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## **IDUG Abuzz With DB2 UDB v.8.2**

By David Beulke

### **IBM highlights new features in the DB2 release, formerly known as "Stinger."**

Attendees of the International DB2 Users Group (IDUG) North America conference held in May in Orlando, Fla., learned firsthand about the new application development and other features of the next release of DB2 Universal Database (UDB) for Linux, Unix, and Windows v.8.2. For those who couldn't attend, here's a recap of the highlights.

The most important new feature for application development is probably the ability to call a stored procedure from a trigger. This capability removes one of the last trigger restrictions. By providing the CALL statement within a trigger, application developers can invoke a variety of external procedures or dynamic statements. As a result, developers can more easily build complex business logic directly into the database and tie functionality directly to business applications.

Another important new feature is the ability to run SQL procedures natively in the DB2 engine, so SQL procedures can be developed without a C or C++ compiler. (With DB2 UDB v.8.2, SQL procedure statements, when stored in the DB2 catalog, are converted to a native byte code that can be executed by the DB2 engine.) This enhancement will streamline SQL procedure development and help the migration between the DB2 family members.

The new Design Advisor helps with decisions critical to table design, indexing, partitioning, multidimensional clustering (MDC), and materialized query table (MQT) development. The Design Advisor suggests the best object choices when given prototype SQL or sample SQL workloads. The tool helps DBA or application development teams design MQTs and implement MDCs and indexes that can eliminate millions of I/Os from data warehousing or reporting applications. Both MQTs and MDCs contribute to better database performance. MQT objects summarize or precalculate data, while MDCs improve the ability to index and segment data. The Design Advisor's suggestions can help DBAs and application development teams come to a consensus on the best table design and index decisions for challenging situations such as particularly complex

applications or enormous numbers of tables.

The upcoming release also contains new features and enhancements for better integration with a variety of development platforms and tools. Highlights include the DB2 connectivity performance improvements provided by the DB2 v.8 Common Client, and the DB2 .Net data provider.

The DB2 Common Client v.8 can access any 32-bit or 64-bit DB2 system while reducing the number of protocol levels, which improves performance. The DB2 .Net data provider extends the ADO.Net interface with four new DB2Connection properties that improve Microsoft compatibility and make debugging application problems easier. The DB2 OLE DB interface is compatible with .Net data providers, and the use of DB2 CLI leads to improved performance. The OLE DB interface also provides better handling of ADO application requests.

These .Net improvements mean that DB2 can be easily integrated into a Microsoft Visual Studio .Net application development environment. Attendees told me that they feel that this ability to fit easily into any development environment (whether Eclipse, WebSphere, or Visual Studio) is a DB2 advantage.

The IDUG conference was a great opportunity to learn about DB2 UDB v.8.2 enhancements. As the largest gathering of DB2 professionals around the world, IDUG unites the best and brightest of the DB2 community, including DBAs, application developers, vendors, consultants, and IBM experts. Visit [www.IDUG.org](http://www.IDUG.org) for the information about the IDUG Europe conference in Prague, October 11-14.

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