Oracle DB Security with the Use of Al

Exploring the Potential and Limitations of AI-Enhanced Database Protection

Stefan Oehrli

Stefan Oehrli – Modern Data Platforms **Oracle ACE** SYM stefan.oehrli@accenture.com Director Terraform ASSOCIATE Tech Architecture Manager HashiCor • Since 1997 active in various IT areas • More than 25 years of experience in Oracle databases Focus: Protecting data and operating databases securely Security assessments and reviews Database security concepts and their implementation Oracle Backup & Recovery concepts and troubleshooting Oracle Enterprise User and Advanced Security, DB Vault, ... Oracle Directory Services Co-author of the book The Oracle DBA (Hanser, 2016/07)







DER ORACLE

Modern

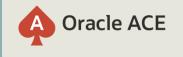
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Highlights presented at our booth:

- The Power of AI
- Journey to Multicloud
- OCI and FinOps
- Oracle Apex
- Oracle Applications



AI in Oracle DB Security

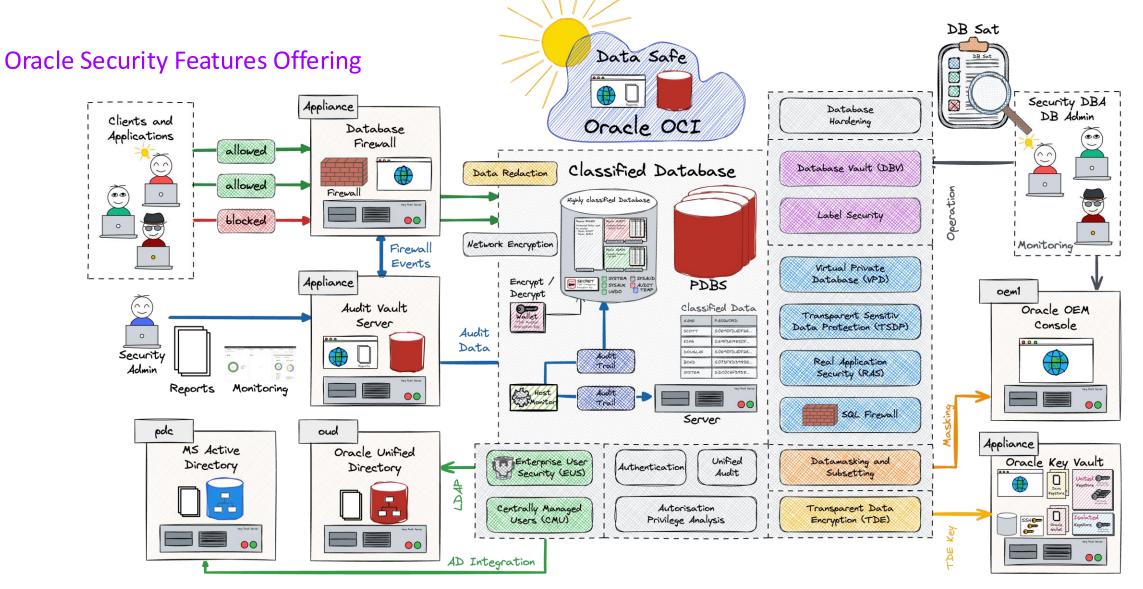
From Concept to Future Possibilities

- **1** Motivation & Challenges
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Motivation & Challenges

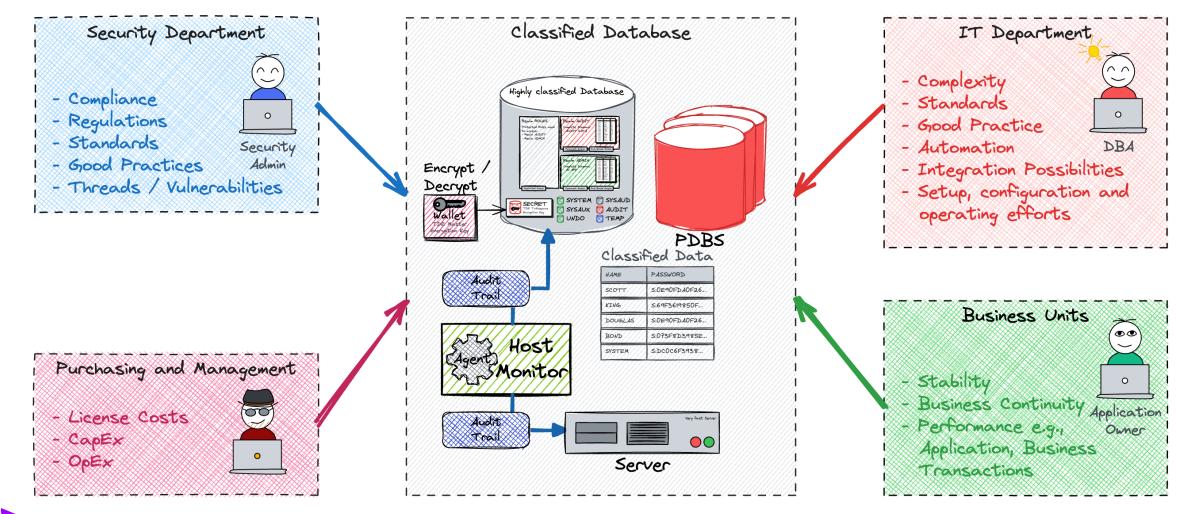
Why AI could bridge current security gaps.

Maximal Database Security Architecture



The Critical Role of Oracle Database Security

Understanding the Needs and Contributions of Key Stakeholders



Bridging the Gap: Security vs. Operations

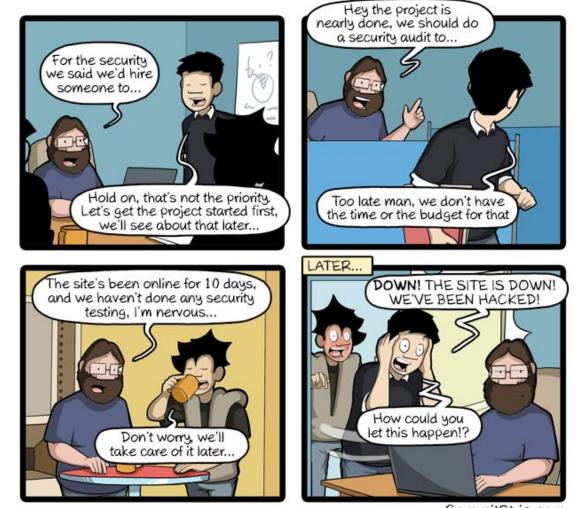
Can AI Simplify Oracle DB Security for All Stakeholders?

DBAs Focus:

- Typically centered on performance, stability, and operational tasks.
- Security monitoring and continuous reviews are often not a primary focus.
- Complexities of database security are easily overlooked in dayto-day operations.

Security Teams Dilemma:

- Security teams often lack in-depth expertise to analyze privileges, audit trails, etc.
- Relying on DBAs for detailed database insights can delay risk detection and response.

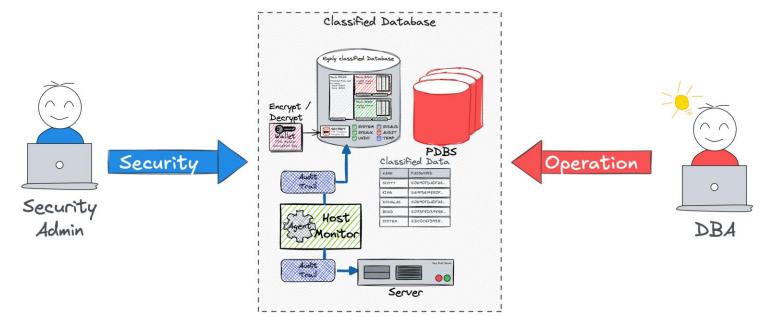


Bridging the Gap: Security vs. Operations

Can AI Simplify Oracle DB Security for All Stakeholders?

The Question:

- What if security monitoring and analysis could be simplified?
- Could AI handle tasks like privilege analysis, auditing, and anomaly detection?
- How much more efficient could DBAs and security teams be with AI tools?

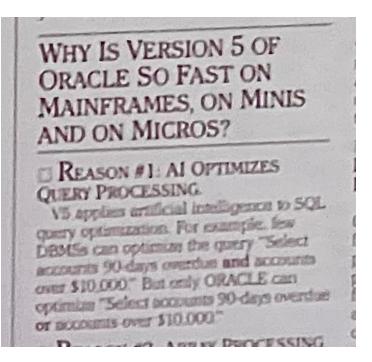


Oracle Al

Something new for Oracle Database?

- Newspaper advertisement for **Oracle 5**
- Mentioning...
 - Reason #1

AI Optimizes Query Processing



GET HALF-A-COMPUTER WITH ORACLE VERSION 5



With ORACLE version 5, you save half the computer you thought you needed in order to "go relational"... some benchmarks indicate you save even more.

WHY IS VERSION 5 OF ORACLE SO FAST ON MAINFRAMES, ON MINIS AND ON MICROS?

Michalewicz

Markus

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entation

REASON #1: AI OPTIMIZES QUERY PROCESSING.

V5 applies artificial intelligence to SQL query optimization. For example, few DBMSs can optimize the query "Select accounts 90 days overdue and accounts ever \$10,000" But only ORACLE can optimizer "Select accounts 90-days overtise or accounts over \$10,000"

REASON #2 ARRAY PROCESSING OPTIMIZES ACCESS TO LARGE SETS OF DATA.

Relational DBMSs have always dealt with logical sets of data. But they manipulated only one physical record at a time. V5 eliminates overhead by physically delivering arrays of hundreds, even thousands, of records at a time.

REASON #3 PARALLEL PROCESSING OPTIMIZES COMPUTER RESOURCE USAGE V5 is 100% re-entrant shared code, and

ORACLE's parallel processing architecture fully exploits modern dyardic and quadratic processors from IBM, and other coultiprocessing computers such as those from DEC and Stramus So ORACLE uses all the MIPS in parallel processor cardiguations.

C REASON #4 MULTI-TABLE CLUSTERING OPTIMIZES JOINS.

SQL back in 1979. Today ORACLE in bra email to chracost no bellateri mainframes, and over ten-throusand PCs ORACLE is the only SQL-composible relational DBMS that's portable across IBM mainframes, DEC, DG, HP and most other vendors' minus and micros. including the IBM PC. And ORACLE

applications and databases are connectable across different hardware and operating system, providing you with a true distributed solution to your miormation needs.

Spend half a day at an Oracle seminar in your city, and find out how you can have the benefits of a portable, DB2compatible relational DBMS ... and save half a computer. Call our national servicer coordinator at 1-800-345-DEMS. Or write Oracle Corporation, Dept. V5, 20 Duvia Drive, Beimonit, CA 94002

prese U.S. SEMINARS See 12 Cer 29 Ken 27 Extents Manuel Alante Aug. 11, 51 Sup 5 line 3 Juny 3 line 3 ത .⊆ CANADIAN SEMENARS Found Ing 15 Aur 13 Paragent And & Date Has Sale Call (800) 345-DBMS today. RA

ORACLE stores data from different tables on the same physical daik page. This inclusion-called main rable chaterary-permits you to access data from enaltiples tables in one disk road operation. Clustering improves ORACLE performance on all multi-table operations, such as goin queries, update transactions, mic.

REASON #5 HIGH-SPEED RELATIONAL SORT FACILITY OPTIMIZES DATA AGGREGATION Ad hoc relational queries frequently request that data be grouped, ordered or otherwise sorted. V5's internal sort facility performs appregation and alimination early laster than previously thought possible

REASON #6 EFFICIENT ROW LEVEL LOCKING OPTIMIZES TRANSACTION THRUPUT. Row-level locking and a mad-coverse model optimizes ORACLE V5 transaction concurrency. For the first time, high transaction thruput is achieved by a fully relational DBMS

THE ULTIMATE REASON Oracle astroduced the first relationst

DBMS and the first implementation of

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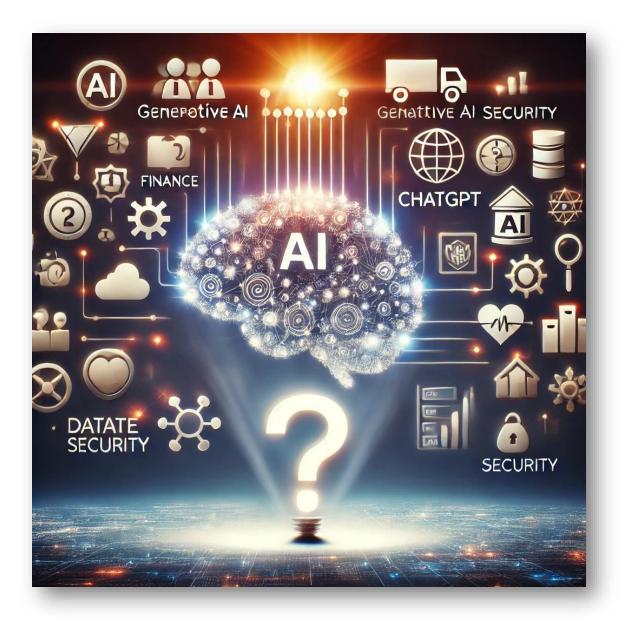
Al Concept & First Steps

Initial explorations and trials with AI for DB security.

AI in the Spotlight

Why Not Apply It to Database Security?

- Generative AI (GenAI), LLMs, and ChatGPT are transforming industries.
- The question is:
 - Can we leverage AI to simplify complex security activities?



Use Case 1: Creating Security Configurations

Can AI Help Build Secure Code?

Scenario:

Need to create a **password verify function** for database security.

Goal:

Use AI to quickly generate the required code and streamline the process.

Demo:

Showcasing AI (ChatGPT) generating the password verify function code.

create a password verify function for Oracle including the following checks for upper / lower case, min 1 digit, min 1 special character and a string distance of 5 characters, name the function doag_test_pvf

Use Case 1: Al-Generated Code

Conclusion: Al Assistance, but Not Perfect

Conclusion:

- Al-generated code is not always perfect.
- Requires validation and security expertise.
- You need to **know what you're doing** before applying it.

Use Case 2: Analyzing Code & Errors

Can AI Simplify Debugging and Analysis?

Scenario:

Need to analyze and debug a password verify function.

Goal:

Use AI to help analyze code, understand potential issues, and assist with documentation.

Demo:

- Showcasing AI (ChatGPT) analyzing the password verify function.
- Analysis: AI explains the code, highlights any issues, and offers solutions.

What is the purpose of following code:

Use Case 2: AI-Assisted Analysis

Conclusion: AI as a Documentation and Learning Aid

Conclusion:

- Al simplifies **documentation** and **code analysis**.
- Helpful when your knowledge is limited.
- Al bridges the gap but still requires a basic **understanding**.

Natural Language in Action

B

Demos showing privilege and audit analysis using natural language queries.

Natural Language in Action

Introducing Oracle Natural Query Language

Oracle Natural Query Language:

- Enables database interaction through natural language queries.
- Integration with Large Language Models (LLMs) for enhanced query understanding.

Potential for Simplifying Security:

- Translate complex SQL queries into natural language.
- Integrate with LLMs like OpenAI, Cohere, Azure, OCI, and Google.
- Empowers the security team to analyse data without in-depth SQL knowledge.

Basic Requirements

What You Need to Get Started

Cloud Environment:

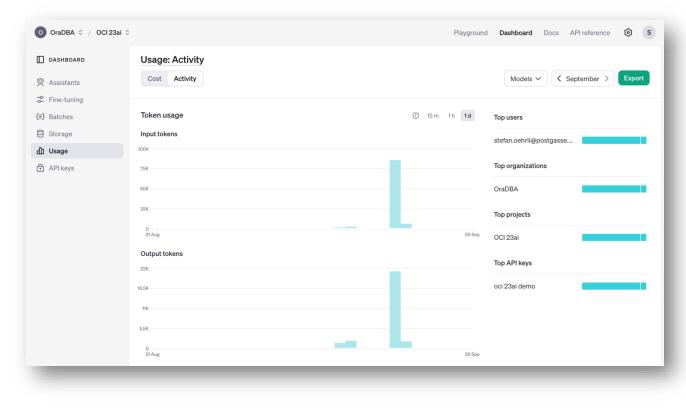
- Oracle 23ai cloud setup.
- Oracle Autonomous Database

Supported LLMs:

- Integration with OpenAI, Cohere, Azure, OCI, Google.
- https://platform.openai.com

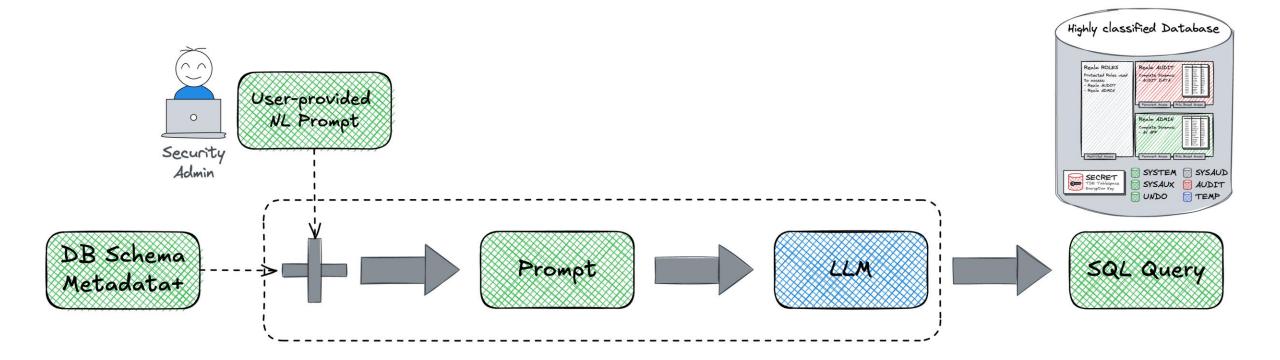
Database User Requirements:

- Corresponding DB user with **AI profiles**.
- Set up ACLs (Access Control Lists) for AI access.



Architecture Overview

How Natural Language Queries Work with Oracle



Demo Use Case 1: Privilege Analysis

Using Natural Language to Analyze Privileges

• Step 1: Configure a user for AI with privileges and ACLs.

• Step 2: Create credentials for AI interaction.

```
BEGIN
    dbms_cloud.create_credential(
        credential_name => 'OpenAI_oci23ai',
        username => 'stefan.oehrli@postgasse.ch',
        password => 'sk-proj-08bxQiiZ2cruLkgm9cBq_...');
END;
/
```

Demo Use Case 1: Privilege Analysis

Using Natural Language to Analyze Privileges

• Step 3: Create an AI profile for the user.

```
BEGIN
    dbms_cloud_ai.create_profile(
        profile_name => 'SECPRIV_AI',
        attributes => '{"provider": "openai",
            "model": "gpt-4",
            "credential_name": "OpenAI_oci23ai",
            "credential_name": "OpenAI_oci23ai",
            "object_list": [{"owner": "SYS", "name": "DBA_ROLES"},
            {"owner": "SYS", "name": "DBA_TAB_PRIVS"},
            {"owner": "SYS", "name": "DBA_ROLE_PRIVS"},
            {"owner": "SYS", "name": "DBA_SYS_PRIVS"}]}');
END;
/
```

• Step 4: Set the profile and run the natural language query to analyze privileges.

```
EXEC dbms_cloud_ai.set_profile(profile_name => 'SECPRIV_AI');
SELECT AI list roles not maintained by oracle;
```

Demo Conclusion

Key Takeaways from Privilege Analysis

Efficient Privilege Analysis:

Simplifies the complexity of privilege reviews.

Human-Friendly Queries:

- Removes the need for complex SQL.
- Good Basis for Browsing:
- Useful for quick browsing of database content.

Challenges in Finding the Correct Prompt:

- It can be tricky to phrase the natural language prompt correctly for the intended outcome.
 Not Necessarily Reproducible:
- Results may vary slightly with different wording of prompts.

Limitations:

Cannot handle complex subqueries or recursive queries effectively.

Demo Use Case 2: Audit Trail Analysis

Using Natural Language to Review Audit Data

- Set up everything for AI interaction (similar to use case 1).
- No Data when query the audit trail

Sorry, unfortunately a valid SELECT statement could not be generated for your natural language prompt. Here is some more information to help you further:

To find out how many unified audit events exist, you can use the following Oracle SQL query:

```
SELECT COUNT(*) AS "Total Audit Events"
FROM "SYS"."UNIFIED AUDIT TRAIL""
```

Create a temporary table for analysis.

```
CREATE TABLE unified_audit_trail
AS
SELECT
*
FROM
audsys.unified_audit_trail;
```

Demo Use Case 2: Audit Trail Analysis

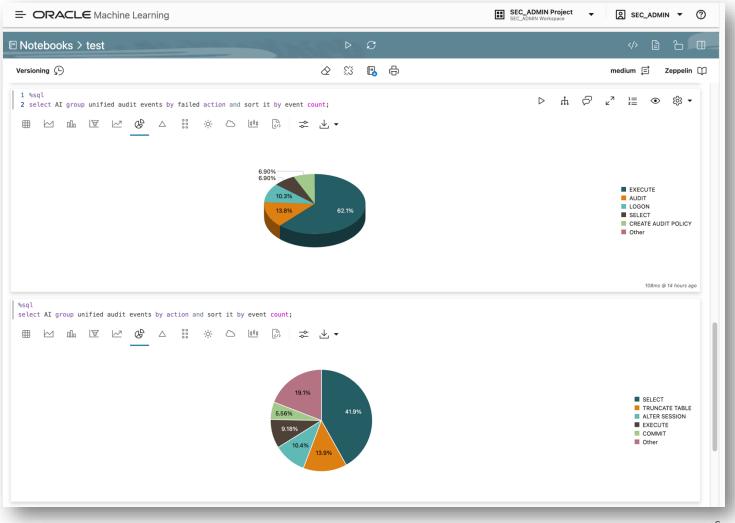
Using Natural Language to Review Audit Data

- Recreate the AI profile for the new table
- Run the natural language query to analyze the audit trail.

select AI what is latest audit event in SEC_ADMIN.UNIFIED_AUDIT_TRAIL table; select AI what is the user host with the most unified audit events; select AI list all unified audit events of dbusername SEC ADMIN order by EVENT TIMESTAMP;

Demo Use Case 2: Audit Trail Analysis

OML Notebooks to query the data



Challenges in Audit Trail Analysis

Issues Faced in Natural Language Query Setup

Direct Grants Missing:

Somehow SELECT AI does not work if object is not granted directly

Temp Table for Simulation:

- Simplifies audit analysis but introduces temporary complexities.
- In particular additional storage requirements for audit trail

Natural Language interesting approach to start the Process:

- Once configured, simple analysis does work
- It can be tricky to phrase the natural language prompt correctly for the intended outcome.

Sum Up: Issues and Challenges

Potential and Limitations of Natural Language Queries

Configuration Challenges:

Proper setup for AI interaction is crucial.

Natural Language:

- Reduces complexity in privilege and audit analysis.
- It can be tricky to phrase the natural language prompt correctly for the intended outcome.
- Cumbersome to find issues when SELECT AI does not work

Potential for Broader Use:

Could be expanded to handle more complex security tasks in the future.

Future Ideas

A brief look at potential applications of machine learning in security.

Future Ideas: Machine Learning in Security

Exploring the Potential of Oracle Machine Learning for Audit Analysis

Oracle Machine Learning for Audit Data

Leverage Oracle Machine Learning (OML) to analyze audit trails.

Analyzing Patterns

Understand usual/regular user activity and access patterns.

Identifying Anomalies

Use ML to detect irregularities in behavior and data access.

Traffic Light System

- Green: Normal activity
- Yellow: Unusual activity (e.g., increased administrative tasks)
- Red: Potential security breach (e.g., exceeded privilege use, password guessing, attacks)



One More Thing

5

A sneak peek at a potential upcoming Oracle feature.

Simplifying Database Security

Fewer Complex Queries, More Actionable Insights

What if...

- You could instantly know the security status of your database?
- Get insights into unusual or risky activity inside your DB?
- Simplify the work of a security operator or analyst?
- All this could be achieved without the need for complex SQL queries or in-depth technical know-how?

A Preview

- A future feature currently in highly alpha state
- Still uncertain on final capabilities and release dates
- All information subject to change

Data Safe – Security Advisory

Preview of Future Data Safe Feature – Highly Experimental, Subject to Change

Cloud	Search resources, services, documentation, and Marketplace	US East (Ashburn) 🗸 👩 🏠 😲 🤀							
Data Safe > Security center > Security	ty advisor								
Security center	Security advisor								
Security advisor	What has ALEX_APP	MGR done recently? Include database, sql text, and time of activity							
Dashboard	Fri, 06 Sep 2024 02:39:2	зитс							
Security assessment									
User assessment	ALEX_APPMGR's Recent Activity:								
Data discovery	Here's a summary of ALEX_APPMGR's recent activities across the HR_PRODUCTION and HR_DEVELOPMENT databases:								
Data masking	HR_PRODUCTION Database:								
Activity auditing	Sep 2, 2024, 11:28 PM: SELECT last_name, salary from hcm.employees								
SQL Firewall	 SELECT first_name, last_name, email from hcm.employees SELECT street_address, city from hcm.locations 								
Alerts	 SELECT job_title, max_salary from hcm.jobs 								
Session scope	HR_DEVELOPMENT Database:								
Commentational	Sep 2, 2024, 11:23 PM: SELECT first_name, last_name, email from hcm.employees								
Compartment	 SELECT last_name, salary from hcm.employees 								
adscorp_tenant01 (root)	 SELECT street_address, city from hcm.locations SELECT job_title, max_salary from hcm.jobs 								
You can review further details and the full audit trail for this user via Data Safe's Activity Auditing feature: Activity Auditing									
	Please ask your question here								
	ay be incomplete and/or contain errors and inaccuracies. Your access and use of this feature is at								

Summary & Conclusion

6

Key takeaways and final thoughts.

Data Safe for Security Enhancements

Leverage Data Safe for Comprehensive Security Management

The use of Data Safe for ADB is straight forward

Security Assessments

Identify vulnerabilities and misconfigurations.

Audit Configuration and Reporting

Automate audit setup and reporting to ensure compliance.

User Assessments

Monitor and analyze user access patterns.

Sensitive Data Discovery

Identify and protect sensitive data automatically.

	Securit	y controls	Total target datab	ases with security assessments:	
User accounts	Authorization control	Auditing	Encryptio	Encryption	
Password Authentication: 2	Database Vault: 0	ault: 0 Unified Audit: 2		ncryption: 2	
Global Authentication: 0	Privilege Analysis: 0	Fine Grained Audit: 0	Tablespac	Tablespace Encryption: 2	
External Authentication: 0		Traditional Audit: 0	Column Er	ncryption: 0	
Security assessment	User assessment		Data discovery	Top 5 targets	
Security assessment	38%	Jsers 50%		Top 5 targets ata to display	

Infrastructure Protection with Cloud Guard

Extend Security to OCI with Cloud Guard

Cloud Guard

Monitor and remediate OCI infrastructure threats.

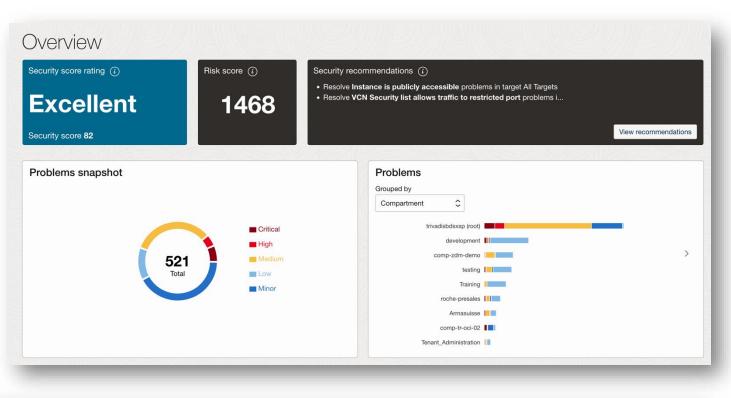
Automated Risk Detection

Identify suspicious activity across OCI resources.

Threat Remediation

Automatically apply fixes or alert administrators.

Example: Database has an old version, is public accessible, not registered in Data Safe



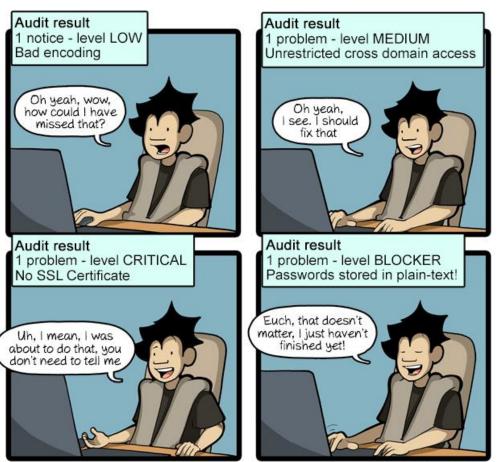
Ma	Manage columns Mark as resolved Dismiss										
	Problem name	Risk level 🔺	Detector type	Resource	Target	Regions	Labels				
	Database is not registered in Data Safe	Medium	Configuration	porsche-pag-v4	All Targets	Germany Central (Frankfurt)	Database Security				
	Database is not registered in Data Safe	Medium	Configuration	dbsys-fohrmann	All Targets	Switzerland North (Zurich)	Database Security				

Conclusion

GenAI, Natural Query Language,... Do they simplify DB Security?

- AI holds promise for Oracle DB security
- Early stages, primarily cloud-based.
- May simplifies tasks (privilege and audit analysis).
- Security expertise remains essential.
- Technical challenges ahead; not fully mature.
- Defined reports, SQL queries, and tools like Data Safe still deliver faster, more accurate, and reliable results.
- Exciting future opportunities, but progress will take time.

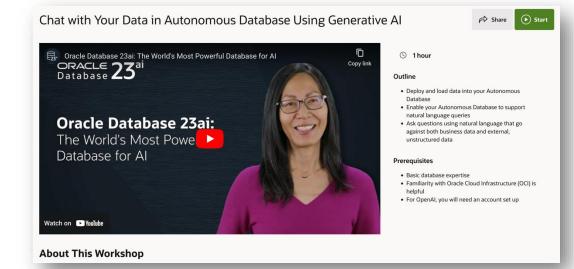
When I get the results from the security audit



CommitStrip.com

Oracle LiveLabs – DB Security

Trial the ADB and GenAI in just a few minutes...



Chat with Your Data in ADB – ID 3875

- Deploy and load data into your ADB
- Enable your ADB to support natural language queries
- Ask questions using natural language
- https://apexapps.oracle.com/pls/apex/r/dbpm/livelabs/viewworkshop?wid=3831

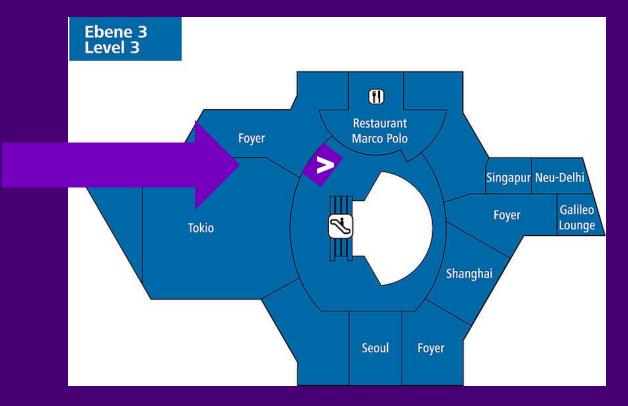


Al is promising for Oracle DB security but is still at an early stage and only available in the cloud.

In-depth security expertise is still the key to success.

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- Tuesday 15:35
- Wednesday 12:45
- Thursday 11:00

Accenture ACEs talk about the <u>ACE Program</u>

• Wednesday 14:45

Where: Accenture Booth on Level 3

Join us in the Happy Hour on Wednesday evening: Drinks are on us!



Thank You