

PRECISE FOR ORACLE DATABASE

Telecomm Enterprise Improves Database Performance by Almost 400%

INTRODUCTION

A large enterprise telecommunications company that provides wireless services and internet services in the United States of America uses a third-party application to gather configuration and performance data on their servers. However, a batch job that runs at midnight each night to gather data from these servers and load it into the service reporter database was taking far too much time to run. By analyzing the long history of performance data within Precise, it appeared that a particular statement was slowly increasing in execution time.

THE APPLICATION

The company uses a third-party application to manage the Information Technology infrastructure. The company runs a batch job at midnight each night to gather configuration and performance data from 2,000 of their servers and load the data into the Service Reporter database of the third-party application. Data analysts begin at 8:30 AM to review the data gathered during the previous evening for capacity planning.

THE PROBLEM

The batch job that loads the data was taking 12 hours to run. The consultants for the third-party application do not have access to modifying the source code of the third-party application. The company was expecting to increase the number of processed servers from 2,000 to 6,000. The team for the third-party application was planning on upgrading their hardware to handle this additional data. Data analysts in the group for capacity planning were unable to start their analysis until as late as noon.

THE PRECISE INSTALLATION

The company installed monitors for Precise on the Oracle Database server for the Service Reporter database. The Precise agents were collecting data continuously for over nine months leading up to the problem.

THE PRECISE ANALYSIS – PHASE 1

By analyzing the long history of performance data within Precise, it appeared that fewer than six SQL statements were accounting for the majority of time spent in the Oracle Database. A single SQL statement was slowly increasing in execution time. However, this problem was not apparent unless they looked at six months of data. The ‘SQL’ workspace showed that several key indexes were missing. Analysis of individual SQL statements showed that adding indexes would have a huge positive impact with minimal risk. The ‘What-If’ workspace showed that adding indexes would not adversely affect other SQL statements.

The ‘In Oracle’ area at the top of the ‘Activity’ workspace for the relevant instance of Oracle Database (Figure 1), the overall performance showed an excessive amount of internal lock wait and input/output wait (with almost 16 hours and almost 11 hours, respectively, at midnight). The “Statements: Entries Sorted by In Oracle (Summed)” area at the bottom of the ‘Activity’ workspace shows that the top three statements together account for more than 50% of all of the time in Oracle Database (with some 32%, 13%, and 10%, respectively).

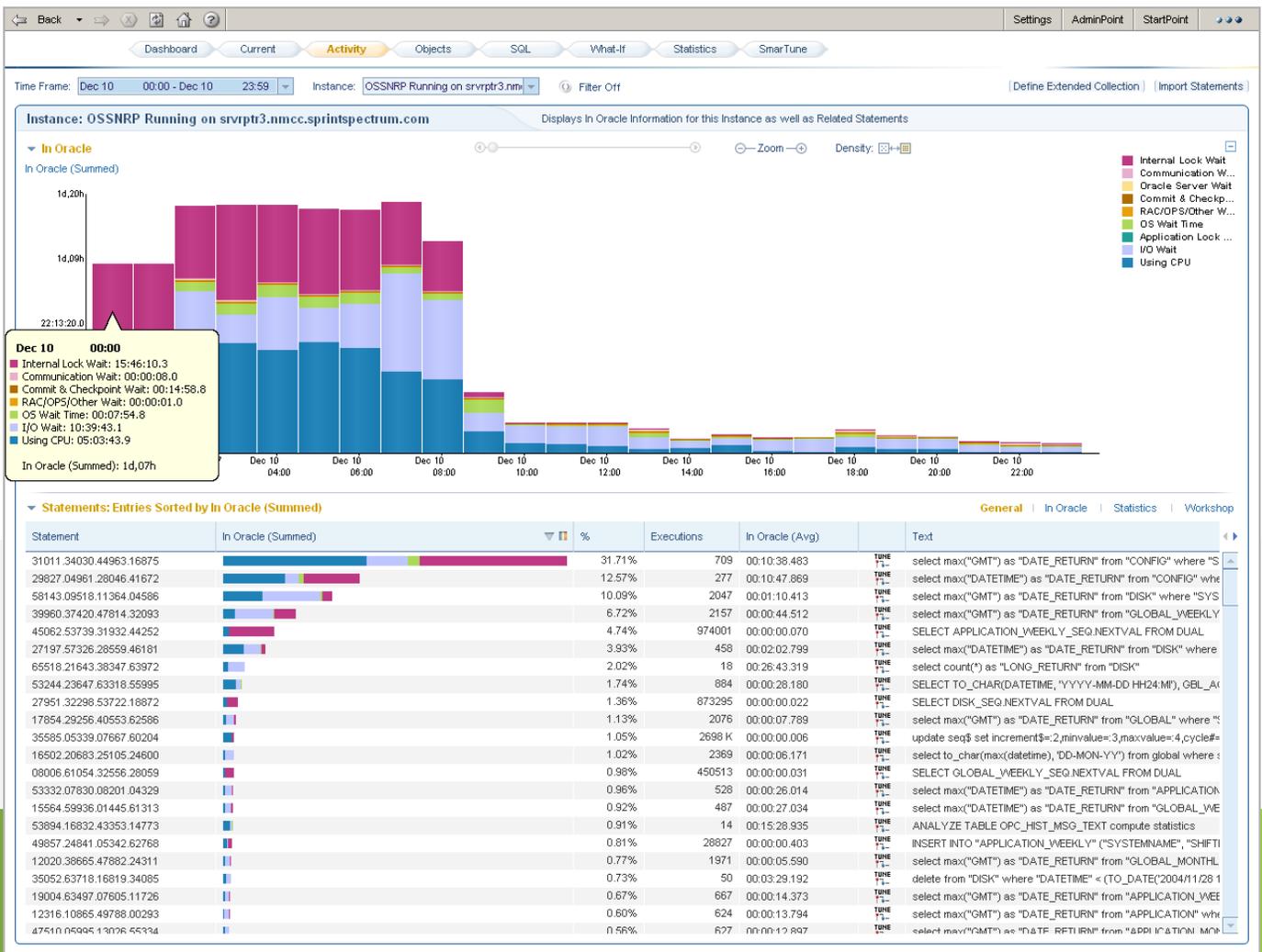


Figure 1: The ‘In Oracle’ area at the top of the ‘Activity’ workspace for the relevant instance of Oracle Database.

The 'In Oracle' area at the top of the 'Activity' workspace for the relevant instance of Oracle Database (Figure 2) shows that the run-time of the batch job reduced to 4½ hours (that is, refer to the clock time of the sixth vertical bar) by creating efficient indexes with the 'SQL' workspace.

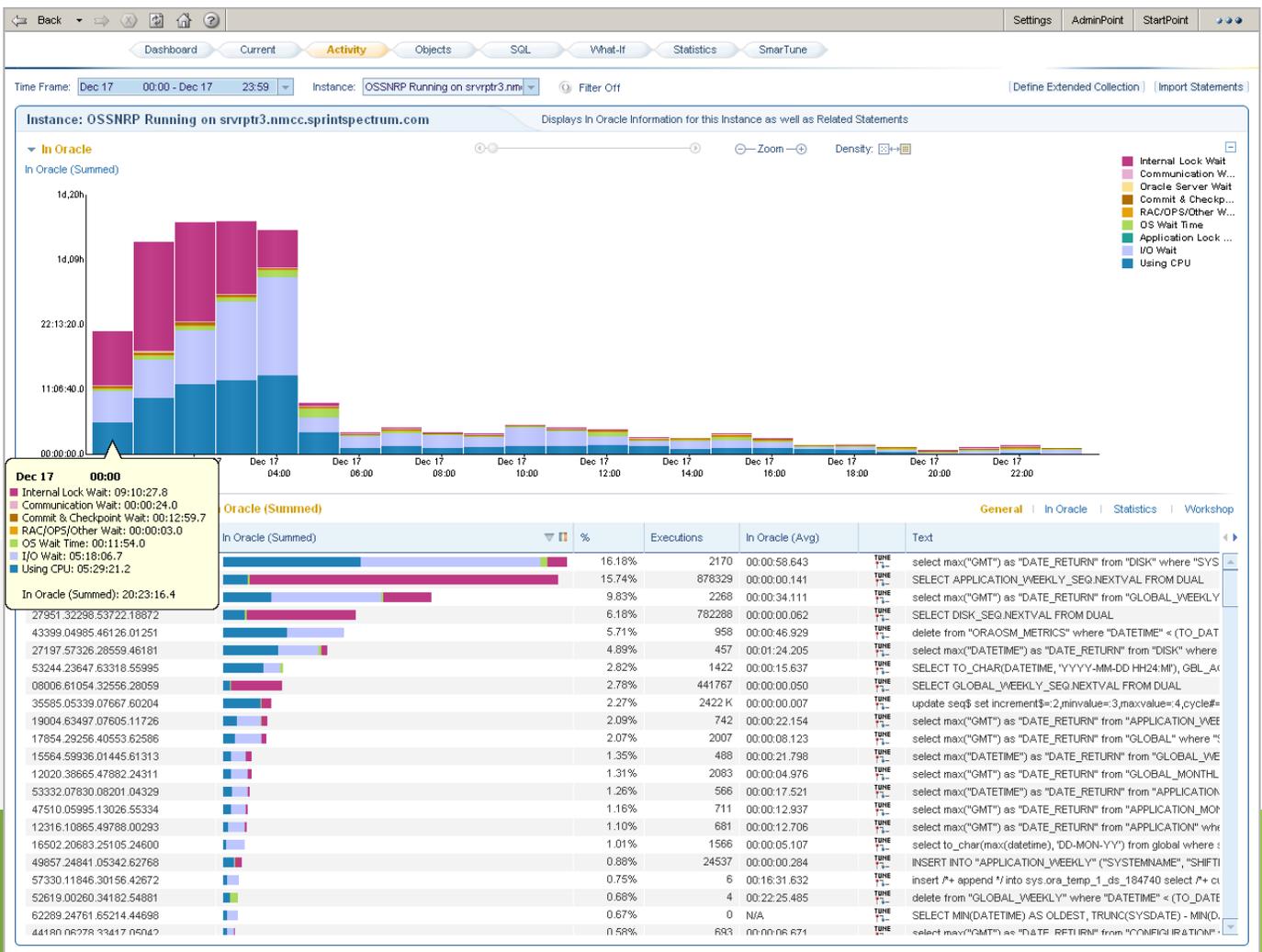


Figure 2: The 'In Oracle' area at the top of the 'Activity' workspace for the relevant instance of Oracle Database before and after adding efficient indexes.

THE PRECISE ANALYSIS – PHASE 2

Indexes were further refined using the ‘SQL’ workspace. It appears that sequence values of Oracle Database, used extensively in the batch process, were not being cached that resulted in a lot of internal lock wait states. The company changed all sequences that were not using the cache.

It also appeared that SQL statements had many hardcoded values. The third-party application set the parameter ‘CURSOR_SHARING’ that determines what kind of SQL statements can share the same cursors to ‘EXACT’ which only allows statements with identical text to share the same cursor.

This setting resulted in tens of thousands of hard parses. The company changed this setting to ‘SIMILAR’ that causes statements that may differ in some literals but are otherwise identical to share a cursor unless the literals affect either the meaning of the statement or the degree to which the plan is optimized. After these additional changes, the company reduced the run-time of the batch job from 4½ hours to 2½ hours.

The ‘Overview’ area at the top of the ‘Objects’ workspace for the relevant instance of Oracle Database (Figure 3) shows the cumulative positive effects of all changes. That is, compare the final bar and its informational balloon of this screen capture image with the first bar and its informational balloon from Figure 1.

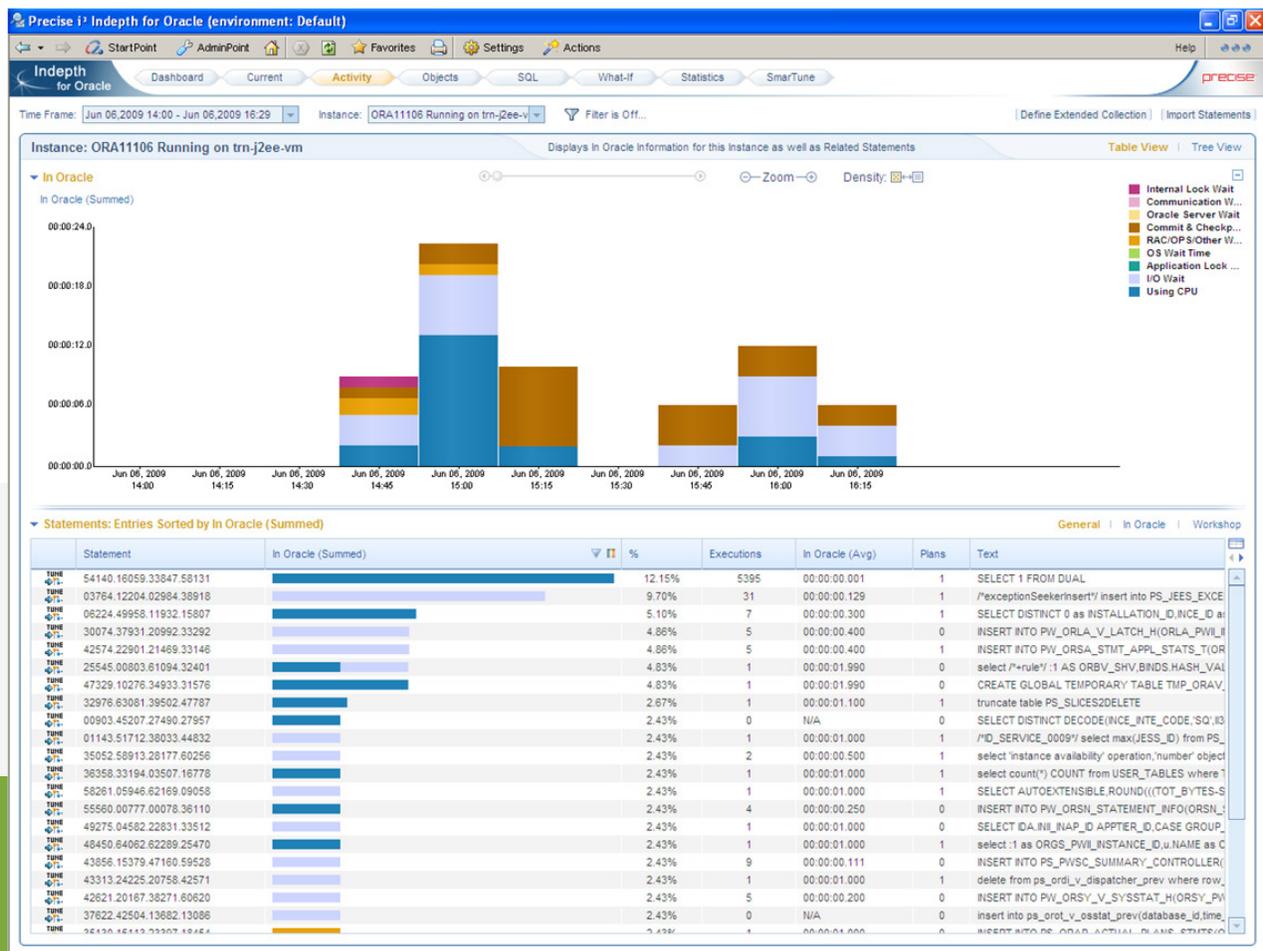


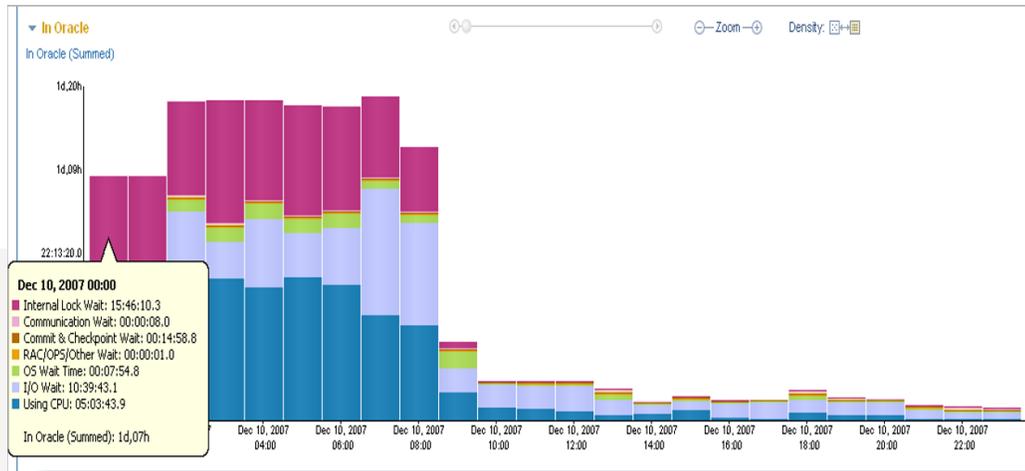
Figure 3:

The ‘Overview’ area at the top of the ‘Objects’ workspace for the relevant instance of Oracle Database after the changes.

THE RESOLUTION

The run-time of the batch job processing 2,000 servers was reduced from 12 hours to 2½ hours without modifying any source code. The team for the third-party application is now able to process the required 6,000 servers in less than 8½ hours. The batch job now spends only 20% of its time in the Oracle Database, as compared to 90% earlier.

The evolution of the performance tuning with Precise shows the initial performance (Figure 4a), the performance after the first phase of the analysis that resulted in adding useful indexes (Figure 4b), and the performance after the second phase of the analysis that resulted in modifying a parameter (Figure 4c).



The evolution of performance tuning with Precise

Figure 4a: Initial performance.

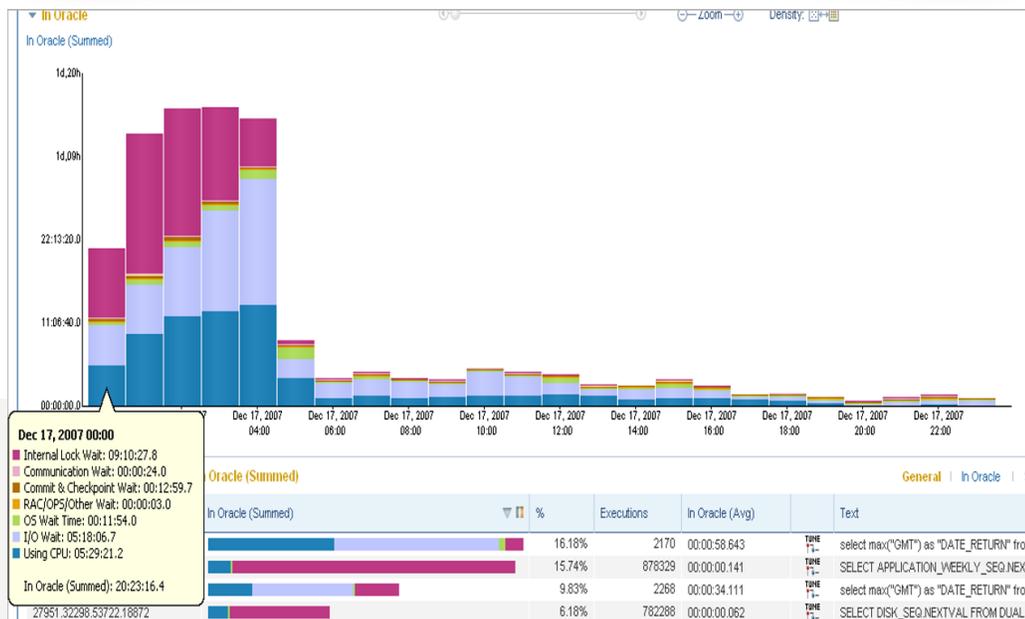


Figure 4b: performance after the first phase of the analysis.

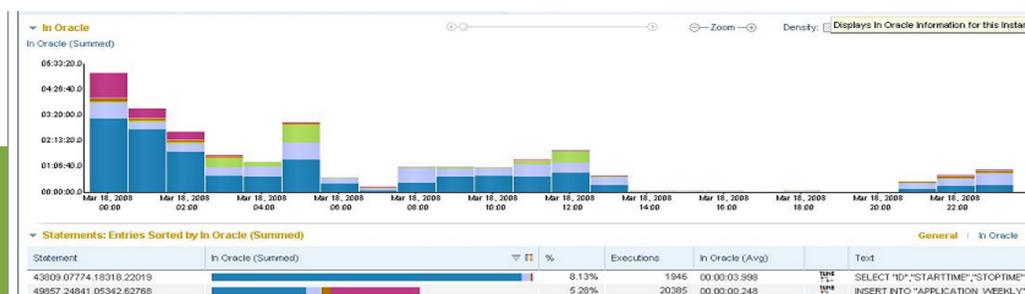


Figure 4c: performance after the second phase of the analysis.

THE SAVINGS

The company can now postpone a necessary hardware upgrade indefinitely. A particular consultant for the third-party application who had been focusing on the performance of the application can now focus on the functional aspects of the application. The business consultants can now have the data ready for their analysis when they arrive in the morning. The manager of the group for capacity planning told another vendor that Precise saved his group “hundreds of thousands if not millions of dollars” by avoiding unnecessary costs for hardware and software upgrades.

SUMMARY

The business-critical third-party application that gathers configuration and performance data from 2,000 servers had a batch job that was running in 12 hours. The expected throughput of the application was going to triple. Precise showed how to make changes to indexes, objects, and initialization parameters. The company reduced the run-time of the batch job to 2½ hours. The analysts of the company now have the data they need when they need it. The company achieved an almost 400% improvement in job throughput without having access to any source code to the third-party application by only changing the database.

PRECISE FOR ORACLE DATABASE

ACCELERATE BUSINESS PERFORMANCE

- Database Performance Fuels Company Performance
- Multiple Platform Database Monitoring and Alerting
- Performance Management Database
- Root Cause Identification
- Tuning Recommendations
- What-if Analysis
- Capacity Planning

SEE IT IN ACTION

