

Setting Up A Hosted Oracle HTML DB Solution

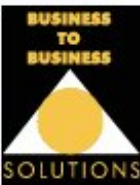
Presented by

Greg Mays

Principal Consultant

Business to Business Solutions, LLC

Web: www.b2bsol.com



Oracle HTML DB

- Web-based Application Development/Deployment platform integrated with the Oracle Database 9i/10g
- Pure PL/SQL
- No Additional Charge!!
- Can be served with the minimal Oracle HTTP Server and mod_plsql gateway included with the database



Oracle HTML DB

- HTML DB answers the need to provide an easy to use but powerful solution to answer the same needs that MS Access serves in many organizations for small to medium sized applications BUT with all the benefits and security of the Oracle Database.



Oracle HTML DB

- HTML DB though it is aimed at this “middle-ground” is powerful enough and flexible enough to accommodate sophisticated development but is probably best suited to small “agile” type development efforts.



Oracle HTML DB Releases

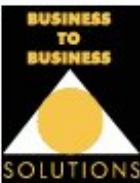
- HTML DB 1.5 was released with 10g R1 as a part of the DB license, no extra charge. Can be used with 9.2.x as well.
- HTML DB 1.6 was released
- HTML DB 2.0 was released and then renamed to Oracle Application Express (APEX)



Oracle HTML DB

Our project

- Needed to rapidly develop and deploy a few small Web applications that would be accessed by our consultants and clients from anywhere.
- 0 infrastructure, do not want to build servers and support them in house we work directly with clients or from virtual offices most of the time



Oracle HTML DB

Our project

- Hosting made sense for our needs and our experience with other application hosting had been good.



Hosting HTML DB Who?

Current Hosting Providers for HTML DB

- **Oracle Technology Network**
URL: htmldb.oracle.com or apex.oracle.com
NOTE: Free to try, can't deploy a production application
- **Revion Solutions, Inc.**
URL: www.revion.com
NOTE: Provides full service Oracle hosting along with HTMLDB

Hosting HTML DB Who?

- **Shellprompt Production Hosting**
URL: www.shellprompt.net
NOTE: Based in the Netherlands.
- **HTML-DB-Hosting.com**
URL: www.htmldb-hosting.com
NOTE: Based in Germany.
- **Insum Solutions**
URL: www.insum.ca
NOTE: Based in Montreal, Canada, site is in French and unfortunately doesn't provide full English translation.



Hosting HTML DB Basic Features

The current HTML DB hosting providers all have similar setups where you pay by the workspace and for a certain amount of disk space and a data transfer amount.

There are a variety of plans available to address various needs. See examples.



Hosting HTML DB

Why even consider a hosting provider?

If you need to deploy an application to the Web not just your company's intranet there are all the typical considerations...

- Infrastructure – Network configuration/cost, hardware configuration/cost, database configuration/cost
- Time
- Skills
- Security



Hosting HTML DB

Benefits of using hosting

The hosting providers do all the following for you and you don't have to spend the time and money

- Network configuration – Redundant connections, multiple access paths, etc.
- Hardware configuration
- Database/HTML DB configuration
- Oracle license
- You focus on the application not all the infrastructure



Hosting HTML DB

Downsides of using Hosting

- Loss of control and access
- Hardware at remote facility, no direct access
- Issues with the environment have to be handled by the provider and you may have limited visibility to how problem resolution occurs.
- Security
- Performance monitoring may or may not be accessible



Hosting HTML DB

When does hosting HTML DB make the most sense?

- Small to medium organizations who need a custom application available on the Web.
- Organizations with limited infrastructure but a need for a custom Oracle application
- Pilot projects
- Small/community projects



Hosting HTML DB

How to get started?

- Register a domain name if you don't have one
- Select your hosting provider considering your needs and the various service offerings available and \$'s!
- Sign up for the hosting plan and get basic configuration done
- Notify the host that you will be switching your domain over to them.



Hosting HTML DB

How to get started?

- Use your domain registrar's utilities to change the nameserver entries to point to the new hosting providers name servers.
- After the DNS changes replicate across the Internet you should now be able to hit your site using your registered domain.



Hosting HTML DB

How to get started?

- Setup a redirect to HTML DB doing one of the following...
 - 1) Create a simple index.html page that redirects to the HTML DB URL and place it in your root directory (where this is may vary by provider, at Revion it is public_html)

```
<html>

<head>
<meta http-equiv="Content-Language" content="en-us">
<meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=windows-1252">
<meta HTTP-EQUIV="REFRESH" content="0; url=http://www.odbguru.com/pls/htmldb">
<title>Oracle DB Guru.com</title>
<meta name="description" content="Oracle Database Guru">
<meta name="keywords" content="oracle database, oracle consulting, htmldb apex">
</head>

<body>

<p align="center"><b><font size="2" face="Verdana">Welcome to My Home Page.
Please come back soon!</font></b></p>
<p align="center">&nbsp;</p>
<p align="center">&nbsp;</p>
<p align="center">&nbsp;</p>
<p align="center"><font face="Verdana" size="1">
<a href="http://www.revion.com/">Hosted by Revion.com</a></font></p>

</body>

</html>
```

Hosting HTML DB

How to get started?

2) Direct the provider to implement an Apache rewrite (below courtesy of the HTML DB Wiki)

Redirect a Domain name to an Apex application

If you have registered a Domain and wish it to point directly to an Apex application you can make use of the Apache mod_rewrite module, for example -

```
<VirtualHost *>  
  ServerName www.myhost.com  
  ServerAlias www.myhost.com  
  RewriteEngine On  
  RewriteRule ^/$ /pls/apex/f?p=136:1 [R=301]  
</VirtualHost>
```

This will redirect any requests for *www.myhost.com* to application id 136 (and page 1). The [R=301] performs redirect with code 301 which can be useful for Indexing Bots/Spiders.

-- JohnScott - 05 Dec 2005

Hosting HTML DB

How to get started?

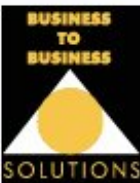
- Build your HTML DB application

NOTE: Make sure to enable application security and if using 2.0 activate the Session State Protection features.



Hosting HTML DB

Simple HTML DB Help Desk Application
Demo



Hosting HTML DB Resources

Oracle Technet:

http://www.oracle.com/technology/products/data_base/application_express/index.html

Wiki:

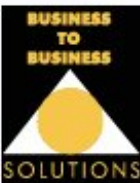
<http://wiki.shellprompt.net/bin/view/Apex/WebHome>

Blogs:

Technet links to Oracle Bloggers

Scott Spendolini -

<http://spendolini.blogspot.com>



Resources

This presentation and associated demo
and scripts will be available at:

VOUG Website: www.voug.org

B2B Website: www.b2bsol.com

Email: gmays@b2bsol.com