SAP INFO

IBM DB2 and SAP solutions – the next wave

A Collaborative Database

Teamwork between SAP and IBM has led to the close integration of IBM's DB2 database with SAP solutions. The latest version, DB2 V9, makes that integration tighter than ever and brings reduced total cost of ownership (TCO).

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The SAP-IBM alliance reflects more than 30 years of leadership based on continuous collaboration, innovation, and service. The DB2 part of the picture shows that those same three pillars are making the difference.

Last year saw key executives from both SAP and IBM endorsing a DB2 version (the DB2 UDB version running on Unix, Windows, and Linux) specifically designed for SAP environments, labeled "Optimized for SAP Solutions." Now we are on the verge of the successor version, V9, which again is built in close collaboration during development, with innovative features customers can benefit from immediately and synchronized one-stop service and support.

Close collaboration driving innovation

One of the key elements that makes the difference is how the development teams work together. At an early stage in the development cycle of each version of DB2, SAP and IBM together define the SAP-relevant part of the DB2 release. Then, several months before the planned general availability of a DB2 release, SAP and IBM start the testing and integration of the new code with SAP software. This important task is carried out by the IBM SAP Integration Center at the Toronto Lab where DB2 is developed. It is staffed by SAP and IBM developers.

Along with defining new enhancements, the two teams also synchronize the timing of the respective shipment dates. Each new DB2 release date is close to the date SAP starts shipping it with its products.

The new functionality in DB2 would bring value to only a restricted set of customers if it were limited to the most recent SAP NetWeaver version, but SAP strives to provide broad backward compatibility. For example, DB2 V8.2.2 became available for all SAP releases that were still in standard maintenance at the time it was launched. Thus, all customers could benefit rapidly from its

innovations. No SAP upgrade is needed for exploiting the new functionality customers can benefit from the innovations provided by the next generation DB2 on their current SAP release level.

One product, one service, one maintenance strategy

Through this planning and testing process, SAP and IBM ensure the highest quality of DB2 code. The level of involvement in the design phase and the synchronized go-to-market stage are unequalled by any other IBM independent software vendor.

The close alignment at all levels is complemented by a one-stop service and support channel. A company's existing DB2 environment remains available as long as its SAP release is part of SAP standard maintenance, according to SAP's 5+1+2 principle. No other database vendor provides such a long-term commitment.

The effort to align SAP NetWeaver and DB2 development is not a one-off activity: Both teams have developed a joint road map to 2009. The technical planning process for the 2008 version is already ongoing.

New in 2006

DB2 V8.2.2 was the first of the joint developments. Following in the spirit of its predecessor, DB2 V9 takes a major step toward the goal of an "invisible" database with the lowest possible level of administration and unlimited scalability. This supports SAP's overall goal of lowering the total cost of ownership (TCO) of SAP environments without sacrificing functionality. The main V9 enhancements are:

Install&Deploy: Broad silent-install capabilities enable one-stop installation of SAP on DB2, with DB2 being silently installed and configured during the SAP install process. With DB2, V9 customers can install as many copies of DB2 as they want on one single machine, making upgrading and patching easier. The new zero-footprint client

can be distributed centrally, so client software installation on each application server is no longer required.

Autonomic features: Self-tuning mechanisms have been added to reduce required DBA tuning activities. DB2 V9 compression greatly reduces the disk footprint for SAP NetWeaver Business Intelligence and can speed query processing through minimized I/O. Compression rates up to 70 percent can be reached.

Recovery: DB2 provides built-in features for backup, restore, recovery, and log file management. These are all included in the core engine functionality, saving time on maintaining separate system management tools.

High availability: V9 is bundled with Tivoli Systems Automation (TSA), enabling customers to benefit from high database availability. In another move to reduce TCO, this component, along with the integrated recovery features, comes at no additional cost.

What to expect next

SAP and IBM are providing a solution with an unparalleled set of built-in features. It meets the highest demands for quality and is delivered at a more attractive price than any other commercial database. Its embedded features significantly reduce database administration effort. Customers who migrated to DB2 achieved significant cost savings in both licensing fees and maintenance.

Looking ahead, customers can expect new SAP solutions with even tighter integration, coming closer to the goal of a zero-administration database. DB2 V9 will be available for SAP customers at the end of August 2006.

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