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Technical Memo

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Oracle V7 - Trailing Blank Truncation

To avoid character field trailing blank truncation use the SET ORACHAR parameter of the Oracle Interface. This SET parameter is only available using Oracle V7.

Starting with FOCUS Release 7.0 PUT Level 3, a new setting is available in the Oracle Interface that addresses the characteristics of the new CHAR datatype included in Oracle V7. Prior to Oracle V7, the Oracle RDBMS treated all character strings transmitted by the Interface through SQL variables as variable length, because all Oracle RDBMS character datatypes were essentially variable length. In Oracle V7, the CHAR datatype has been enhanced to possess fixed length characteristics similar to other relational database CHAR datatypes.

The SET ORACHAR parameter enables the Oracle Interface to optionally make use of the new fixed length CHAR datatype. It causes any character string described with an ACTUAL datatype of A transmitted through an RDBMS SQL variable (such as from a MODIFY MATCH command or non-optimized join from a TABLE command) to retain any trailing blanks when presented to the Oracle V7 RDBMS for processing.

The syntax for changing this setting is:

```
SQL SQLORA SET ORACHAR = {VAR|FIX}
```

Where:

VAR	invokes the behavior used for Oracle releases prior to Oracle V7. This presents all character strings transmitted through SQL variables as variable length. VAR is the default, and provides compatibility with prior FOCUS and Oracle releases This is the default.
FIX	Invokes the fixed length character string behavior enabled for the CHAR datatype in Oracle V7. This presents character strings described with an ACTUAL datatype of A transmitted through SQL variables as fixed length.

IMPORTANT: The setting of FIX may cause compatibility problems in applications developed in earlier releases of FOCUS or Oracle or under the default setting of VAR. Use of the FIX setting with Oracle V7 CHAR columns in MODIFY MATCH, INCLUDE, UPDATE and DELETE commands, as variables in parameterized Direct SQL Passthru statements, and as cross reference fields in non-optimized join requests should be tested extensively to verify that their behavior is as expected.