



“Finanz Informatik optimizes DB2 Package maintenance with PackMan“

The Challenge

The Finanz Informatik runs productive DB2 applications for 432 savings banks and a host development environment representing about 100 different savings banks with individual DB2 data base and application structures.

Within the development environment each savings bank is allocated its own defined development stage, which represents a development level, beginning with the initial version and ending up with a "production-like" final version of the program. During this process each package produced has its own individual version, by applying the "VERSION (AUTO)" parameter at pre-compile time.

During this development process each savings bank produces numerous new package versions and for each development stage load modules in stage-specific libraries. Outdated non-required versions have to be automatically deleted to avoid a considerable amount of DASD space being consumed. Consequently this would lead to a shortage in the SPT01 (actual max. 64 GB) even after applying data compression.

The Solution

After successful testing towards the end of 2008, DB/IQ PackMan (PM), a solution for LOADLIB / DBRM and Package Management, was introduced into the test and development environment. All package maintenance is now conducted by PackMan at the end of each working day. This has proven to be 100 % effective and reliable. For example, more than 15,000 superfluous package versions were automatically freed within a short period.

Compared with the formerly used, home-made solution, PackMan is a standard solution and does not require us to adapt to DB2-enhancements.

In addition, PackMan is far more efficient and has an enhanced range of functions including:

- assignment of packages to load modules even when multiple-modules linked
- consolidation of packages and modules even when names mismatch
- higher flexibility in analysing different load module libraries and concatenation
- full support of C-programs



“A standard solution for automating DB2 Package maintenance”

Perspectives / Goals

After gaining positive experience in our technically more complex test and development environment (e. g. with the need to consider load library concatenation), we will introduce PackMan in our DB2 production environment in the near future, in order to benefit from the advantages. Package maintenance with PackMan is planned for 80 productive sub systems and will take place twice a year (before new releases in each case), causing an average of 25,000 packages per sub system to be freed.

By implementing PackMan, we've continued the long lasting, successful business relationship with InSoft Software GmbH. Since 1995, the former "Sparkassen Informatik" has been effectively using DB/IQ-QA, an SQL Quality Assurance tool.

“Besides the long positive experience with InSoft, the final decision in favour of PackMan was due to its wide range of functions, which fully cover our requirements”.

The Company

Finanz-Informatik (FI) is the IT service provider for the German savings bank group. With headquarters in Frankfurt, FI is also represented in Berlin, Fellbach, Hanover, Leipzig, Munich, Munster, Nuremburg and Saarbrücken.

Amongst its German customers are 432 savings banks, 9 state banks, 10 public-sector building societies as well as other companies belonging to the savings bank group and financial service organisations. The Finanz Informatik GmbH was formed through the merger of the Sparkassen Informatik (Frankfurt / Main) and the FinanzIT (Hanover). The services offered by the Finanz Informatik cover the whole spectrum of IT activities.

Besides developing and providing integrated IT solutions using an efficient network of computer centres, the Finanz Informatik offers hardware and software consultancy and other IT services, thus strengthening the competitiveness of their customers. The IT portfolio is complemented with their comprehensive OSPlus core banking solution for retail banks and subsidiaries.

FI services are responsible for about 128 million accounts, executing more than 60 billion transactions per year on their systems. With more than 5,200 employees, they reached a consolidated turn-over of 1.6 billion EUR.

FI is one of the world's largest IBM mainframe customers - 294,669 MIPS computer processing power and DASD capacity of more than 2.2 Petabytes.