

Podcast on the topic of IBM DB2 Cobra

Welcome to the podcast on the topic of IBM DB2 Cobra. In the discussion is Margrit Obrecht, Consulting IT Specialist for Information Management. The interview was conducted by Christian Achermann.

1. **Christian Achermann:** „Margrit, could you provide us with some information about yourself and your function at IBM?“

Margrit Obrecht: „I am in technical sales in the IM sector, i.e. DB2 and advanced products, which support DB2 databases. I've been involved since ESB version 1, and thereby since 1982 with DB2.“

2. **Christian Achermann:** „The migration of databases is often associated with a lot of problems. Which difficulties emerge from migrations and which are the greatest cost drivers?“

Margrit Obrecht: „The problem is basically the different language sets for the databases. Oracle has greatly extended the so-called IT standard language set, whereas others, for example DB2, don't support it. This leads to high costs as we then have to bring in application developers to rewrite the applications. Even the logging mechanism is different. This is of course a cost driver, as the process requires a lot of effort.“

3. **Christian Achermann:** „How are databases migrated these days, and what is the difference to beforehand?“

Margrit Obrecht: „With the DB2 version 9.7, which is known under the name Cobra, we have extended the SQL language set, i.e. DB2 supports native formats, e.g. PL/SQL from Oracle. So we no longer need to migrate, but rather to “enable” the database, i.e. we can transfer the data from Oracle to DB2, without having to involve application developers and having to program.“

4. **Christian Achermann:** „Why is it sensible for today's Oracle users to port their applications to DB2?“

Margrit Obrecht: „There are various reasons. Firstly, DB2 has a cost-based optimizer, which means that system tuning is less resource intensive. Secondly, DB2 is cheaper to buy, and thirdly, a very important point, it's green. And green means that we have a very good compression algorithm. We therefore need less hard disc and less power. Green also means that we can better utilize the CPUs. We thereby need less CPUs and thus less electricity. Fewer CPUs also means lower costs.“

5. **Christian Achermann:** „Which developments are to be expected in the Cobra area over the next few years?“

Margrit Obrecht: „We expect there to be a further development of the autonomous capabilities, for example self-tuning, whereby an optimal performance with minimal effort is possible. This is definitely a great advantage. I think there will also be developments in the area of migration from other databases, for example from Cobra 9.7. This mainly concerns Oracle PD/SQL. I assume that we will integrate other language sets in the future. We are moving in the direction of increased performance, easier migration and less administration.“

Christian Achermann: „Many thanks for your remarks.“