

American Electric Power Uses SoftBase to Streamline DB2 Testing

Background

[AEP](#) (American Electric Power) ranks among the nation's largest generators of electricity, owning nearly 38,000 megawatts of generating capacity in the U.S. AEP also owns the nation's largest electricity transmission system, a nearly 39,000-mile network that includes more 765 kilovolt extra-high voltage transmission lines than all other U.S. transmission systems combined. AEP's transmission system directly or indirectly serves about 10 percent of the electricity demand in the Eastern Interconnection, the interconnected transmission system that covers 38 eastern and central U.S. states and eastern Canada. It also serves approximately 11 percent of the electricity demand in ERCOT, the transmission system that covers much of Texas.

Challenge

With more than 5 million customers and seven operating companies in 11 states, AEP needed to manage a very large DB2 system containing over 500 DB2 tables and 20B rows of customer data. AEP needed the ability to efficiently move data for these customer records from production to development for testing, but their in-house process was not effectively able to handle the volume. Users could only extract a limited number of customer accounts at a time and the process required frequent updates.

Solution

In 2002, AEP selected SoftBase's TestBase test data management solution to automate the process of moving data from the production environment to seven development and test environments. Since then, AEP has expanded to 18 development and test regions.

SoftBase has enabled AEP to evolve their Customer System DB2 testing into a more streamlined process that eliminates the need to manually input columns and variables. AEP also uses SoftBase's data masking tool to ensure that customer data remains confidential.

Benefits

By using SoftBase, it takes a developer less than one minute to recall a customer account and all of its corresponding data from production and move it to a development/test environment. A single customer account could equate to 10,000 rows of production data.

Using TestBase has reduced AEP's development time. AEP's in-house process took a significant amount of time to move data for testing. Multiple jobs were required to accomplish the same results that Testbase can do with one job. Support of the in-house process required many hours per month; time to support Testbase is minimal to none.

Developers are very pleased with the speed and ease of moving data needed to develop and test code in multiple environments.

About SoftBase

SoftBase, a division of Quadrant Software, is committed to creating a better DB2 development experience. By combining decades of DB2 expertise with a set of proven DB2 testing and performance-tuning tools and an unmatched customer support team, SoftBase delivers – helping application developers and DB2 administrators create reliable, high-quality DB2 applications faster and with ease. With SoftBase you can count on tools that work as promised, and a knowledgeable support team available 24/7 to answer questions.

That's SoftBase: Proven Technology. Proven Tools. Proven Partner.