



CDB Software, Inc.

Migrating to CDB Utilities

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Compatibility

The process of migrating (or converting) to CDB®/Auto-Utilities from IBM utilities varies depending on the utility in question, the amount of conversion desired, and the degree of exploitation that you want immediately with the CDB products.

From a compatibility perspective, and as a blanket approach for conversion, all that is minimally required to convert from IBM utilities to CDB/Auto-Utilities is to change the program name on the //EXEC JCL statement from DSNUTILB to CDBUTIL and to add a //STEPLIB to the CDB load library. This can be done at an individual job step level or on a proc (procedure) basis. This will get you “working” from an operational standpoint, and can be used as a vehicle for IVP (installation verification process) and quick checks for rough tests.

How much of a conversion above and beyond this minimalist approach depends on the degree of value you want to obtain from the CDB utilities. It also depends on how your current processes are structured today. From CDB’s perspective, we would like you to gain the most value from our products through the exploitation of their many features and functions, especially the built-in automation facility. This requires changes not only to JCL and job streams, but also in how you approach the tasks of database maintenance. This is because CDB/Auto-Utilities are “different” from IBM’s utilities; therefore the approach to using the utilities should be different as well.

True Migration

Yes, you can make the minimalist changes noted above and receive value from CDB/Auto-Utilities. While our products will work within

those constraints, they were not designed for optimization using the techniques and processes that most shops use for running IBM utilities. The typical approach to running IBM utilities is structured for, and surrounded by, steps that accommodate restrictions and deficiencies found within the IBM utilities, especially in regard to the automation of maintenance and the administration of maintenance activities.

IBM’s approach to database maintenance includes a rather heavy dependency on human (DBA) involvement in the process. That might not have been IBM’s objective, but that’s the reality. Like most DB2® shops, you have utility jobs running in your shop today that are designed to accommodate the restrictions and lack of functionality needed to accomplish typical maintenance activities. An example of this might be taking an image copy prior to a REORG. If the image copy is being done to insure against the REORG utility failing and losing your data, then that is working around a limitation in the REORG utility.

CDB’s approach to database maintenance frees the DBA from the manual tasks associated with administering utilities, requiring much less of his time to accomplish the same goal on an ongoing basis. CDB’s objective is to get you out of the JCL business and allow you to handle all the tasks associated with database maintenance (running utilities) in an automated fashion. What are you doing today?

Implementing Automation

All this being said, realize that CDB’s automated approach to DB2 maintenance is different from IBM’s manual approach. Therefore, quite a bit of rethinking of how you do things today, and how you want to do things tomorrow, is in order. This



is the biggest challenge for shops converting to CDB. Many times, DB2 shops have not thought through how they would want to approach maintenance if they didn't have all the product limitations that they have today. And, now that you will be using CDB, you need to determine how many tasks are being done today that can be eliminated because CDB does not process the same way, or because CDB already performs these tasks as part of regular processing. We call this activity "establishing your automation strategy" and it is time very well spent.

You have most of the answers already! Most likely, senior DBA-type individuals will already know the best practices for executing maintenance in your shop. And you probably have a huge inventory of maintenance jobs already. Because CDB is so easy to implement (most actions are rule driven and don't require analysis or review prior to submission), it is

frequently the case that new CDB shops discard all their existing jobs and start over fresh. Once introduced to the products, DBAs can typically take about a week to determine and implement an initial automation strategy. Of course, CDB can play an active part in these strategy and implementation activities free of charge.

About CDB Software

CDB Software, Inc. is a leader in data management solutions for DB2 z/OS. CDB focuses its business on DB2 for z/OS to provide unique and innovative solutions that enable companies to expand their DB2 system to meet business needs while controlling the overall cost of the mainframe. Founded in 1985, CDB is a privately held corporation based in Houston, Texas with offices worldwide.

For more information visit:

www.cdbsoftware.com



CDB Software, Inc.
11200 Richmond Ave.
Houston, TX 77082