

ACTion!



1516 Willow Lawn Dr.
Suite 101
Richmond, VA 23230
Toll Free: 800-294-7497
Fax 804-285-3722
www.actisit.com

Summer is a time for relaxation and vacations, not just for school children, but for everyone including IT professionals. But as the Fall approaches, IT professionals need to brush up on their skills.

ACT has seen a significant increase in enrollment for its Fall classes. We already have two Red Hat classes and five online Oracle classes that have exceeded the minimum student count to hold-and that's just in September!

If you need to brush up on your IT skills, come enroll in one of ACT's Fall classes. We are still offering a number of special deals, so please see the last page of ACTion! for our class schedule and discounts.

Stephen Johnson
President
Advanced Concepts Training Corp.



Backing Up Data for Your Business

In today's world of instant gratification, businesses large and small depend on the reliability and accuracy of data. With the electronic/digital focus of our society, the old days of rows of filing cabinets filled with documents and records are going by the wayside as technology makes it easier to access any information one might need; as long as data is backed up properly and reliably, on a regular basis.

The first step in proper data back up is identifying what critical information your business cannot do without. While they may seem vital, continuously backing up the actual software/programs you use is not necessary; you can simply back these up once and reinstall from the file.

The data you DO need to back up can vary depending on your type of business. For most small businesses, vital data may include anything from daily emails, to accounting files, word documents, and schedules. The volume and frequency of the items that require back up will determine how often

continued on page 2

Readying Your Home for the Change of Seasons

As the seasons change so do the needs of your home and lawn. Avoid the mishaps of winter and ease the strain of "spring cleaning" by taking some time to check off chores now.

House

You aren't the only one that's been enjoying the weather this summer; your house has as well. Much like the seasonal wardrobe switch many people participate in, your house also has "winter gear" that must be taken out to ensure a safe, warm and problem free season. Here are just a few to think about:

Plumbing- Prevent pipes from freezing or bursting by ensuring the pipes, as well as the cavities in which they are located, are well insulated. This is important for RVs, campers, and vacation homes as well. Make sure you know where the shut off valve is located and how to turn it off in the event of a problem

continued on page 2



you should schedule your back up. There are now many good back up programs on the market that allow for regular scheduling.

While many are familiar with the idea of data back up, it can be confusing when trying to figure out where to start. How can you determine what the best option is for your home or business: physical back up and/or off-site back up? Let us take a look at some of these options.

Physical data back up is the most localized way of protecting your information. While blank CDs seem like a simple and affordable solution for storing data, they are less reliable than one would think. CDs have a limited shelf life and, at a certain point, stop working. If you must use CDs, it's best to make multiple copies over time. Tape backups are infinitely more reliable than CDs; however, the cost of the equipment and tapes is often not feasible for small businesses. The most common means of backup for small businesses is the external hard drive. They're typically easy to use, are affordable and available with varying levels of memory space to help keep your costs lower.

The basic need for backup stems from the potential for computer/hard drive failure or damage, as well as theft and disasters such as flooding or fire. It is for these reasons many business owners resort to online backup services or off-site data back up. While online backup may seem like the ultimate easy answer, it is truly only as reliable as the company offering the service. If you decide to take that route, be sure to thoroughly research the company you plan to use before signing up.

	<p>1516 Willow Lawn Dr. Suite 101 Richmond, VA 23230 Toll Free: 800-294-7497 Fax 804-285-3722 www.actisit.com</p>
--	---

Chimney & Fireplace- Nothing is better than a warm fire on a cold evening. However, it can also be one of the largest danger zones in the home. Before lighting a fire, or even using gas logs, a professional should be called for a routine inspection to ensure the integrity of the system. The inspection may include a general sweeping of the chimney, ensuring a tight seal on the flue, and installing or replacing batteries in smoke detectors, carbon monoxide testers and fire alarms.

Attic- Ensure all vents and screens are intact and secured properly. This will guard against any unwanted "roommates" (squirrels, bats, birds, etc.) from moving in and hunkering down for warmth during the winter months.

Windows & Doors- The heat of the summer can damage weather stripping around doors and windows causing dry rot and tears that compromise the integrity of your seal against the outside elements. Inspect all seams and replace stripping as needed. This will prevent unwanted cold drafts in the winter and avoid substantial heat loss. If in doubt, try the candle test: light a candle & hold it in front of the seals on your closed windows & doors. Any spot where the flame bends could use a tighter seal. Just make sure you don't set anything on fire!

Lawn & Garden
Get a jump on the "oohh"s and "aahhh"s of the spring lawn season by doing a little legwork now. Grass takes advantage of the fall weather by growing deeper roots, making it a great time for overseeding and reseeded and fertilizing any bare or thinning spots in your yard. It's also a great time to trim trees and shrubs for healthy spring growth and to take care of any limbs that are approaching power lines or are too close to your home to help prevent winter storm damage.

The nice fall temperatures also make it a great time to get your heating unit and water heater serviced. You don't want to be without them come December! As you are completing your winter-prep checks, make sure to take note of any other important items that might need some fixing or attention before the winter months.



Instructor's Corner!

Oracle -- Languages And Tools

by Terry Stough

Do you get bored easily with repetition? I do. I know that if I find myself doing something three times in a row, I figure it is high time to find a way to automate it!

Consider if you will that many years ago, I taught a class and in my spare time set up a server to do Discoverer classes for up to 25 students. To do this, I used Discoverer Administrator to set the query limits, etc. for all 25 students; one at a time.

It occurred to me there must be a better way. First, it seemed obvious that Discoverer Administrator was actually writing to the Discoverer End User Layer database tables. Also obvious was the lack of documentation to indicate exactly what it was doing.

I knew if I figured out which of the hundreds of columns in the End User Layer were being modified, I could simply write UPDATE statements that would modify the values for all the users involved. Even better, the script containing those update statements could be used the next time I needed to build a server.

I knew I could get a list of all the columns in the schema by querying USER_TAB_COLUMNS. But, how could that help?

Then I came up with an idea -- what if I used Discoverer Administrator to set the value for one of the students to a unique number? I could then query for that number and find out where Discoverer Administrator put it.

That sounded like a good idea but would have required me to sit down and write hundreds of queries. Boring again!

Then, an even better idea came to mind. I could use Native Dynamic SQL (NDS) to do this for me. This is a technique we teach in our Intermediate/Advanced PL/SQL classes. NDS enables you to effectively write a query on the fly and then execute it.

So here was the plan:

1. Get the list of columns in the schema from USER_TAB_COLUMNS.
2. Create a query to count the number of occurrences of my unique setting for that column.
3. Execute the query and output those tables and columns where the query produced a count greater than zero.

Here is a highly simplified example of the script I used to do accomplish this:

```
DECLARE
CURSOR CV IS
SELECT Table_Name, Column_Name
FROM User_Tab_Columns
ORDER BY 1,2;
EIStr VARCHAR2(500);
RowCount NUMBER(6);
BEGIN
DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE(CHR(10) ||
RPAD('TABLE',31) ||
RPAD('COLUMN_NAME',31) ||
RPAD('VALUE',16) ||
LPAD('ROWCOUNT',8));
FOR ARow IN CV LOOP
BEGIN
EIStr := 'SELECT COUNT(*)
FROM ' || ARow.Table_Name ||
' WHERE ' || ARow.Column_Name ||
' = ' || '&&Value';
EXECUTE IMMEDIATE EIStr
INTO RowCount;
IF RowCount > 0 THEN
DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE(
RPAD(ARow.Table_Name,31)
|| RPAD(ARow.Column_Name,31)
|| RPAD('&Value',16)
|| LPAD(RowCount,8));
END IF;
EXCEPTION -- Wrong datatype.
WHEN OTHERS THEN NULL;
END;
END LOOP;
END;
```

The CURSOR gets the column list. We walk through the list using a CURSOR FOR LOOP and create SELECT statements to give us a count of the rows having our desired value. Then we use EXECUTE IMMEDIATE and place the result of the query into our RowCount variable. If RowCount is greater than zero, we output the table name, column name, value and count to the screen.

This approach works in any schema for any value and comes in very handy for those working with packaged applications without underlying source code or documentation.

I look forward to seeing you in a class soon so that we can explore the wonders of Oracle together!



Dueling is legal in Paraguay as long as both participants are blood donors.

When travelling in groups, Killer Whales breathe in unison.

Louis Armstrong developed calluses on his lips from playing the trumpet so frequently; he dealt with them by cutting them off with razor blades.

The term "couch potato" was actually trademarked by a man named Robert Armstrong in 1976 and technically is his legal property.

Besides the U.S, Burma and Liberia are the only countries in the world that don't use the metric system as the measurement standard.

While typically thought of as a baked goods company, Sara Lee actually introduced the Wonderbra in 1994.

Dartmouth College is older than the United States and was granted its original charter from the King of England.

UPCOMING COURSES/SCHEDULE

Classes in Blue marked with a * are online.
Classes in Red are Red Hat offerings.

START DATE END DATE PRICE

SEPTEMBER 2010

Oracle 11g PL/SQL Introduction	9/2	9/3	\$1,049
*Oracle 10g Release 2 Discoverer Desktop for End Users	9/7	9/8	\$1,049
*Oracle 10g Release 2 Discoverer Plus	9/9	9/10	\$1,049
Red Hat Linux Essentials	9/13	9/17	\$2,398
J2EE Development using Spring & Hibernate	9/13	9/17	\$2,199
*Oracle 10g Foundations: SQL & SQL *Plus	9/13	9/17	\$2,199
*Oracle 11g Foundations: SQL & SQL *Plus	9/13	9/17	\$2,199
*Oracle 11g Database Administration I	9/20	9/24	\$2,199
Oracle 11g SQL & PL/SQL Express Introduction	9/20	9/24	\$2,199
J2EE Development Using Spring and Hibernate	9/20	9/24	\$2,199
*Oracle 10g PL/SQL Introduction	9/27	9/28	\$1,049
*Oracle 11g PL/SQL Introduction	9/27	9/28	\$1,049
Red Hat Linux System Administration-class only	9/27	9/30	\$2,498
WebSphere Portal Development	9/27	10/1	\$2,199
Red Hat Linux System Administration and RHCT Exam	9/27	10/1	\$2,698
*Oracle 10g PL/SQL Intermediate	9/29	10/1	\$1,499
*Oracle 11g PL/SQL Intermediate	9/29	10/1	\$1,499

OCTOBER 2010

Red Hat RHCT Exam Only	10/1	10/1	\$399
*Oracle 10g SQL for Business & Data Analysts	10/4	10/6	\$1,499
*Oracle 11g SQL for Business & Data Analysts	10/4	10/6	\$1,499
Perl Programming	10/4	10/8	\$2,199
Oracle 11g Database Administration I	10/4	10/8	\$2,199
*Oracle 10g Release 2 Discoverer Desktop for End Users	10/7	10/8	\$1,049
Red Hat Networking & Security Administration	10/11	10/14	\$2,498
*Oracle 11g Database Administration II	10/11	10/15	\$2,199
Oracle 11g Foundations: SQL & SQL *Plus	10/11	10/15	\$2,199
Enterprise Java Beans 3.0 Development (EJB)	10/11	10/15	\$2,199
UNIX/Linux Shell Scripting	10/12	10/15	\$1,849
RHCE Exam Only	10/15	10/15	\$799
*Oracle 10g Foundations: SQL & SQL *Plus	10/18	10/22	\$2,199
*Oracle 11g Foundations: SQL & SQL *Plus	10/18	10/22	\$2,199
WebSphere V6 Portal Administration	10/18	10/22	\$2,199
J2EE Development using Spring, Struts, Java Server Faces (JSF)	10/18	10/22	\$2,199
J2EE Development using Spring & Hibernate	10/18	10/22	\$2,199
*Oracle 10g PL/SQL Introduction	10/25	10/26	\$1,049
*Oracle 11g PL/SQL Introduction	10/25	10/26	\$1,049
BEA WebLogic Portal Development	10/25	10/29	\$2,199
WebSphere Business Modeler for Business Process Management	10/25	10/29	\$2,199
WebSphere Application Server V6 Administration	10/25	10/29	\$2,199
*Oracle 10g PL/SQL Intermediate	10/27	10/29	\$1,499
*Oracle 11g PL/SQL Intermediate	10/27	10/29	\$1,499

NOVEMBER 2010

JBoss Application Administration	11/1	11/4	\$2,498
*Oracle 10g Database Administration I	11/1	11/5	\$2,199
Javascript Programming Essentials	11/1	11/5	\$2,199
Oracle 11g PL/SQL Foundations	11/1	11/5	\$2,199
*Oracle 10g SQL for Business & Data Analysts	11/8	11/10	\$1,499
*Oracle 11g SQL for Business & Data Analysts	11/8	11/10	\$1,499
Oracle 11g SQL for Business and Data Analysts	11/8	11/10	\$1,499
UNIX/Linux Shell Scripting	11/8	11/11	\$1,849
Red Hat Rapid Track Course-class only	11/8	11/11	\$2,698
Red Hat Rapid Track Course and RHCE exam	11/8	11/12	\$2,998
*Oracle 10g Release 2 Discoverer Desktop for End Users	11/11	11/12	\$1,049
UNIX Introduction to Commands	11/15	11/18	\$1,849
Web Services Development using Eclipse	11/15	11/19	\$2,199
*Oracle 10g Foundations: SQL & SQL *Plus	11/15	11/19	\$2,199
*Oracle 11g Foundations: SQL & SQL *Plus	11/15	11/19	\$2,199
*Oracle 10g Database Administration II	11/29	12/3	\$2,199
Red Hat Linux Essentials	11/29	12/3	\$2,398
UNIX Introduction to Commands	11/29	12/3	\$1,849
JBoss Application Server Administration	11/29	12/3	\$2,199

Scheduling News

.....

Pay full price for ANY class, receive a FREE hotel room for each day of class (1 room per registrant). This includes Red Hat classes! This offer applies to any class completed by Dec. 31, 2010.*

Buy one seat in the Sept 20-24, 2010 J2EE Development using Spring & Hibernate and get one 1/2 price!!

Sign up in September for a Red Hat class to be held in 2010 & receive a 10% discount!

***Registration must be made through ACT. Offer applies to ACT's Richmond Facility.**

.....



1516 Willow Lawn Dr.
Suite 101
Richmond, VA 23230

Toll Free: 800-294-7497
Fax 804-285-3722
www.actisit.com