Data Slicer

Eliminate Excessive DB2 Test Beds and Costly CICS Test Regions

Test Together As A Team Without Affecting Each Others Results

Application Developers Retrieve Their Own Test Data – No DBAs Required!

Business Challenges

DB2 for z/OS customers prefer using subsets of their production data when testing new DB2 programs or enhancements to existing applications. Many of these companies own third-party test data extraction products for this purpose. However DBAs, application developers, and quality assurance personnel discover they are still facing several testing challenges:

• Building and synchronizing multiple DB2 test beds takes DBAs a great deal of time and effort
• Excessive CICS test regions waste costly resources and cause expensive, painful CPU upgrades
• Painful single-threaded testing procedures still slow everyone down – people often fight to use test data
• Developers, end-users, and quality assurance personnel still cannot retrieve their own test data
• Application programs cannot be retested at later dates to determine when problems really began

Announcing SoftBase Data Slicer

TestBase Data Slicer is a newly patented technology that dramatically improves the functionality and value of existing DB2 data extraction solutions.

Data Slicer adds the following capabilities to DB2 application testing practices:

• Provide complete testing concurrency – all testing personnel can load, refresh, and utilize test data at the same time
• Simplify test data extraction so anyone can get their own test data whenever they desire – no DBA required!
• Provide historical testing capabilities for DB2 application programs

Eliminate Unnecessary DB2 Test Beds

Once multiple DB2 test environments are constructed, DBAs face an ever-increasing workload to ensure all application test beds are identical and continue to remain the same. Test bed and DB2 database synchronization procedures are usually tedious, time-consuming, and often error-prone as well.

Data Slicer from SoftBase eliminates this problem by enabling all DB2 testing to be performed within one centralized DB2 for z/OS test environment. Centralized testing, especially during the Unit Testing process where developers run frequent DB2 program tests at the same time, allows DBAs to efficiently maintain as few DB2 for z/OS databases and VSAM/QSAM legacy data files as possible.

Also, developers and quality assurance personnel no longer have to wait for new DB2 test beds to be constructed when new testing requirements arise ... they can begin testing new applications immediately within the Data Slicer shared test bed.

Reduce Excessive CICS Test Regions

Every new CICS test region requires a good deal of work to build and significant CPU cycles and machine resources to run. Also, CPUs hosting many CICS test regions and are dedicated to DB2 for z/OS application testing purposes have less resources to get that job done.

Data Slicer enables multiple teams of developers working on CICS applications to test together at the same time from one shared DB2 database. CICS DB2 application testers can now load and refresh test data and run tests simultaneously without affecting each other’s results.

For information, call 800.669.7076 or visit softbase.com
Data Slicer also allows CICS DB2 application developers to automatically use their own copy of QSAM or VSAM legacy files when running their tests without having to make any CICS configuration changes.

**Provide Complete Testing Concurrency**

Another common problem customers experience is that people often must wait to get access to test data in shared test beds. Only one person can run tests at a time and test data often gets corrupted very quickly. Also, when the test bed must be refreshed, all testers have to wait until this process is finished.

Data Slicer allows everyone to work together - independently and without affecting each other’s test results. When all testers can load and refresh test data and test at the same time, new DB2 applications and enhancements are completed dramatically faster.

Developers and QA personnel can now run a batch job to load or refresh their test data without having to learn or understand the complex RI model. By enabling all testers to retrieve their own test data, application project testing times are dramatically reduced.

**Provide Historical Testing Capabilities**

Finally, many customers discover that their application test beds frequently change over time – both in data content and in DB2 object physical structures. Development teams often desire to rerun tests from work done several days or weeks ago – and cannot do so without requesting DBAs to build them dedicated DB2 application test beds.

Data Slicer effortlessly resolves both of these issues. Application developers and QA Personnel can build libraries of test data and retain these for unlimited time frames. If production problems do develop after new DB2 applications or enhancements are implemented, testing personnel can go back in time to determine where these problems actually started.

Data Slicer can also manage most physical database structure changes that occur over time. Old DB2 application tests can still be run even though the application test beds are physically different. Data Slicer will transparently perform any necessary data conversions to ensure that all tests still run properly regardless of changing test bed conditions.

**Leverage Your Investment in DB2**

Data Slicer enables DB2 customers to receive optimal value from their already purchased third-party test data extraction and subsetting solutions. Following are direct benefits and savings of deploying Data Slicer from SoftBase with to your existing test data extraction software solution:

- Improve DBA productivity by eliminating maintenance of replicated DB2 application test beds
- Defer or prevent costly CPU upgrades by reducing the number of CICS test regions consuming CPU resources
- Speed up all application testing by freeing up testing resources being used by excessive CICS testing regions
- Deliver key DB2 for z/OS application and enhancements faster and better by dramatically reducing test times and increasing overall application quality

For more information on Data Slicer, please contact us at: 800.669.7076 or visit www.softbase.com/dataslicer