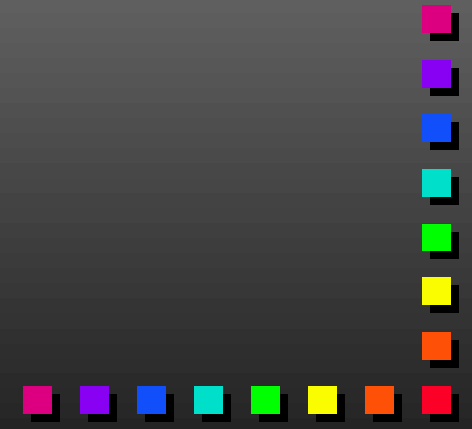




# Descriptive Flexfields

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# Agenda

- Why Descriptive Flexfields - Lecture
  - Quick Example
- Planning - Audience Workshop
- Registration - Demo
- More Planning - Audience Workshop
- 20 Minute Break



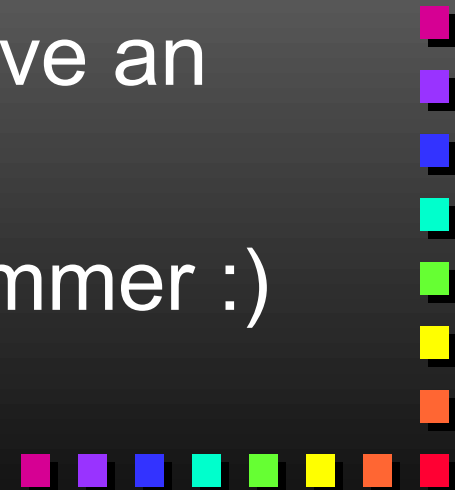
# Agenda cont.

- Definition - Demo
  - Value Sets
  - Segments
- Testing - Demo
- Data Storage / Retrieval - Lecture
- Questions & Comments



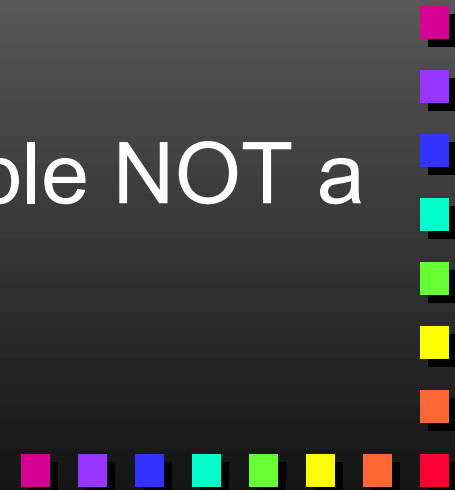
## Why Descriptive Flexfields

- Customers require more data to be stored than what Oracle provides
- Oracle gave us additional “space” in most tables to store this data
- Descriptive Flexfields will survive an upgrade
- You don't need to be a programmer :)



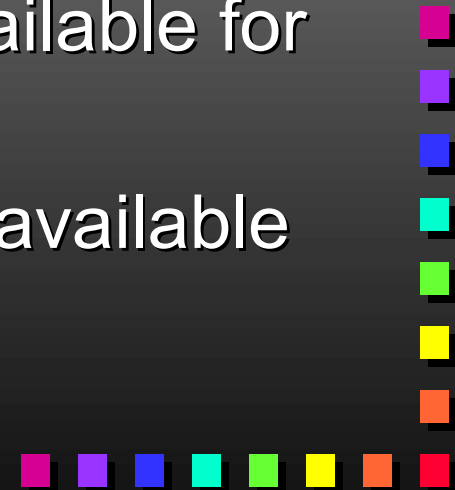
# Planning

- DFF space is finite, use wisely
- Does a DFF exist for your TABLE
  - forms look for [ ]
  - TRM
  - DFF registration
- DFFs are associated with a table NOT a form



# Registration

- Query by the Table Name
  - learn the number of user defined flexfields for the table
  - record the Name of the Flexfield
  - learn the number of columns available for storage
  - learn which reference fields are available



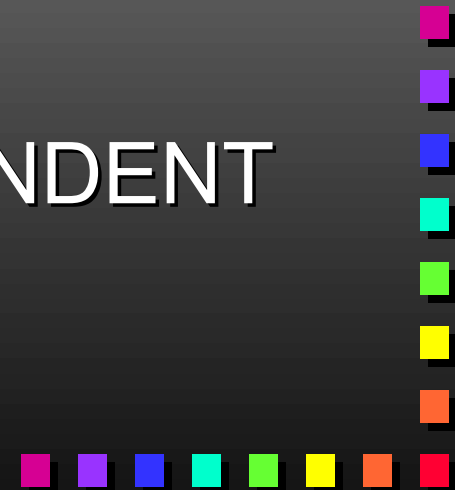
## More Planning

- Use Paper and Pencil
- What needs to be stored
- Where will the data come from
- Is the data
  - Global
  - Context Sensitive
- Data validation, size, security



# How to validate the data

- Already in Oracle Database (TABLE)
  - employee names
- Free format typing (NONE)
  - phone numbers
  - comments
- I need to make a list (INDEPENDENT or DEPENDENT)



# Global vs Context Sensitive

■ Global Data Elements mean the question will be asked for every occurrence of the Descriptive Flexfield.

■ Context Sensitive Elements are questions asked “depending” on the answer to some other question. This “other” question can use a Reference field from above for its answer.



# Assignment

*My company has decided that we would like to know the make, model, and color of car the CFO of this set of books drives.*

*I would like to know which state the CFO resides. If they live in Colorado I would like to know if they are a Bronco fan. If they live in Missouri I want to know if they are a Chiefs or Rams fan*



# Global or Context Sensitive?

- Make
- Model
- Color of Car
- Colorado
- Missouri
- Bronco Fan
- Cheifs Fan
- Rams Fan



# Data format, size, security, validation

## ■ Data Formating

### ■ character

- numbers only
- right justify zero fill 0003
- uppercase

### ■ date

- Minimum and Maximum values

### ■ numbers

- precision (place to right of decimal)
- Minimum and Maximum values



# Data format, size, security, validation

- Size

- Minimum and Maximum values

- Value Security based on Responsibility

- More than 100 values

- Validation Type

- None

- Independant

- Dependant

- Table



# Data format, size, security, validation, global, context sensitive

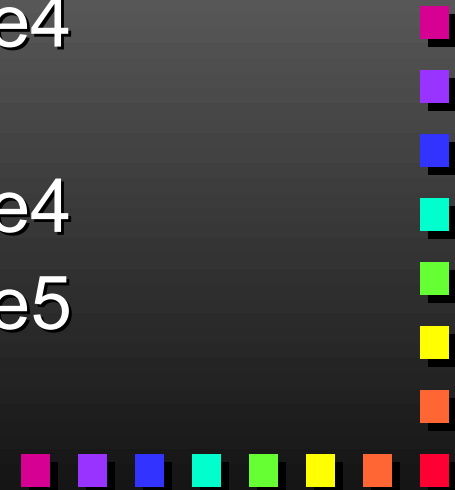
- Make
- Model
- Color of Car
- Colorado
  - Bronco Fan
- Missouri
  - Cheifs Fan
  - Rams Fan



# Do I have enough room

- Make
- Model
- Color of Car
- Colorado
  - Bronco Fan
- Missouri
  - Cheifs Fan
  - Rams Fan

- attribute1
- attribute2
- attribute3
- context
  - attribute4
- context
  - attribute4
  - attribute5



# 20 Minute Break



## Definition - Value Sets

- Is there an existing value set
- Document
- Follow standards
  - CUSTOM PREFIX
  - UPPER CASE NAMES
  - ONE WORD
    - OAUG\_MAKES\_OF\_CARS



## Definition - Segments

- Use a worksheet first (save this)
- Document
  - record the view name xxxx\_DfV
- Do not make mistakes - take your time
- Disable no deletion
- EVERY field must have a value
- Freeze when complete



# Testing

- Log onto the form and validate the DFF
- Use the TEST form (this is not my favorite method)
- If possible look at the database values
- Then move to production



## Data Storage / Retrieval

- Oracle designed DFF's for your convenience in storage. They do not provide retrieval reports!
- Code using the view NOT the table itself



# Base Table

GL\_SETS\_OF\_BOOKS

set\_of\_books\_id,  
name,  
attribute\_category,  
attribute1,  
attribute2,  
attribute3,  
attribute4,  
attribute5

ROWID is a hidden field of all tables



# DFF View

GL\_SETS\_OF\_BOOKS\_DFFV

Row\_ID

Make

Model

Color

CO

Bronco\_Fan

MO

Chief\_Fan

Ram\_Fan



# DFF View and BaseTable

```
SELECT T.TABLE_COLUMNS,  
       V.DFF_COLUMNS  
FROM   BASE_TABLE T,  
       BASE_TABLE_DFF V  
WHERE  V.ROW_ID = T.ROWID
```



# Questions and Comments

