Case Study:

Mainframe Upgrade Avoided by Switching Db2 Tools

Workload-Centric Solution Saves Supermarket Chain Money – Today, Tomorrow

Challenge

Db2 processing at this grocery wholesaler and supermarket chain in the American Midwest was taking up more than half the mainframe's CPU capacity. At the same time, the company's transaction volume was growing. Something had to give.

A costly mainframe upgrade was in the cards unless the company could find a way to bring the Db2 workload under better control — in other words, unless a certain amount of CPU capacity could be recovered from the ongoing Db2 work. The Db2 tools then in use, however, had proved to be not up to the task of dialing back the appetite for CPU time.

Solution

The company initially engaged with a small outside group to supplement its busy DBA staff and for some stop-gap tuning efforts. Then, after a marketplace survey of Db2 tuning tools, the company chose Syncsort Optimize DB2 as the solution, having concluded that a workload-centric approach to optimization — the approach that is unique to Syncsort Optimize DB2 — was the best choice for identifying Db2 workload savings opportunities.

Results

Upon acquisition, Syncsort Optimize DB2:

- Installed in less than three hours, and the first useful results were produced the same day.
- Provided the ability to consolidate and then to rank functionally identical SQLs, ensuring immediate understanding of the impact on resource consumption of each group of functionally identical SQLs.
- Made CPU capacity recovery easier by giving the DBAs the ability to run what- if cost projections of changes in SQL syntax and indexing.
- Identified where each target statement was used across the application portfolio, ensuring that all instances of a target SQL were modified at the same time.

After just over a month of experience in tuning with Syncsort Optimize DB2 tools, the company identified more than 35% of Db2 CPU savings. Still later, these savings were extended to 50%. This was accomplished with no adverse impact on other aspects of Db2 performance. Other key benefits included rapid ROI and reduced impact of environmental changes on performance.