DB2 Express-C
Production ready, Innovative Technology and Developer Community

IBM DB2 Express-C Frequently Asked Questions - Product

General

Q. What is DB2 Universal Database Express-C?
A. DB2 Express-C is a member of the DB2 Universal Database family. DB2 Express-C is a version of DB2 Express Edition for the developer and partner community.   Designed to be up and running in minutes and to be self-maintaining, DB2 Express-C is a production ready data server.

Q. How is DB2 Express-C Edition different from the DB2 Express Edition?
DB2 Express-C has all the resiliency and robustness of the DB2 Express Edition but without various extended features available via the for-fee DB2 Express Edition.   These extended features include Warehouse Manager Tools & servers, Extender support, DB2 Connect support, Informix Data Source Replication, Replication Data Capture, Web based tools, APPC and NetBIOS support. The resulting image has a much smaller footprint.

Q. Who should be using DB2 Express-C?
A. DB2 Express-C makes the DB2 data server more accessible for developers and users.
 Available at no license fee, DB2 Express-C is perfect for developers, small and medium business, partners, and academic communities considering or using open source databases.   DB2 Express-C provides a flexible, low-cost, high value database as the corner stone for their information on demand applications.

Q. What are the licensing terms for DB2 Express-C?
A. DB2 Express-C includes an unwarranted license to use on 32 or 64 bit, Linux or Windows systems with up to 2 CPUs and 4GB of memory - the same system limits as DB2 Express Edition.

Q. Are there any limitations such as number of instances installed per server or database size prohibiting full use of DB2 Express-C in production environment?
A. Unlike competition, DB2 Express-C does not impose any artificial limitation. There is no database size limit, no limit on the number of instances per server and no restriction on the number of users.

Q. What are the benefits of DB2 Express-C for developers?
With DB2 Express-C, application developers can develop and deploy database applications at no charge.   Like the rest of the DB2 data server family, DB2 Express-C supports the key development platforms including J2EE and .NET. DB2 also provides tight integration into industry leading development environments (IDE) including: Visual Studio .NET, IBM Rational Application Developer (WSAD), Eclipse, and Borland® Delphi™ 8.

Q. What are the benefits of DB2 Express-C for academic communities?
A. With DB2 Express-C, faculty and students have direct access to an easy to learn and easy to use database for relational and XML data at no charge. Unlike software acquired through membership in the IBM Academic Initiative, use of DB2 Express-C does not end in classroom. And finally, faculty and students can take advantage of free support for DB2 Express-C via the on-line community forum. For additional information on the IBM Academic Initiative, see
www.ibm.com/university/data

Install and Run

Q. How do I obtain a copy of DB2 Express-C?
A. DB2 Express-C will be available for free download at www.ibm.com/db2/express/download.html shortly.

Q. What platforms are supported by DB2 Express-C?
A. DB2 Express-C is available on the same platform as DB2 Express. The support platforms include: Linux [x86 (32-bit), x86_64 (32-bit and 64-bit), IA64 (64-bit), PPC (POWER 32-bit), PPC64 (POWER 64-bit)] and Windows [x86 (32-bit), x86_64 (32-bit and 64-bit), IA64 (64-bit)]. Complete list here: www.ibm.com/db2/express/download.html

Q. What are the programming languages and APIs supported?
A. Leveraging the traditional strength of DB2 data servers, DB2 Express-C provides support for service-oriented architecture (SOA) technologies, and open industry standards such as .NET, J2EE, and popular programming languages such as PHP, Python, Perl, etc. Applications developed for DB2 Express-C can take advantage of the same leading-edge database innovations found in the entire DB2 Universal Database family of products

Q. How is support handled for DB2 Express-C?
A. You may choose from receiving support via a free DB2 Express Online Forum hosted and monitored by seasoned DB2 Experts.   IBM does not offer paid support licenses for DB2 Express-C. For a 24x7 support DB2 deployment, acquire the appropriate license of DB2 Express, Workgroup or Enterprise Server Edition(s).

Upgrade

Q. What DB2 Features are available with DB2 Express-C?
A. You may purchase the DB2 HADR (high availability feature) option after you acquire the product license for DB2 Universal Database Express, Workgroup or Enterprise Server Edition.

Q. What scalability options are available if the usage outgrows DB2 Express-C?
A. Applications developed with DB2 Express-C are fully compatible with the other DB2 Universal Database editions (DB2 Express Edition, DB2 Workgroup Edition, and DB2 Enterprise Server Editions). There is no code change required when your business needs outgrow DB2 Express-C. Upgrading to DB2 Express edition is a simple license key change.

Q. How do you choose between DB2 Express and IBM Express Runtime?
A. IBM Express Runtime provides the market-leading middleware infrastructure required by IBM Business Partners delivering mid market solutions. Express Runtime consists of integrated middleware — a choice of Express Database - DB2® Universal Database™ Express Edition, Version 8.2 or IBM Informix® Dynamic Server Express Edition Version 10 — plus IBM WebSphere® Application Server - Express and IBM HTTP Server, configuration, licensing and support costs. This is all delivered with one installation, license and point of contact for support. An important feature of Express Runtime is the Solution Assembly Toolkit which allows for rapid integration with middleware to significantly reduce the install checklist by pre-configuring the solution with specific customer requirements. Additionally the deployment wizard that simplifies solution installation and helps lay down middleware quickly. Similar to DB2 Express, IBM Express Runtime license includes 24X7 support. However, IBM does not offer a full support license for DB2 Express-C. Additional information on Express Runtime is available here: http://www-306.ibm.com/software/webservers/expressruntime

Q. How do you choose between DB2 Express-C and Cloudscape?
DB2 Express-C and Cloudscape are low-cost, high value data servers for production use and/or free redistribution. Cloudscape is well suited for applications that require a completely invisible, embedded data server with write-once, deploy-anywhere capabilities. DB2 Express-C should be used when the applications require high performance and highly scalable data server with advanced features such as autonomics, advanced parallelism, advanced tooling as well as relational and XML data serving capabilities and more.