



FACT *for*
Oracle
Version **2**

CoSort *FAst extraCT*

High-Speed Oracle Unload Utility for:

**Data Warehouse ETL
Database Reorg
Replication
Migration**

What Does FACT Do?

FAst extraCT (FACT) for Oracle is the quickest way to:

- Perform bulk unloads for ETL and database reorgs
- Extract large tables for database migrations
- Produce portable flat files from a table for data replication
- Create metadata for data transformations using CoSort and bulk loads through SQL*Loader

With FACT, Oracle professionals can rapidly unload table data with a simple command to execute a text or XML script:

fact ini_file

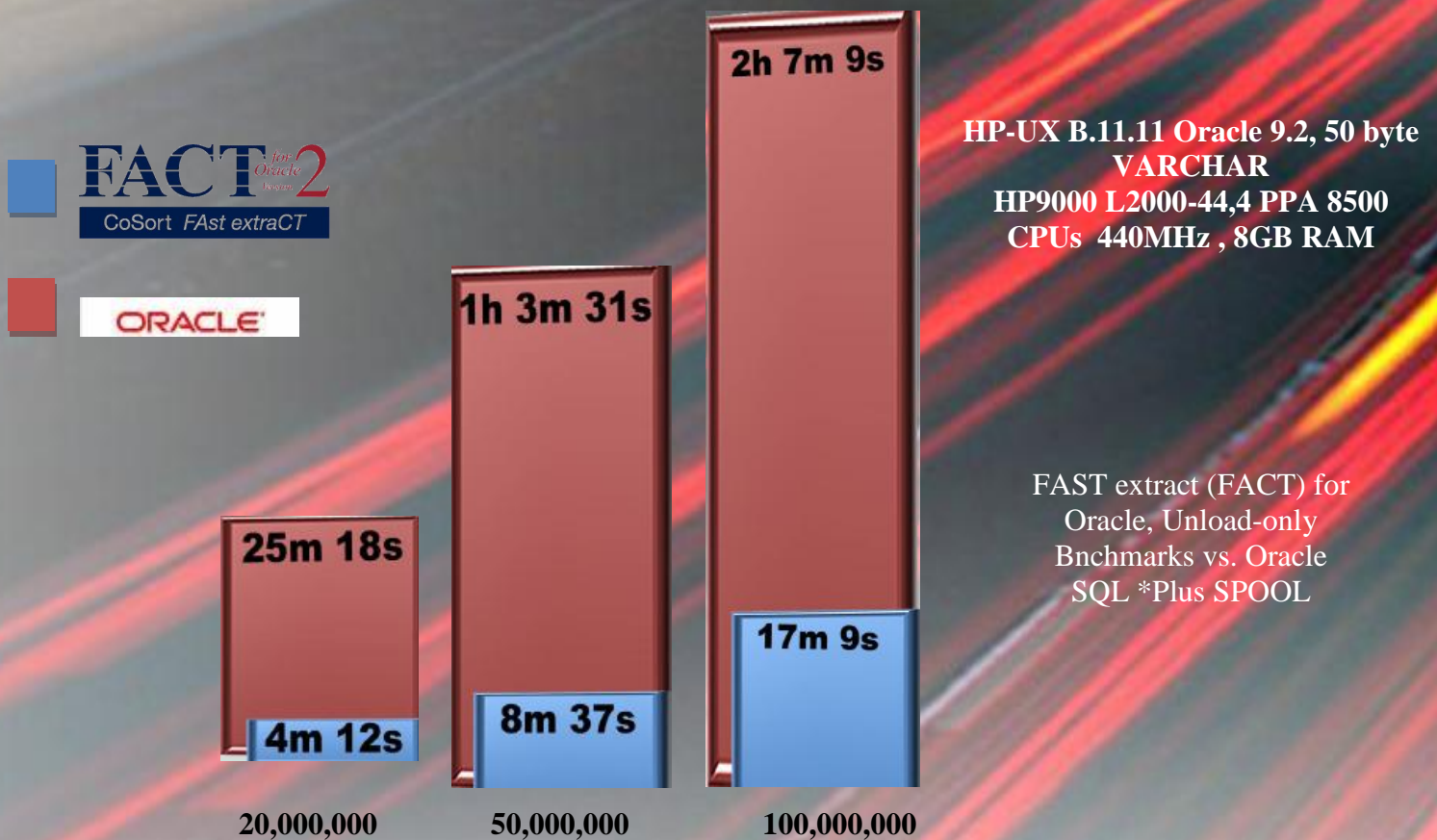
The script specifies the database instance, tables, and columns to be extracted, along with the target file format and destination. Each unload job can be invoked from the command line, a batch script, or an application program.

What are the Advantages of FACT?

FACT allows DBAs and ETL users to unload tables with much more speed and versatility than other methods and products, including SQL*Plus and Oracle's Export Utility.

For example, SQL*Plus is designed for access and manipulation of small amounts of Oracle data - and, as such, it requires resource overhead that makes the movement of bulk data inefficient. And, unlike the proprietary data format of Oracle's export tool, which requires its import utility to load the data back, FACT extracts are in a portable, flat-file format that is compatible with utilities like Excel, CoSort, and multiple database loaders.

Consider the benchmark below:



Combined ETL and Database Reorg Processing

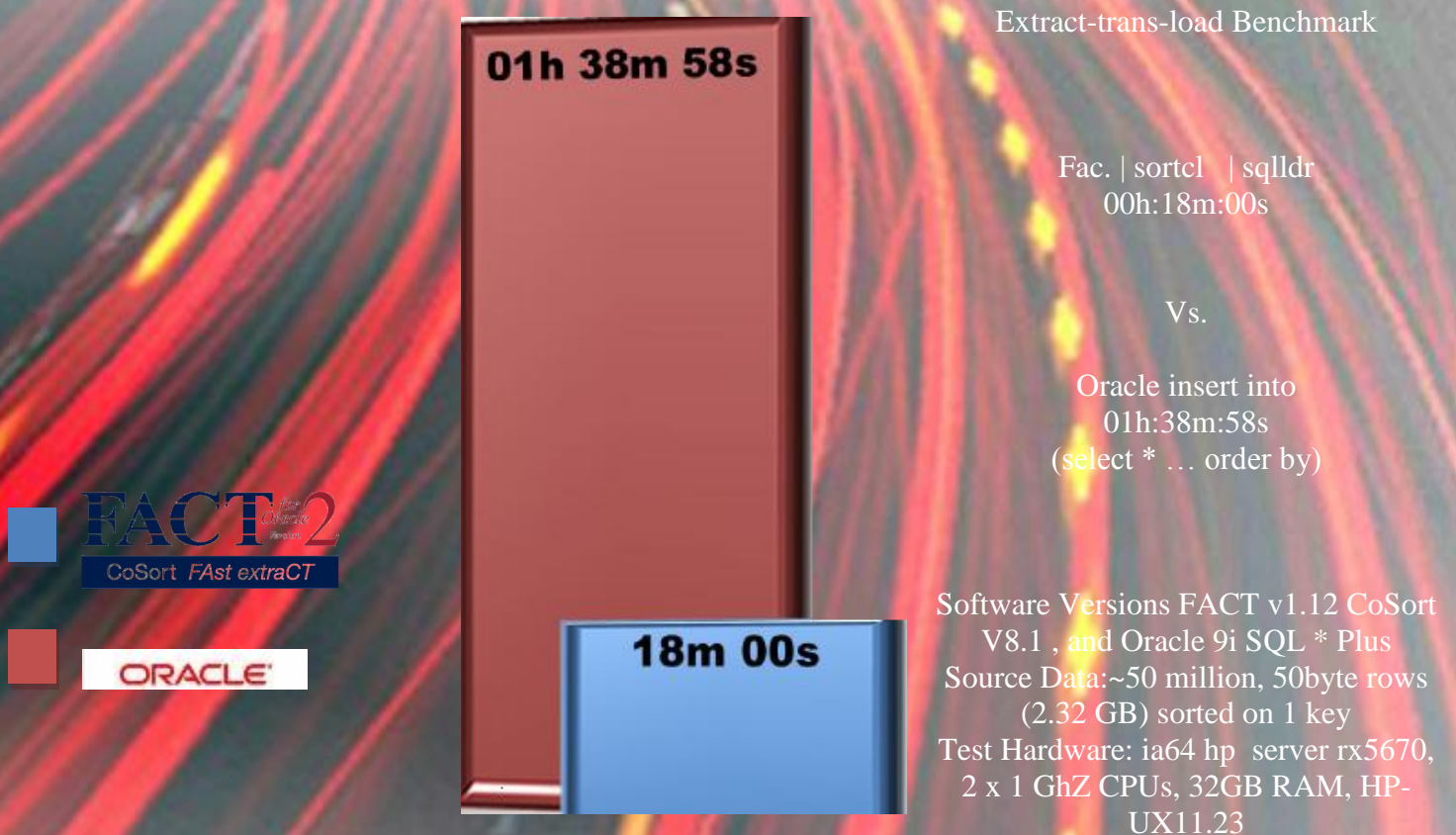
FACT optionally produces CoSort data definition files and SQL*Loader control files with each extraction. Having the extracted data layouts readily available makes it easy for DBAs and ETL architects to construct downstream or simultaneous, transformations and reloads.

By having metadata repositories in CoSort syntax, file layouts can be referenced for various manipulation processes such as:

- Sorting
- Joining
- Aggregation
- Type-conversion
- Cross-calculation
- Reporting

Creating a simultaneous extract, transform, and load operation involves building the relevant specification files, and piping their invocations together. Specifically, the extract process is defined in a FACT *ini_file*. FACT unloads the table and creates the flat file's field layouts in CoSort syntax. This metadata can be referenced in a CoSort job specification file that defines one or more transformations, such as a sort reorg on the longest index key. FACT also creates control file metadata for the SQL*Loader operation. No other high-volume reorg or ETL solution approaches this level of speed, ease, versatility, or value.

By running the optimized extraction, transformation, and loading steps together, data warehouse ETL and database reorg operations can be improved dramatically. Consider the benchmark below:



What Are the Business Benefits of FACT?

- Increases data availability for business intelligence
- Helps businesses meet SLAs and other commitments
- Mitigates hardware and software upgrade expenditures
- Speeds data migrations for faster CRM, ERP, and SCM roll-outs
- Frees people and computing resources for higher-value operations, improving enterprise agility

Supported Platforms

- UNIX (HP-UX, AIX, Solaris, Linux, Tru64)
- Windows (NT, XP, 2000/3/DC Server, Vista)

Supported Databases

- Oracle 7-11
- IBM DB2 UDB 8-9

Supported Data Types

- BLOB
- Char
- CLOB
- COBOL computational (packed decimal)
- Date and Timestamps
- Float
- Integer
- Long
- Nchar
- Number
- NVarchar
- Numeric
- Varchar/2

Supported Functions

- Extracts custom Data and Timestamp formats
- Reduces column widths to trim white space and reduce extraction time
- Converts numeric columns to Micro Focus signed computational, packed decimal, or Ryan McFarland packed decimal data types
- Adds a frame character to one or more fields
- Splits the extract into multiple files of a specified maximum size
- Uses environment variables to modify job specifications
- Obfuscates the database name and password connection details

**For more details on FACT
and related IRI software:**

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