

Federal Government Agency Reduces Nightly DB2 Archiving Time 66% with TestBase 5.1

Background

The customer in this case study is a US Federal agency more than half a century old, responsible for maintaining and updating a large number of US citizen records. The amount of data this organization processes every night is staggering. Supporting multiple test databases with over 300 million records in each and performing nightly backups of over 200 databases, this organization was spending significant time and resources performing database maintenance.

Since 2003 when this agency became a SoftBase customer, TestBase has allowed the agency's Database Administrators and Developers to quickly retrieve manageable subsets of referentially intact data from DB2 databases around the enterprise, has enabled them to thoroughly test and validate proper functioning of all DB2 application enhancements while ensuring that sensitive data remains private during testing, and has allowed them to back up critical DB2 databases on a nightly basis.

Challenges

Due to the large quantity of data, performing nightly batch database backups of over 200 databases was taking 12 hours or more. Performing test data loads and deletes, consisting of over 300 million rows per database, was taking a similar amount of time. The organization needed a way to reduce this processing time.

Solution

The agency installed TestBase version 5.1, as a beta tester, in mid-2012. This latest version includes several features that further improved the agency's test data management and database backup process:

- faster manipulation of test data
- faster database archiving
- enhanced performance with large data sets
- the ability to edit data in tables without indexes
- image copy extract support

Benefits

TestBase's new features enabled this agency to reduce their database backup time by 66%, from 12 hours down to 4 hours. The agency was also able to reduce the time spent loading, unloading and deleting test data from 12 hours to *less than an hour*.

“TestBase 5.1 has been a HUGE time saver for our operations. We currently house upwards of 300 million rows in TestBase databases, and with the new features of 5.1 we are able to delete and load this amount of data in less than an hour, as opposed to over 12 hours using SQL deletes and inserts. We are able to partition the databases in the best way possible for our customers, while being able to control the integrity of the database and its functionality. We currently execute TestBase via batch to take nightly backups of over 200 databases, and with 5.1 we have been able to cut our batch processing time from 12 hours to 4 hours. We are completely happy with the changes, new features, and time savings that utilizing TestBase 5.1 has brought to us.” –IT Specialist, Large Federal Government Agency.

“TestBase has always been a great product, but the improvements from 4.5 to 5.1 are phenomenal! We love the TestBase product, Neal (TestBase Product Manager), and SoftBase in general!”

About SoftBase

SoftBase 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.