-understand, descriptive names
- Available for most template types:
  - Page, Region, Report, Breadcrumb, List, Item, Button
- Significantly reduces the number of required templates for a theme
SQL Workshop

Browser based maintenance of database objects and data
Designed to meet application developers’ needs, especially in hosted environments
Rapidly design and prototype data models using a markdown-like shorthand syntax that expands to standards-based Oracle SQL.
Team Development has been reimagined as a new and more flexible way to work with colleagues and keep track of tasks, features, bugs and feedback.
App Gallery

- Robust suite of productivity and sample applications.
- Illustrates best practices and design patterns.
- Template to start customization (e.g. unlock your packaged app).
- Upgraded with every release.
Features
Create Application Wizard

- Simple, modern wizard for creating pages.
- Allows creation of numerous page types including Dashboards, Master-Detail, etc.
- Supports adding common frameworks or "Features" when creating an application such as access control, activity reporting, theme selection, and more
- Customize user interface options such as Theme Style, application icon and page icons
Create Page Wizard

• Simple, modern wizard for creating individual pages in an existing app.
• Allows creation of more advanced pages such as Dashboards, additional Master-Detail page types, List View, mobile first reports, and more.
• Supports adding common frameworks or "Features" to an existing application such as access control, activity reporting, theme selection, and more.
Interactive Reports

Powerful Reporting capabilities ➔ End-user customizable
Faceted Search

- A powerful new way to filter and display your data.
- Faceted Search will make it easier for your users to find the data they want.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Search</th>
<th>Rental Name</th>
<th>Host Name</th>
<th>Neighborhood</th>
<th>Room Type</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Minimum Nights</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bright, Modern Garden Unit - 1BR/1B</td>
<td>Holly</td>
<td>Western Addition</td>
<td>Entire home/apt</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Charming room for two</td>
<td>Kevin</td>
<td>Inner Sunset</td>
<td>Private room</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Creative Sanctuary</td>
<td>Phillip And Tania</td>
<td>Bernal Heights</td>
<td>Entire home/apt</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A Friendly Room - UCSF/USF - San Francisco</td>
<td>Aaron</td>
<td>Haight Ashbury</td>
<td>Private room</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friendly Room Apt. Style -UCSF/USF - San Francisco</td>
<td>Aaron</td>
<td>Haight Ashbury</td>
<td>Private room</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Historic Alamo Square Victorian</td>
<td>Rosy</td>
<td>Western Addition</td>
<td>Entire home/apt</td>
<td>475</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lovely 2BR flat Great Location</td>
<td>Sandy</td>
<td>Western Addition</td>
<td>Entire home/apt</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mission Sunshine, with Private Bath</td>
<td>Ivan &amp; Wendy</td>
<td>Mission</td>
<td>Private room</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Artful Potrero Separate Floor with Garden</td>
<td>Gae</td>
<td>Potrero Hill</td>
<td>Private room</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Interactive Grid

- Modern, rich & interactive multi-row editing component
- Use of existing Item types
- Declarative support for Cascading LOVs and Dynamic Actions
- Upgrade utility for Tabular Forms
- Master Detail / Detail
Interactive Grid

Master Detail Layout – N-levels wide or deep
Modal Dialogs

Readily switch between normal, modal, and non-modal page mode

- A modal dialog is a stand-alone page, not a region on a page
- Any page be created as a dialog page
- Supports all the functionality of a regular page, including computations, validations, processes, and branches
Charting Engine
Charting Engine

Declarative support for Oracle JET Data Visualization Components

- Based on Oracle JET Data Visualization Components
- Oracle JET (JavaScript Extension Toolkit) is open source
- JavaScript-based solution, data being provided in JSON format
- Highly Customizable
  - Using 'JavaScript code' to provide function to be called when chart is initialized
  - Using Dynamic Actions to add interactive behavior
- Built-in Accessibility Support
- Built-in Responsive Design Support
Calendar
Different views, drag and drop capability
List-based Navigation Menus

- Available as top navigation menu and side menu
- Implemented as standard APEX lists
- Supports multi-level hierarchical menu structures
- Provides accessible pull-down menus
- Alternative to using traditional tabs
Dynamic Actions
Declaratively define rich client-side interactivity without writing JavaScript or AJAX
REST Enabled SQL Support

- Create and maintain References to REST Enabled SQL Instances (Oracle REST Data Services) in Shared Components: A name, Endpoint URL, and Authentication information
- Use a REST Enabled SQL Service and therefore a remote Oracle database as the Data Source for Oracle APEX components like:
  - Classic Reports, Interactive Reports
  - Reflow Report, Toggle Columns Report
  - Tree Region, JET Charts
  - CSS Calendar
  - PL/SQL Process
Consuming External REST APIs

- Web Source Modules are a declarative method to define references to external REST APIs and generic JSON data feeds.
- Web Source Modules store additional metadata about how to parse response data and map it as a virtual table with rows and columns.
- A module can contain one or many Web Source Operations which are the references to a concrete external web service.
- Create and maintain Web Source Modules in Shared Components.
Consuming External REST APIs

• Use as data sources for Oracle APEX components such as:
  • Interactive Report, Classic Report
  • JET Chart, CSS Calendar
  • Tree Region, Reflow Report, Toggle Column Report

• Post Processing SQL modifies data before being processed by an Oracle APEX component:
  • Apply SQL functions, aggregations, join to local tables etc.
  • Avoid unnecessary HTTP requests by using Caching
Plug-Ins

Extend applications with custom components such as items and regions

https://apex.world/ords/f?p=100:700
Summary
Oracle APEX

Summary

• **Used by real customers for real applications:** Used for both opportunistic and mission critical apps that service tens of thousands of users.

• **Well Established Product:** First released in 2004

• **Most powerful Low Code Application Development Platform:** Allows developer to focus on solving the business problem and delivering superior solutions, with less time and effort spent on mundane and repetitive lower-level coding.

• **Continually growing:** Oracle install base is adopting Oracle APEX for increasing numbers of projects, and is increasingly an approved corporate IT standard.
• **Aligned with industry trends:** Strong support for HTML5 development frameworks, Modern & responsive CSS3 UI, integrated JavaScript libraries, Browser-based, self-service provisioning, flexible development and deployment including cloud services.

• **Consistent with Oracle developers skill set:** SQL, PL/SQL, Oracle Database. Proficiency in the Oracle database easily translates into an ability to develop web applications.
Learn More…

Primary site
APEX Shortcuts
APEX Community
Blogs
APEX on Autonomous
Database Cloud Services
Oracle Learning Library
Oracle APEX Education

https://apex.oracle.com
https://apex.oracle.com/shortcuts
https://apex.oracle.com/community
https://blogs.oracle.com/apex
https://apex.oracle.com/autonomous
https://cloud.oracle.com/database
https://www.oracle.com/oll
https://apex.oracle.com/education
Thank you

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