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Data Warehousing 11g Essentials

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QUESTION 1

Identify the true statement about REF partitions.

- A. REF partitions have no impact on partition-wise joins.
- B. Changes to partitioning in the parent table are automatically reflected in the child table.
- C. Changes in the data in a parent table are reflected in a child table.
- D. REF partitions can save storage space in the parent table.

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Reference partitioning is a partitioning method introduced in Oracle 11g. Using reference partitioning, a child table can inherit the partitioning characteristics from a parent table.

QUESTION 2

For which type of query is the SQL result cache automatically disabled?

- A. Queries that access data which changes frequently
- B. Queries that return large amounts of data
- C. Queries that use SQL functions such as SYSDATE
- D. Queries that are used infrequently

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

SYSDATE produces a new value every time it is used. Caching such a value would make no sense.

QUESTION 3

What is the difference between an ETL (Extraction Transformation Load) approach and an ELT (Extraction Load Transformation) approach to data integration? Select one.

- A. ETL can operate between heterogeneous data sources.
- B. ELT requires a separate transformation server.
- C. ELT transforms data on the target server.
- D. ELT cannot be used for incremental data loading.



Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

There are two approaches to consider for data integration: ELT and ETL. The difference between ETL and ELT lies in the environment in which the data transformations are applied. In traditional ETL, the transformation takes place when the data is en route from the source to the target system. In ELT, the data is loaded into the target system, and then transformed within the target system environment.

References:

QUESTION 4

You are looking for some general design principles that could be used in designing every large scale data warehouse you create. Identify the principle that would have the widest applicability.

- A. Partition your tables appropriately to produce partition-wise joins.
- B. Always use a star schema or snowflake schema design.
- C. Do as much analytics as possible in your BI tools.
- D. Always use Oracle OLAP.

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Partition-wise joins can be full or partial. Oracle decides which type of join to use. A full partition-wise join divides a large join into smaller joins between a pair of partitions from the two joined tables. To use this feature, you must equipartition both tables on their join keys, or use reference partitioning.

Oracle Database can perform partial partition-wise joins only in parallel. Unlike full partition-wise joins, partial partition-wise joins require you to partition only one table on the join key, not both tables.

Note: Partition-wise joins reduce query response time by minimizing the amount of data exchanged among parallel execution servers when joins execute in parallel. This significantly reduces response time and improves the use of both CPU and memory resources. In Oracle Real Application Clusters (RAC) environments, partition-wise joins also avoid or at least limit the data traffic over the interconnect, which is the key to achieving good scalability for massive join operations.

References:

QUESTION 5



Identify the benefit of using bitmap join indexes. Select one.

- A. Faster query performance for all queries.
- B. Reduced space for indexes.
- C. Faster query performance for some queries.
- D. Lower memory usage.

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Oracle benchmarks claim that bitmap join indexes can run a query more than eight times faster than traditional indexing methods.

However, this speed improvement is dependent upon many factors, and the bitmap join is not a panacea.

Some restrictions on using the bitmap join index include:

The indexed columns must be of low cardinality--usually with less than 300 distinct values. The query must not have any references in the WHERE clause to data columns that are not contained in the index.

The overhead when updating bitmap join indexes is substantial. For practical use, bitmap join indexes are dropped and rebuilt each evening about the daily batch load jobs. This means that bitmap join indexes are useful only for Oracle data warehouses that remain read-only during the processing day.

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