

■ ■ ■ PL/SQL Code Checker – At the Bleeding Edge



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Agenda



Data are always
part of the game.

- Introduction
- Xtext Solution
- Limitations
- ANTLR & XQuery Alternative Solution
- Conclusion

Starting Position (1)



- Trivadis PL/SQL & SQL Coding Guidelines Release 2009
- PL/SQL Assessment Offering using a Cookbook based on
 - Quest SQL Navigator 6.2.1 Code Expert
 - Quest TOAD 10.0 Code Expert
 - TVD Scripts with PL/Scope 11g to check Naming Conventions
 - TVD Scripts for rules not handled by Quest
- Shortcoming of PL/SQL Assessment Offering
 - One snapshot – Assessment of a defined release
 - Repetitive execution is time-consuming, expensive, not feasible
 - Solution is not part of an automated, continuous integration strategy

Starting Position (2)



- PL/SQL Code Checker Prototype based on Xtext
 - Implementation by Itemis AG, sponsored by Technology Division
 - Sample code for guidelines #25, #47, #54 supported only
 - Command-line interface and Eclipse Plug-In
 - Support for multiple error reporting strategies (text, HTML)
 - See also [TechEvent_201009_Pakull_PLSQL_Code_Checker.pptx](#)
- TIPP project with Commerzbank
 - Extend prototype
 - Run against customer source code
 - Define and implement customer rules
 - Verify feasibility of this approach
- Additional Technology Projects to complete Parser
 - Full Parse of PL/SQL source embedded in SQL*Plus files
 - Basic Parse of other components in SQL files (using "BaseText")

Intention



- Support Trivadis PL/SQL & SQL Coding Guidelines completely
- Continuous support of new Oracle Releases
- Explore additional, functional areas with further TIPP projects
 - Dependency Analysis
 - Complexity Analysis
 - Externalize Configuration
- Use Code Checker in conjunction with PL/SQL & SQL Coding Guidelines as Marketing Instrument
 - DOAG SIG Development/Oracle Tools, 22nd September 2011, Köln
Checking compliance with custom guidelines for PL/SQL code
 - *Oracle World 2011, 2nd-6th October 2011, San Francisco*
Modern PL/SQL Code Checking and Dependency Analysis
 - *DOAG 2011 Conference, 15th-17th November 2011, Nürnberg*
Modern PL/SQL Code Checking and Dependency Analysis
- Explore further, functional areas
 - Complete Eclipse Plug-In, Syntax Highlighting, Code Formatter, Quick Fixes, Code Completion, Refactoring
 - Plug-In for existing IDEs like SQL Developer, TOAD, ...
 - Web Services

Primary Scope of PL/SQL Code Checker



- Process SQL*Plus files within a directory tree using a command line interface
 - ▣ Support typical file extensions out of the box:
 - sql, prc, fnc, pks, pkb, trg, vw, tps, tbp, plb, pls, rcv
 - spc, typ
 - aqt, aqp, ctx, dbl, tab, dim, snp, con, collt, seq, syn, grt
 - sp, spb, sps
 - ▣ Ignore other file extensions
- Oracle Database Version 9i and later

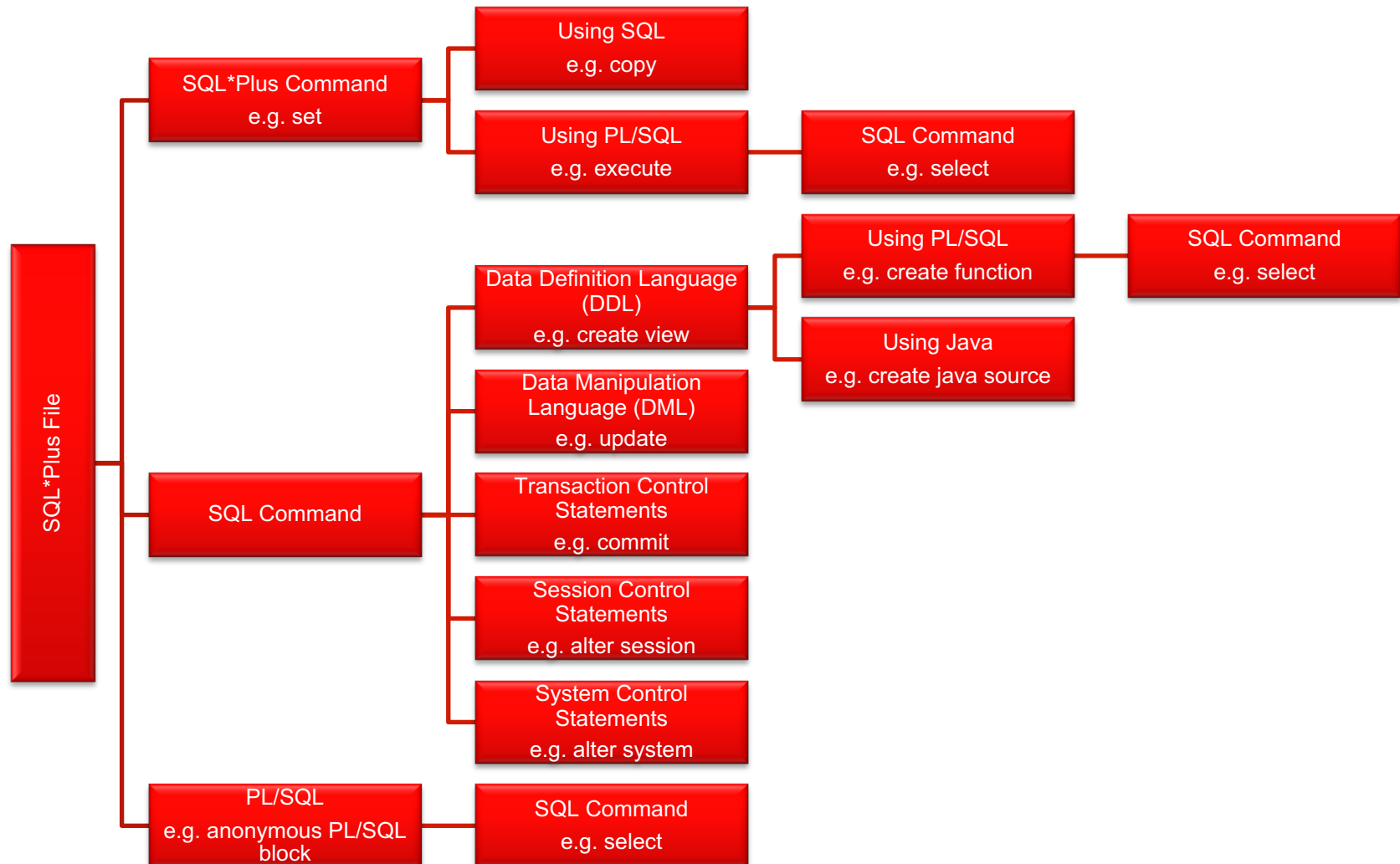
Agenda



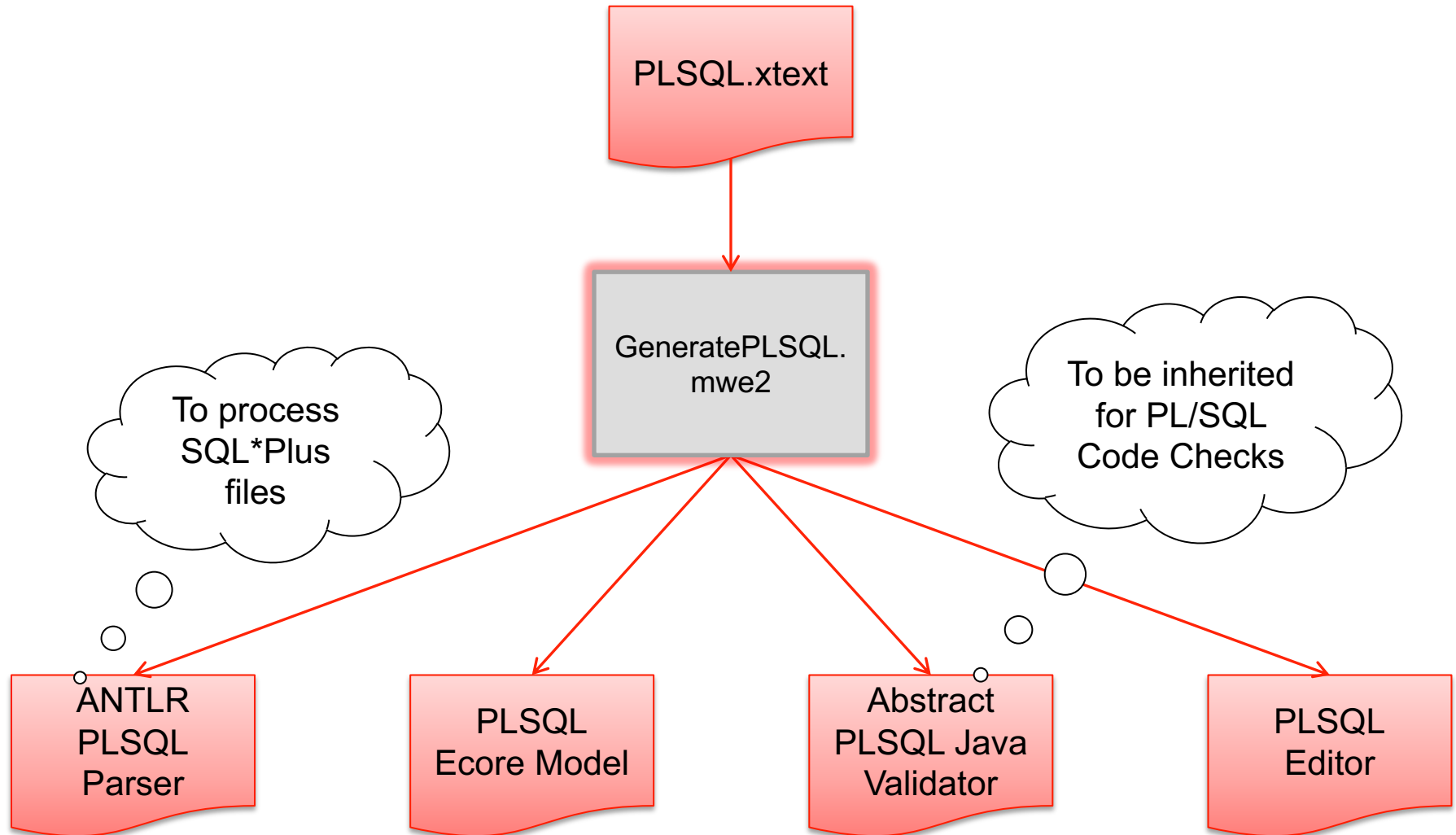
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What's in a SQL*Plus File?



Generate PL/SQL Grammar via Xtext



Trivadis PL/SQL & SQL Guideline #54



PL/SQL & SQL

CODING GUIDELINES
VERSION 1.3.1

54. Always use a string variable to execute dynamic SQL.

Reason: Having the executed statement in a variable makes it easier to debug your code.

Example:

```
-- Bad

DECLARE

    l_empno emp.empno%TYPE := 4711;

BEGIN

    EXECUTE IMMEDIATE 'DELETE FROM emp WHERE epno = :p_empno' USING l_empno;

END;
```

```
-- Good

DECLARE

    l_empno emp.empno%TYPE := 4711;
    l_sql    VARCHAR2(32767);

BEGIN

    l_sql := 'DELETE FROM emp WHERE epno = :p_empno';
    EXECUTE IMMEDIATE l_sql USING l_empno;

EXCEPTION

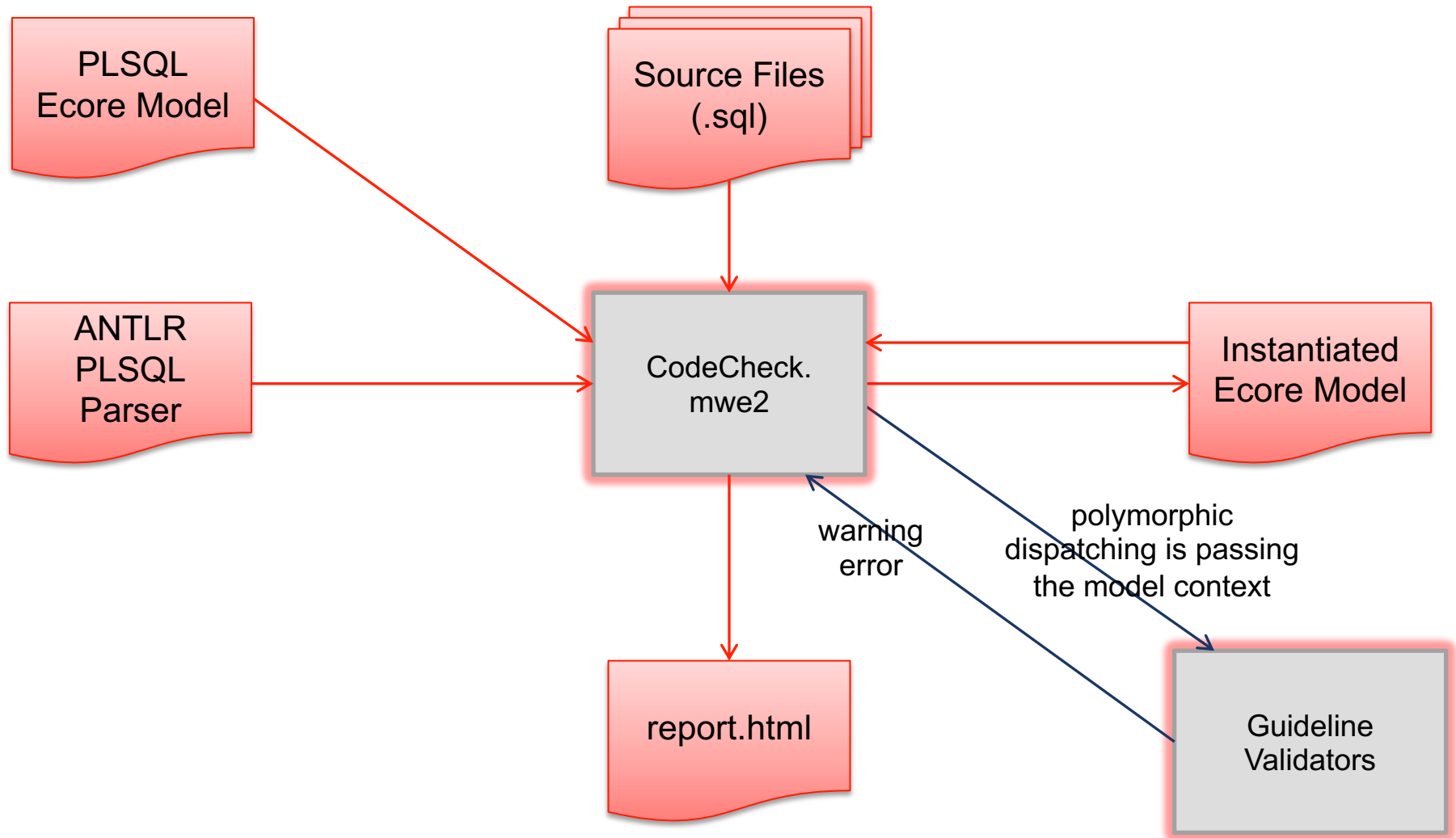
    WHEN others

    THEN

        DBMS_OUTPUT.PUT_LINE(l_sql);

END;
```

Apply Code Checks



Source, Model & Warning for Guideline #54



```
declare
  l_next_val number;
begin
  execute immediate 'select mesg_seq.nextval from dual' into l_next_val;
end;
/
```

line 4 - Guideline 54 violated:
Always use a string variable
to execute dynamic SQL.

Generic Editor - guideline_54.sql

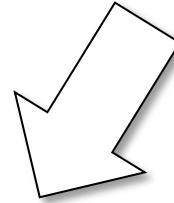
Model

- platform:/resource/test/src/guideline_54.sql
 - PLSQL File
 - Plsql Block
 - Item Types
 - Variable Declaration
 - Simple Expression Name Value l_next_val
 - Number Type 0
 - Body
 - Execute Immediate Statement
 - Simple Expression String Value select mesg_seq.nextval from dual
 - Into Clause
 - Variable false
 - Qualified Column Alias
 - Simple Expression Name Value l_next_val

Properties

Value

Validator for Guideline #54



```
ExecuteImmediateStatement:
'execute' 'immediate'
statement=Expression
(
    (
        into=(IntoClause | BulkCollectIntoClause)
        using=UsingClause?
    )
    | using=UsingClause
    | returning=DynamicOrStaticReturningClause
)?
;
```

PLSQL.xtext

```
@Check
public void checkGuideline54(ExecuteImmediateStatement statement) {
    Expression executedStatement = statement.getStatement();
    // plain string?
    if (executedStatement instanceof SimpleExpressionStringValue) {
        warning("Guideline 54 violated: Always use a string variable to execute dynamic SQL.",
            executedStatement, null, GUIDELINE_54,
            serialize(executedStatement.eContainer()));
    }
    // expression?
    else if (executedStatement != null) {
        List<SimpleExpressionStringValue> stringValues = EcoreUtil2
            .getAllContentsOfType(executedStatement,
                SimpleExpressionStringValue.class);
        // string values found?
        if (stringValues != null) {
            if (stringValues.size() > 0) {
                warning("Guideline 54 violated: Always use a string variable to execute dynamic SQL.",
                    stringValues.get(0), null, GUIDELINE_54,
                    serialize(executedStatement.eContainer()));
            }
        }
    }
}
```

PLSQLJavaValidator.java

Command Line Interface



- `java -jar codecheck.jar .`

```
30 issues found.
Issues for file 'guideline_47.sql':
  line    5 - Guideline 47 violated: Never handle unnamed exceptions using the error number.
1 issue found.
Issues for file 'guideline_54.sql':
  line    4 - Guideline 54 violated: Always use a string variable to execute dynamic SQL.
1 issue found.
Issues for file 'guideline_25.sql':
  line    2 - Guideline 25 violated: Always specify the target columns when executing an insert command.
1 issue found.
0      INFO Workflow          - Done.
```

guideline_47.sql - 1 issue:

line 5 - Guideline 47 violated: Never handle unnamed exceptions using the error number.

```
when others then
if sqlcode = -1 then
null;
end if;
```

guideline_54.sql - 1 issue:

line 4 - Guideline 54 violated: Always use a string variable to execute dynamic SQL.

```
execute immediate 'select mesg_seq.nextval from dual' into l_next_val
```

guideline_25.sql - 1 issue:

line 2 - Guideline 25 violated: Always specify the target columns when executing an insert command.

```
insert into app_messages
values (mesg_seq.nextval, p_mesg_type, p_mesg_name, p_mesg_text)
```

DEMO

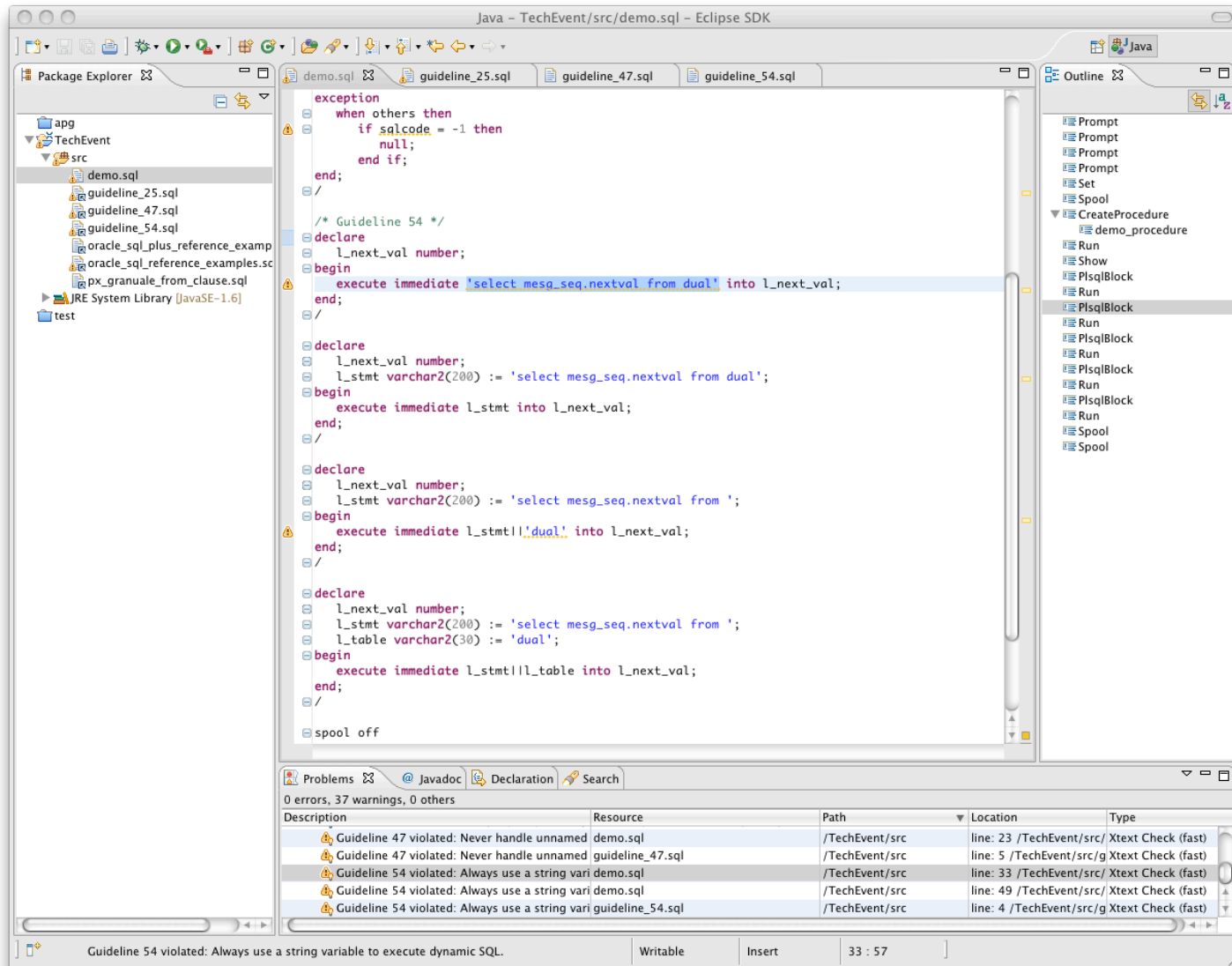
Console
Strategy

HTML
Strategy

Eclipse Plug-In



DEMO



Validator for Parameter Naming

DEMO

```
ParameterDeclaration:
    parameter=ColumnAlias
    self?='self'? in?='in'? (out?='out' noCopy?='noCopy'?)?
    type=ElementType
    default=DefaultClause?
;
```

```
ColumnAlias:
    SimpleExpressionNameValue
    | ReservedKeywordExpression
;
```

```
SimpleExpressionNameValue:
    columnName=SqlName
;
```

```
public static final String CUSTOM_GUIDELINE_1 = "codecheck.custom.guideline.1";

// @Check
public void checkCustomGuideline1(ParameterDeclaration parameter) {
    ElementType type = parameter.getType();
    ColumnAlias alias = parameter.getParameter();
    String name = "";
    // i_ and s_ prefixed parameters are simple expression name values
    if (alias instanceof SimpleExpressionNameValue) {
        name = ((SimpleExpressionNameValue) alias).getColumnName();
        if (name.length() >= 2) {
            name = name.substring(0, 2).toLowerCase();
        }
    }
    // apply rule for standalone functions/procedures, type (body)
    // functions/procedures, package (body) functions/procedures and
    // cursors
    if (type instanceof NumberType && !name.equals("i_")
        || type instanceof Varchar2Type && !name.equals("s_")) {
        warning("Custom Guideline 1 violated: parameter name must start with 'i_' for number and with 's_' for varchar2 parameters.",
            alias, null, CUSTOM_GUIDELINE_1,
            serialize(parameter.eContainer()));
    }
}
```


Unit Testing



DEMO

The screenshot displays the Eclipse IDE interface. The Package Explorer on the left shows a list of test classes under the package `com.trivadis.codecheck.tests`. The Test Runner at the bottom left shows the results of the unit tests, indicating that all tests passed. The main editor shows the source code of `TerminalTests.java`, which contains several test methods. The Outline view on the right shows the class hierarchy and the location of the test methods.

Test Results (Left Panel):

- com.trivadis.codecheck.tests.DatatypeRulesTests [Runner: JUnit 3] (10.0 s)
- com.trivadis.codecheck.tests.ExpressionTests [Runner: JUnit 3] (2.269 s)
- com.trivadis.codecheck.tests.GuidelineTests [Runner: JUnit 3] (3.879 s)
- com.trivadis.codecheck.tests.TerminalTests [Runner: JUnit 3] (6.646 s)

Test Methods (Main Editor):

```
public void testDOTDOTOperator() {
    checkTokenisation("1..10", "RULE_INTDOT", "RULE_DOTINT");
    checkTokenisation("1..10", "RULE_INTDOT", "...", "RULE_WS", "RULE_INT");
    checkTokenisation("1..10", "RULE_INT", "RULE_WS", "...", "RULE_INT");
    checkTokenisation("1..10", "RULE_INT", "RULE_WS", "...", "RULE_WS", "RULE_INT");
    checkTokenisation("1.2..10.5", "RULE_NUM", "...", "RULE_NUM");
    checkTokenisation("anID..anotherID", "RULE_ID", "...", "RULE_ID");
}

public void testINTDOT() {
    checkTokenisation("1.e10f", "RULE_INTDOT");
    checkTokenisation("1.e+10f", "RULE_INTDOT");
    checkTokenisation("1.e-10d", "RULE_INTDOT");
    checkTokenisation("1.e-10d", "RULE_INTDOT");
    checkTokenisation("1.e10", "RULE_INTDOT");
    checkTokenisation("1.e+10", "RULE_INTDOT");
    checkTokenisation("1.e-10", "RULE_INTDOT");
    checkTokenisation("1.f", "RULE_INTDOT");
    checkTokenisation("1.f", "RULE_INTDOT");
    checkTokenisation("1.d", "RULE_INTDOT");
    checkTokenisation("1.D", "RULE_INTDOT");
}

public void testDOTINT() {
    checkTokenisation("1.e10", "RULE_DOTINT");
    checkTokenisation("1.e+10", "RULE_DOTINT");
    checkTokenisation("1.e-10", "RULE_DOTINT");
    checkTokenisation("1.e10f", "RULE_DOTINT");
    checkTokenisation("1.e+10f", "RULE_DOTINT");
    checkTokenisation("1.e-10d", "RULE_DOTINT");
    checkTokenisation("1.e-10d", "RULE_DOTINT");
    checkTokenisation("1.e10", "RULE_DOTINT");
    checkTokenisation("1.e+10", "RULE_DOTINT");
    checkTokenisation("1.e-10", "RULE_DOTINT");
    checkTokenisation("1.f", "RULE_DOTINT");
    checkTokenisation("1.f", "RULE_DOTINT");
    checkTokenisation("1.d", "RULE_DOTINT");
    checkTokenisation("1.D", "RULE_DOTINT");
}

public void testNUM() {
    checkTokenisation("0.1", "RULE_NUM");
    checkTokenisation("0.1", "RULE_INTDOT"); // handled as INTDOT
    checkTokenisation("0.1", "RULE_DOTINT"); // handled as DOTINT
    checkTokenisation("0.1e10", "RULE_NUM");
    checkTokenisation("0.1e+10", "RULE_NUM");
    checkTokenisation("0.1e-10", "RULE_NUM");
    checkTokenisation("0.1e10f", "RULE_NUM");
    checkTokenisation("0.1e+10f", "RULE_NUM");
    checkTokenisation("0.1e-10f", "RULE_NUM");
    checkTokenisation("0.1e10d", "RULE_NUM");
}
```

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Xtext 1.0.2 – Most Annoying Limitations



- One Grammar, One Parser
 - The workflow GeneratePLSQL.mwe2 needs 4 minutes to complete
 - ✖ ~~Bug 328153~~ - Split grammar definition into multiple Xtext files
 - Bug 256403 - Multiple Grammar Mixin / Grammars as Library
- Maximum Size of 64 KB for Java Classes and Methods
 - Bug 328083 - Configure FieldsPerClass in addition to ClassSplitting
 - Bug 328753 - Too many constants error in generated internalXXXParser.java for huge grammar
 - The class splitting highly depends on specific version of the parser generator used (ANTLR 3.0 for Xtext 1.0, ANTLR 3.2 for Xtext 2.0) since the generated code is amended in way to get it compiled
 - The current PL/SQL grammar needs custom (TVD specific) features to avoid "... is exceeding 65535 bytes..." errors (since this is working only under certain circumstances it's currently not part of the Xtext distribution)
 - The Code Assist (part of the UI project) is currently disabled since this for to Code Assist extended grammar variant is far too large

Known, Major Code Checker Limitations



- Unquoted Identifiers may conflict with keywords of other grammars, e.g. "describe" is a keyword, but not a reserved word in SQL (valid for table, views, etc.)
 - It would be easy to handle all this keywords technically, but this currently leads to methods/classes > 64 KB
- Undocumented and old grammar may break the parser
 - The grammar is continuously extended according real live code
- User defined operators are not supported (a sample operator "contains" is hard-coded)
 - Currently defined grammar is becoming ambiguous
 - This problem may be addressed (probably) by refactoring the Expression and Condition parser rules
 - The workaround is, to simply add the customer's operators when needed

Known, Minor Code Checker Limitations



- The SQL*Plus block terminator character '.' is not supported (nor configurable)
- The SQL*Plus command separator character ';' is not supported (nor configurable)
- The SQL*PLUS SQLTerminator is not configurable, the default ';' is supported
- The SQL*Plus line continuation character '-' does not support trailing whitespaces
- The SQL*Plus run command abbreviation '/' does not support trailing whitespaces
- The SQL*Plus execute command must end on ';' if the last token is an expression (it's working only for syntactically fully defined statements)
- The SQL*Plus SQLTerminator ';' does not support trailing whitespaces (it's working only for syntactically fully defined statements)
- The SQL*Plus Commands REMARK and PROMPT must not contain unterminated single/double quotes, single line or multi line comments (using terminals lead to other conflicts)

Using Xtext – Reasons for Steep Learning Curve



- Output of underlying parser generator is passed 1:1 to the user
 - Fundamentals of ANTLR are mandatory
 - Ability to distinguish between ANTLR and Xtext artifacts necessary
- Convention over configuration
 - The first DSL incl. editors are created very fast using Xtext
 - Typically it's working but you easily do not know why and how
 - Usually things may be amended very elegantly and with just a few lines of code (e.g. outline, validators, formatter)
 - However, to find out what to do could take a serious time for an inexperienced fellow
- Consider your limitations when using Xtext ;-)

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Choosing the Right Ingredients (1)

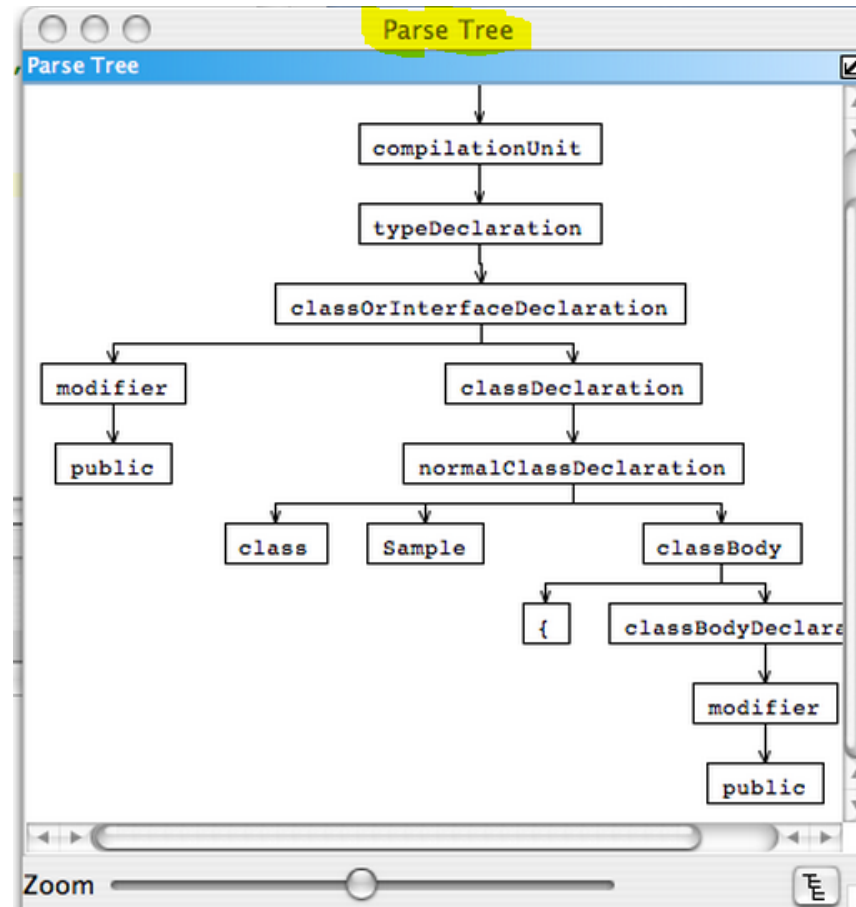


Choosing the Right Ingredients (2)



- SQL & PL/SQL grammars available on <http://wwwantlr.org/grammar/list>
 - [OracleSQL](#)
Ivan Brezina Fri Sep 3, 2010 07:19
Oracle SQL grammar, including 11g features.
 - [PL/SQL](#)
Patrick Higgins Fri Jul 16, 2010 15:20
Parser for Oracle PL/SQL. Works with 11g. More details can be found in the header of the grammar.
 - [Oracle PL/SQL Grammar for ANTLR v3](#)
Andrey Kharitonkin Sat Apr 26, 2008 08:59
Based on PL/SQL grammar for ANTLR v2 published here.
 - [ORACLE PL/SQL Grammar With Code Counting Hooks](#)
David Edwards Fri Mar 16, 2007 12:17
Developed from the PL/SQL Grammar that was already present on the site, this version works better with more recent versions of PL/SQL. Nevertheless, it is far from being complete.
- SQL & PL/SQL grammar as part of Oracle JDeveloper Extensions
 - <http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/developer-tools/jdev/index-099997.html>
see Class oracle.javatools.parser.plsql.PlsqlParser
 - Required libraries (e.g. javatools-nodeps.jar) are part of the SQL Developer distribution

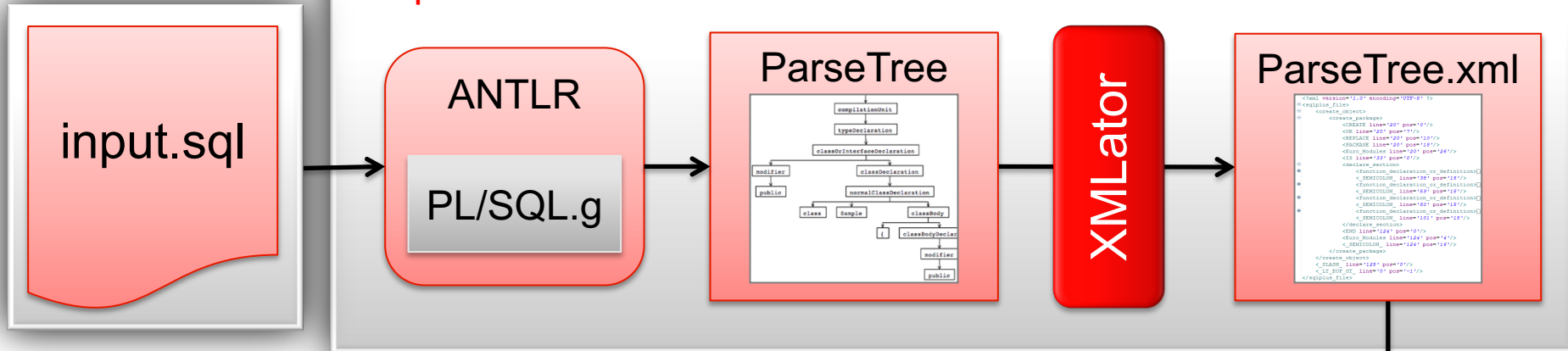
What Do We Get Else For Free?



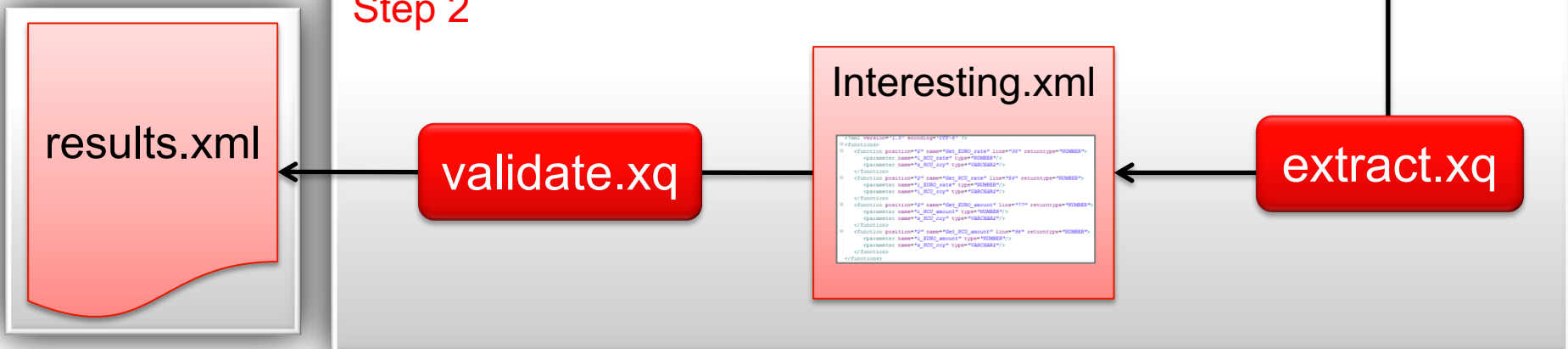
Putting It All Together



Step 1



Step 2



XMLator, extract.xq, validate.xq



DEMO

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Conclusion



- The SQL*Plus grammar is huge and a solution to simplify the grammar was necessary to make it work with Xtext - there are still some simplifications possible (e.g. views)
- Coming releases of Xtext will for sure address at least some of the limitations (we may accelerate that if really needed)
- The advantage of the Pure-Parser-And-XQuery-Approach is that it is build on an existing parser, which does not need to be maintained by Trivadis, but this comes with limitations such as
 - No support for SQL*Plus files
 - Rudimentary model without the ability to handle references (which will become very handy for dependency analysis)
 - Validators are not really easier to write and maintain
- Xtext is build on sound concepts, e.g. good separation of parser and validators
- Xtext is a complete DSL framework (more than just a parser generator)
- Even if a significant subset of the SQL*Plus, SQL, PL/SQL grammar needs to be maintained continuously, Xtext is a good choice to implement the future PL/SQL Code Checker and Dependency Analysis requirements

■ ■ ■ Thank you!



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