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SoftBase's 2011 Industry Barometer on DB2 Application Development and Deployment

Key Findings

■ The lack of efficient testing tools puts significant strain on organizations and keeps them from the functional advantages DB2 10 offers.

■ Development timeframe and resource access remain inconsistent while performance pressures increase.

■ There is no wholesale migration away from mainframe currently occurring or planned.

If We Only Had the Time…

Within the last year, more DB2 professionals have seen more resources become available within their organizations. However, those same professionals note that they have less time available to maximize those resources:
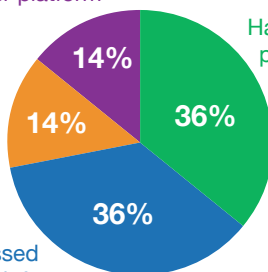
■ **44%** said their organizations have shorter windows to test and deploy applications than they did last year.

■ **73%** said their organizations have either the same or a greater amount of testing resources on hand.

Mainframe Isn't Dead

Nearly three-fourths of respondents, **72%**, have either made the decision to remain on the mainframe or have yet to explore alternative platforms.

Are actively moving from mainframe to another platform — **14%**

Are actively exploring mainframe alternatives — **14%**

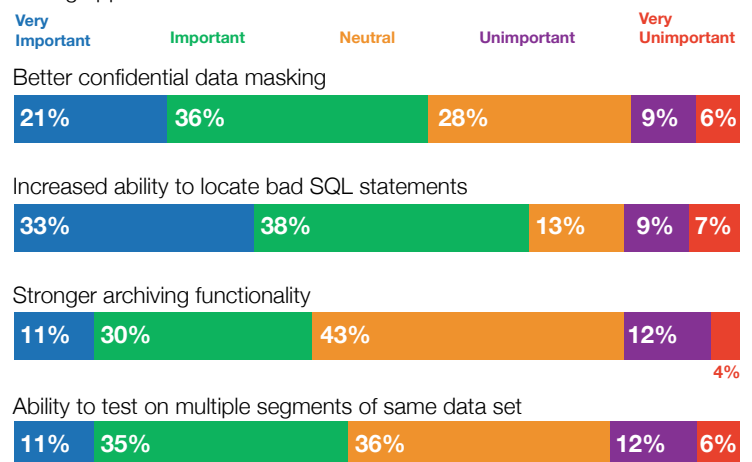Have not discussed moving from mainframe to another platform — **36%**

Have evaluated other platforms and made decision to remain on mainframe — **36%**

Improving SQL Key for Successful Testing

While **82%** of survey takers said they have upgraded their testing tools within the last two years, significant challenges still exist within this critical stage of the application development process.

The most effective DB2 testing tools can easily locate troublesome SQL statements, noted respondents. Nearly **71%** of participants said more in-depth SQL search capabilities was the most important functionality desired in a DB2 testing tool.

More efficient SQL identification procedures could create more time for DB2 professionals to complete all testing steps, which more than half of respondents cited as the biggest challenge they face when testing applications.

Very Important	Important	Neutral	Unimportant	Very Unimportant

Better confidential data masking

| 21% | 36% | 28% | 9% | 6% |

Increased ability to locate bad SQL statements

| 33% | 38% | 13% | 9% | 7% |

Stronger archiving functionality

| 11% | 30% | 43% | 12% | 4% |

Ability to test on multiple segments of same data set

| 11% | 35% | 36% | 12% | 6% |

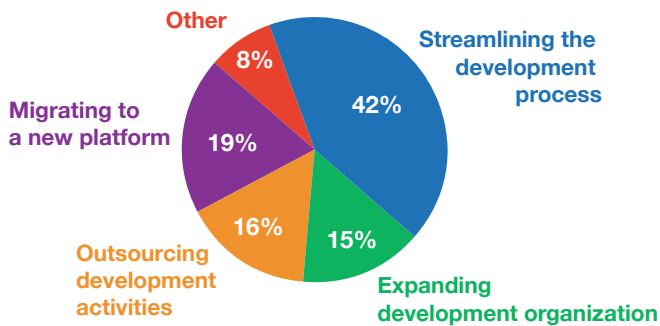PROVEN

| CODE |
| TEST |
| DEPLOY |

2011 Industry Barometer on DB2 Application Development and Deployment

Database Updates a Work in Progress

The majority of survey respondents noted that their organizations have moved forward with DB2 as it has evolved. However, while **74%** of participants are currently using DB2 version 9 or later, only **7%** of that total is currently on DB2 version 10.
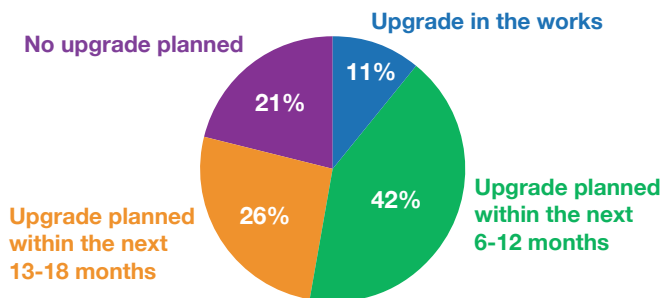
Likewise, **79%** of respondents indicated that upgrading to a newer version of DB2 is among their company's top two ongoing development initiatives. Other strategic DB2 projects currently underway include:

- Other — 8%
- Streamlining the development process — 42%
- Expanding development organization — 15%
- Outsourcing development activities — 16%
- Migrating to a new platform — 19%

DB2 10 in the Plans

Of the survey respondents not currently on DB2 version 10, more than half anticipate an upgrade from their existing platform within the next year.

Those who are not using DB2 version 10 appear to have the internal resources to do so, as noted by **37%** of those surveyed. However, the fear of spending a great deal of time synchronizing current applications to a new DB2 platform has prevented **51%** of respondents from upgrading.

- Upgrade in the works — 11%
- No upgrade planned — 21%
- Upgrade planned within the next 13-18 months — 26%
- Upgrade planned within the next 6-12 months — 42%

The Power of Ten

Respondents currently working with DB2 version 10 have generally found its newer functionalities useful in launching applications. The upgrade has generated improved scalability for **61%** of surveyed users, while **72%** have enjoyed additional concurrent active user support.

Among the additional benefits participants' companies have experienced as a result of upgrading to DB2 version 10 include:

- New functionalities (ie. temporal tables, automated stats) — 28%
- CPU / Cost savings — 50%
- Stay in support — 22%

A Better Path to Coding, Testing and Deployment

As this year's survey shows, developers face varying challenges in coding, testing and deploying DB2 applications. While nearly **80%** anticipate migrating to DB2 version 10 in the next 12-18 months, many, despite having upgraded some of their testing tools, do not feel they have the time, resources or tools to adequately test DB2 applications prior to deployment.

- **73%** of respondents felt they had insufficient time to develop and code DB2 applications.

- **60%** of respondents felt their testing procedures were inefficient.

- **43%** feel that a more uniform set of coding standards can improve the application process.

- **72%** of respondents were surprised at the CPU resource utilization associated with their applications.

The increased pressure felt by developers, along with varied time and resource availability, emphasizes the importance of preparing now to move to DB2 version 10. Beginning the transition sooner rather than later can help developers remain as efficient as possible by eliminating time spent working through out-of-date programs. Testing and tuning applications to make the upgrade along with DB2 personnel can further ensure a seamless process.

About the Survey

The DB2 Development Survey participants perform the following functions: DBA, **54%**; application developer, **16%**; programmer, **9%**; application support, **8%**; DBA manager, **4%**; and other, **9%**.

The participants' companies represent a strong cross-section of industries, including: banking and finance, **32%**; insurance, **17%**; government, **16%**; manufacturing, **5%**; retail, **5%**; utilities, **4%**; healthcare, **4%**; transportation, **2%**; outsourcing, **2%**; telecommunications, **2%**; and other, **11%**.
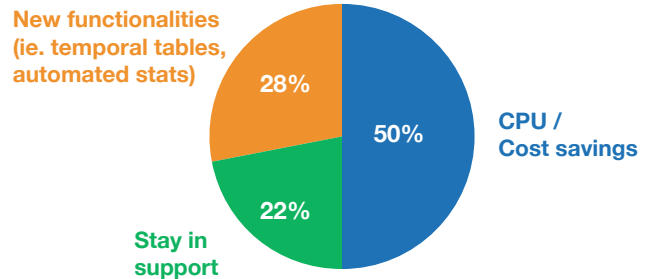
About SoftBase

Headquartered in Asheville, N.C., SoftBase has provided industry-leading DB2 application testing and performance-tuning solutions for more than two decades. With a combination of proven testing and performance-tuning tools and unrivaled customer support, SoftBase creates a better DB2 experience for application developers and DB2 administrators, enabling faster and easier creation of reliable, high quality DB2 applications. For more information, visit www.softbase.com.

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