



**In this section the Developer will learn...**

- How to write messages to User in SQL\*Plus



It may be necessary during development to ascertain the values of variables etc. at certain stages in the process, later in the course stopping processing because of errors will be examined, however this section deals with 'messaging out' to show progress within the process or show contents of variables at certain times in the run.

An Oracle package called *DBMS\_OUTPUT* provides a line display facility which does not end the processing.

```
dbms_output.put_line('<message>');
```

This will display the contents of the brackets on the command line.



Note that in order to display these messages make sure that the environment command '*SET SERVEROUTPUT ON*' has been issued in SQL\*PLUS, otherwise the process will not be able to display any messages.

The use of DBMS\_OUTPUT is limited to testing and information purposes only, it cannot be used commercially for example because most third party software (and indeed a lot of Oracle's software) do not handle the output from it. Also note that the buffer size will determine how many messages or how big the message can be, typically this is set to 2000 bytes.



If you are unsure of the current state of serveroutput, issue the following command ...

```
SQL> sho serveroutput  
serveroutput off
```

In some circumstances the Developer may wish to temporarily remove the dbms\_output 'output', the Developer can issue the following command ...

```
execute dbms_output.disable;
```

This can also be written within the plsql ...



*declare*

*l\_dummy boolean := true;*

*begin*

*dbms\_output.disable;*

*dbms\_output.put\_line('Not displayed');*

*end;*

To enable, issue the following ...

*dbms\_output.enable;*



If the Developer wishes to end the processing after the message, the 'return' command can be used, this will end the process without error ...

```
declare
```

```
begin
```

```
dbms_output.put_line('This will be printed');
```

```
return;
```

```
dbms_output.put_line('This will never be reached');
```

```
end;
```