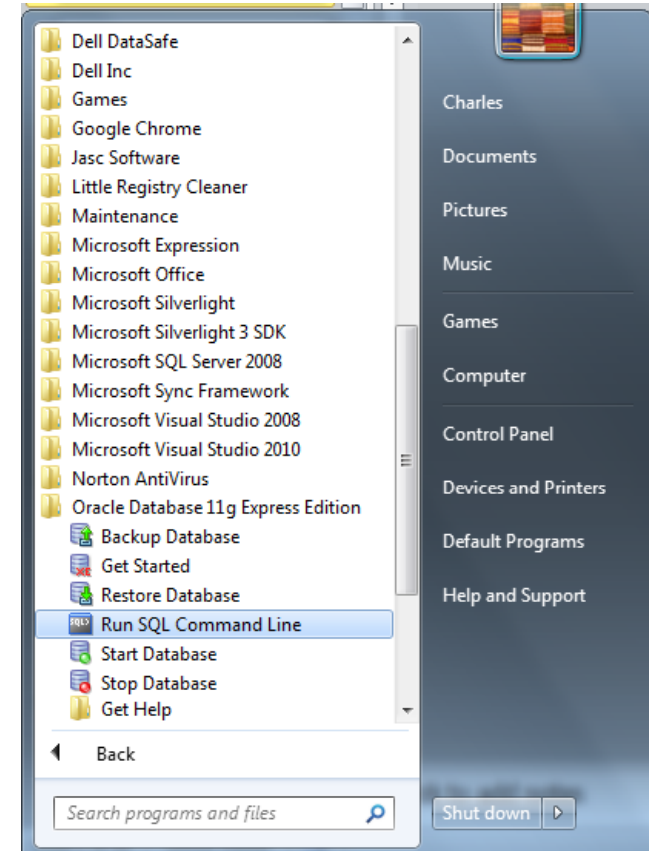


Rename a Table Column with SQL

October 29, 2012

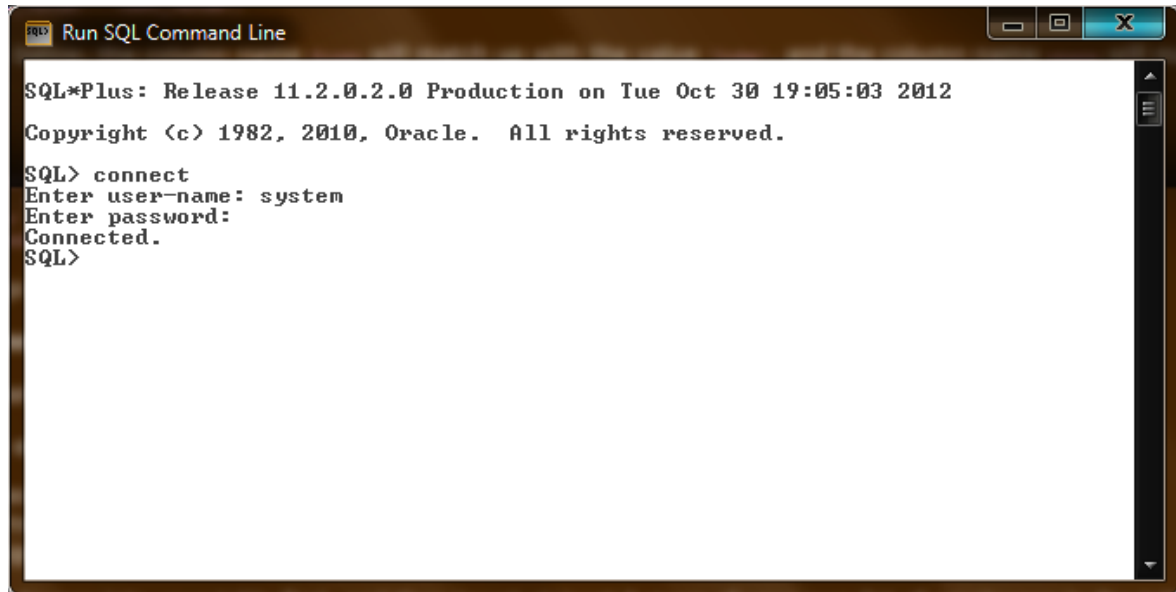
Run SQL Command Line

We will begin this lesson with changing a column name in a table. On the Start menu, select Programs, then Oracle Database Express Edition and Run SQL Command Line.



Connect to Oracle

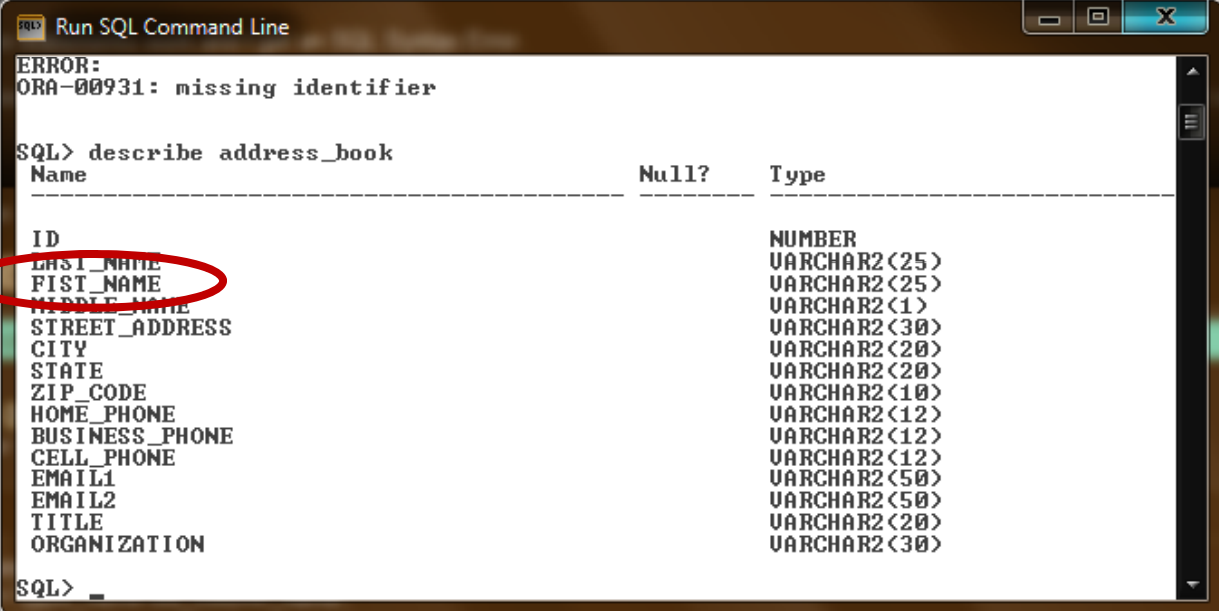
To connect to Oracle, we type connect when the Run SQL Command Line window appears. For the username, we input “system”. For our password, we use the same one we entered when we installed the Oracle Database Express on our computer.

A screenshot of a Windows-style window titled "Run SQL Command Line". The window contains a text area with the following text: "SQL*Plus: Release 11.2.0.2.0 Production on Tue Oct 30 19:05:03 2012", "Copyright (c) 1982, 2010, Oracle. All rights reserved.", "SQL> connect", "Enter user-name: system", "Enter password:", "Connected.", and "SQL>". The window has a standard Windows title bar with minimize, maximize, and close buttons.

```
SQL*Plus: Release 11.2.0.2.0 Production on Tue Oct 30 19:05:03 2012
Copyright (c) 1982, 2010, Oracle. All rights reserved.
SQL> connect
Enter user-name: system
Enter password:
Connected.
SQL>
```

Rename a Column Name

We can see that the column for first_name is actually misspelled fist_name. To change the column name, we will use the alter function.



```
Run SQL Command Line
ERROR:
ORA-00931: missing identifier

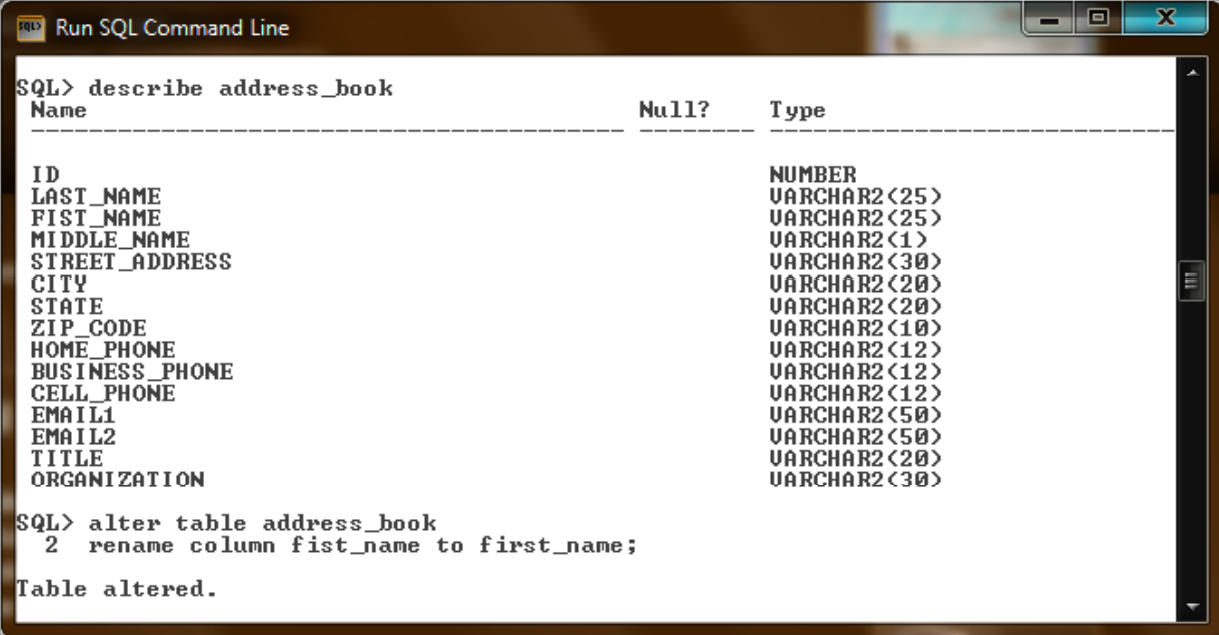
SQL> describe address_book
Name                                     Null?    Type
-----
ID                                       NUMBER
LAST_NAME                               VARCHAR2(25)
FIST_NAME                                VARCHAR2(25)
MIDDLE_NAME                              VARCHAR2(1)
STREET_ADDRESS                          VARCHAR2(30)
CITY                                      VARCHAR2(20)
STATE                                    VARCHAR2(20)
ZIP_CODE                                 VARCHAR2(10)
HOME_PHONE                               VARCHAR2(12)
BUSINESS_PHONE                           VARCHAR2(12)
CELL_PHONE                               VARCHAR2(12)
EMAIL1                                   VARCHAR2(50)
EMAIL2                                   VARCHAR2(50)
TITLE                                    VARCHAR2(20)
ORGANIZATION                             VARCHAR2(30)

SQL>
```

Rename Function

We begin with the alter function, table and tablename such as alter table address_book.

Then we input rename column fist_name to first_name. We end that line with a semicolon.



```
Run SQL Command Line
SQL> describe address_book
Name                               Null?      Type
-----
ID                                  NUMBER
LAST_NAME                          VARCHAR2(25)
FIST_NAME                           VARCHAR2(25)
MIDDLE_NAME                         VARCHAR2(1)
STREET_ADDRESS                     VARCHAR2(30)
CITY                                VARCHAR2(20)
STATE                               VARCHAR2(20)
ZIP_CODE                            VARCHAR2(10)
HOME_PHONE                          VARCHAR2(12)
BUSINESS_PHONE                      VARCHAR2(12)
CELL_PHONE                          VARCHAR2(12)
EMAIL1                              VARCHAR2(50)
EMAIL2                              VARCHAR2(50)
TITLE                               VARCHAR2(20)
ORGANIZATION                        VARCHAR2(30)

SQL> alter table address_book
2  rename column fist_name to first_name;
Table altered.
```

We use the describe address_book to check our table and review our spelling.

Additional Assignments

1. Change a column name in a table such as address to street_address.
2. Change a column name in a table such as email1 to email_personal and email2 to email_professional.