



http://www.db2mag.com/db_area/archives/2002/q4/idug.shtml

Doing it Faster and Better

By David Beulke

[Quarter 4, 2002](#)

 [Printer-Friendly Version](#)  [Email this Story](#)  [Bookmark to del.icio.us](#)  [Digg It!](#)

DB2 tools on the market range from those that help manage the database definition to those that provide program performance details. These tools, regardless of the vendor, speed development time and provide performance and tuning information on various systems. The latest developments in DB2 Universal Database (UDB) version 8.1 are an example of how tools are becoming smarter.

Justifying new database tools can be difficult when budget constraints or cuts are so pervasive. The main justification is usually time savings, which can be tough to compare against the cost. You can explain the potential savings with database business examples.

For example, at one of my recent clients, the overworked DBA staff supported more than 900 developers in more than 180 production, test, and quality assurance environments. Making a database view, column definition, or index change takes an administrator's time. If the many changes are coordinated, a DBA can do them in perhaps six hours a week for a single environment. DB2 tools can perform these same tasks in about an hour, saving five hours a week per environment.

Five hours saved per 180 environments (900 hours) a week multiplied by 50 weeks means that the tools save 45,000 hours in a year. And this estimate is conservative: Most development teams require database changes more than once a week.

An experienced DBA may perform comparable changes in less than six hours. But skill levels among DBAs vary. DB2 tools help ensure that the database changes are done consistently. And, allowing the automated tool to handle mundane changes helps free the staff to work business issues.

The tools argument for performance monitoring and tuning is even more compelling because of the many hours it may take an experienced staff member to discover and tune an application performance issue. DB2 tools that feature automated processes for improving performance can save an administrator hours or weeks by quickly uncovering the problem and performing corrective actions.

Keeping up with evolving features and techniques for efficiently using new products is vital. User experiences and the latest techniques, features, and functions are discussed at the International DB2 Users Group (IDUG) conferences held around the world. And related forums and articles at www.idug.org can help make your business life that much easier.

David Beulke is an independent consultant specializing in high-performance data warehouse database architectures and president-elect of IDUG. You can reach him at DBeulke@compuserve.com.

Comments? Questions?

Give us your feedback or ask a question of the author.



Please enter your e-mail address below: