

# How to Create an Item Type Plug-in

We are going to develop an item type plug-in which is a replacement for the select list with the possibility to group the values which are displayed in the select list. This example should show you a more sophisticated dynamic SQL code to process a LOV statement.

1. Open or create the **Sample Application** which comes with APEX
2. Go to **Shared Components\User Interface\Plug-ins**
3. Click **Create >**
4. Enter **Group Selectlist** into the field **Name**
5. Enter **com.yourcompany.apex.group\_selectlist** into the field **Internal Name**.  
Replace yourcompany with the name of your company.

*Note:* The value has to be unique within your application. If you want to contribute your plug-in to the APEX community, it should be unique world wide. That's why you should use a reverse version of your companies domain name as prefix.

6. Set **Type** to **Item**
7. Leave everywhere else the default values and click **Create**
8. Go to section **Source**
9. Paste the code which you can find in the file **group\_selectlist\_plugin.sql** into the **PL/SQL Code** field.

*Note:* See the code comments for additional information on how a render procedure has to look like.

10. Go to section **Callbacks**
11. Enter **render\_grouplist** into the field **Render Procedure Name**

*Note:* Because of performance reasons you can also store the plug-in code in a PL/SQL package. In that case you would just use package\_name.render\_grouplist instead and leave the PL/SQL code field blank. Especially during development of a plug-in this is a more convenient way than writing the PL/SQL code of the plug-in in the text area of the browser.

12. Click **Apply Changes**
13. Let's test our new plug-in!
14. In the Sample Application go to **page 7**
15. Edit **P7\_CUST\_STATE**
16. Select **Group Selectlist** in the Display As select list
17. Go to the **List of Values** section
18. Enter

```
select  initcap(state_name)      as display_value,
        st                      as return_value,
        substr(state_name, 1, 1) as grp
  from  demo_states
 order by 1
```

as **List of values definition**.

19. **Apply Changes** and **run** the page.
20. If you are done with testing, go again to **Shared Components\User Interface\Plug-ins\Group Selectlist**
21. Click **Export Plug-in** in the Task sidebar
22. Follow the wizard steps to export the plug-in
23. You are done! You can now share and use the plug-in in any application by installing it with the **Install button** in Shared Components\User Interface\Plug-ins