Why Users Call IBM DB2 Analytics Accelerator the Magic Box

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Who we are...



BlueCross BlueShield of Alabama

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- 19 Brand Excellence Awards
- 6 J.D. Power Awards
- 17 FEP Plan Excellence Awards

Agenda

- Problem returning large amounts of data
- Possible solutions for the problem
- Proof of Concept process
- Observations and Issues
- Implementation
- Results

What's the issue?

Data Performance

- Business areas run ad-hoc queries against databases, but results are often slow to return or don't return at all
- Time should be spent on analyzing the data rather than gathering the data

Why are query speeds slow?

Large amounts of data being analyzed

Joining multiple tables/views to accomplish required analysis

Non-technical analysts using software to create queries/reports

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Initial Solutions

Network traces to check for bottlenecks or bandwidth issues

High powered workstations

Database reorgs/runstats run "as needed" based on real-time statistics

Query tuning

BCBSAL Environment

- 2 EC12 CPCs (1 model 705, 1 model 706) z/OS 1.13 DB2 V10 NFM
- 3 main DB2 z/OS subsystems Processing, Warehouse and Development
- Enterprise Data Warehouse utilizes 3 way data sharing with one member hosting a majority of the workload

Information Management

Information Management program established to manage information/data cohesively and comprehensively

- 'Data Performance' identified as a major area for improvement
- Information Management Strategy developed with the assistance of IBM

DB2 Analytics Accelerator Solution

IBM DB2 Analytics Accelerator

 Netezza (IBM PureData for Analytics) based solution

Netezza Data Warehouse appliance connected to IBM mainframe through 10 gig dedicated fiber cable

DB2 Analytics Accelerator software on mainframe integrates with DB2 to determine which queries to accelerate

DB2 Analytics Accelerator Solution (continued)

Netezza appliance built on Massive Parallel Processing (MPP) architecture

Several times faster than native DB2 processing

IBM DB2 Analytics Accelerator for z/OS V2.1

What it is / fit – validate agenda assumption

What is it?

The IBM DB2 Analytics Accelerator is a workload optimized, appliance add-on to a DB2 z/OS environment that services long-running, complex queries.

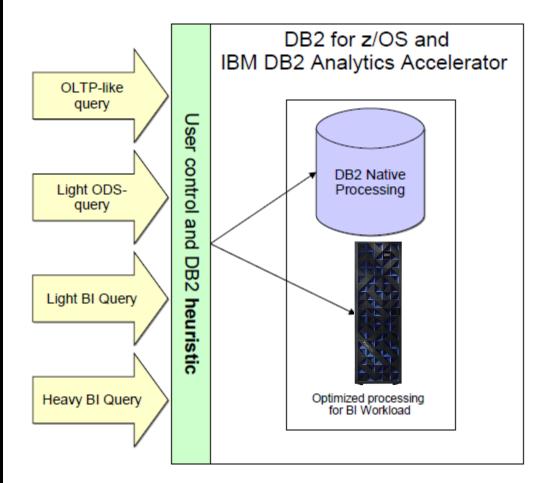


- Breakthrough technology enabling new opportunities
- Extreme performance for complex analytics (aka Train of Thought Analysis)
- Integrated with DB2 for z/OS V9 and V10 as a dedicated appliance exclusive to the System z environment
- Transparent to DB2 applications and users

Workload-Optimized Query Execution

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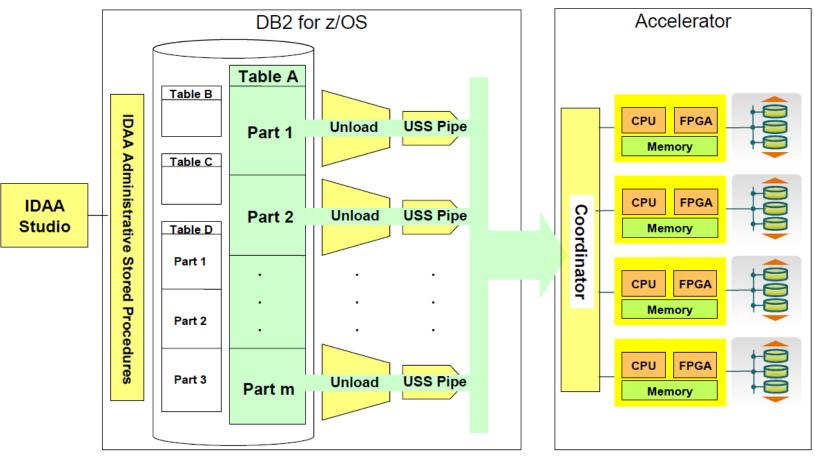


- Single and unique system for mixed query workloads
- Dynamic decision for most efficient execution platform
- New special register QUERY ACCELERATION
 - NONE
 - ENABLE
 - ENABLE WITH FAILBACK
- New heuristic in DB2 optimizer
- Combines the strengths of both System z and Netezza
- Merging operational and data warehouse into a single optimized environment

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Accelerator Data Load



- Load speed up to 1 TB/hr are common
- Trickle-feed update under development

Workload Analysis

Data Warehousing workload captured for 3 days across all 3 data sharing subsystems

Information analyzed by the IBM Germany labs

- A majority of the workload had the potential to utilize DB2 Analytics Accelerator solution
- Results presented to IT leadership, Technology Support, Application Development and Enterprise Architecture

Workload Analysis (continued)

DB2 Analytics Accelerator concept also socialized with Business Areas

Management approval to proceed with the Proof of Concept (PoC)



Technical feasibility of PoC

Data Center site survey

 Mainframe did not have the networking card required for making the 10 gig fiber optic connection to the Netezza appliance

Stating the Proof of Concept

IBM shipped Netezza hardware and assisted with the installation and configuration of the DB2 Analytics Accelerator software

DB2 Analytics Accelerator only connected to one of the lesser used Data Warehousing members of the data sharing environment

PoC Process

Reporting environment

- Business Objects Crystal Reports
- Business Objects Web Intelligence
- Business Objects Enterprise InfoView 3.1
- Tableau
- Toad Data Point
- AQT
- WinSQL
- SPUFI
- DB2 Connect 9.1/DB2 Connect 9.5

PoC Process (continued)

Participants included "power users" representing all major business areas

Problem queries captured

- Referenced tables identified, defined and loaded to DB₂ Analytics Accelerator
- Same queries executed in both DB₂ Analytics Accelerator and DB₂ native environments
 - Runtime and CPU usage captured and compared

PoC Process (continued)

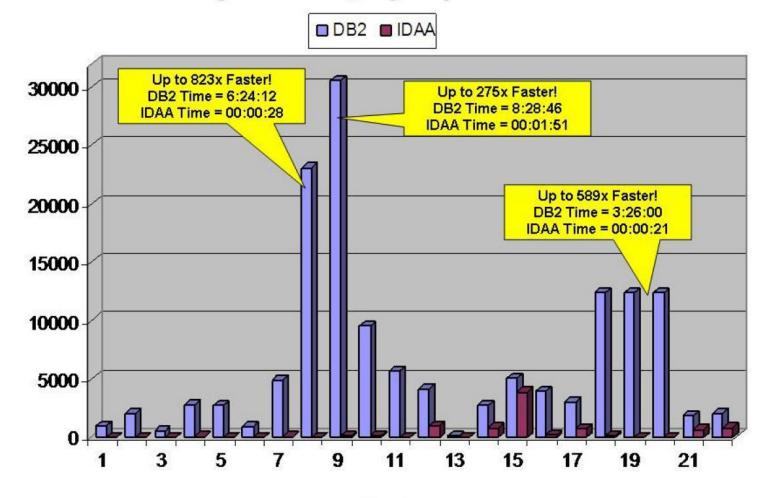
Various query and reporting tools used Time needed to load data to DB2 Analytics Accelerator also captured

PoC Results

One problem query that took 24+ hours in native DB2 completed within 2 minutes in DB2 Analytics Accelerator

Minimal changes required by business users

- Point to correct data sharing subsystem
- Manually issue the 'Enable Acceleration' query

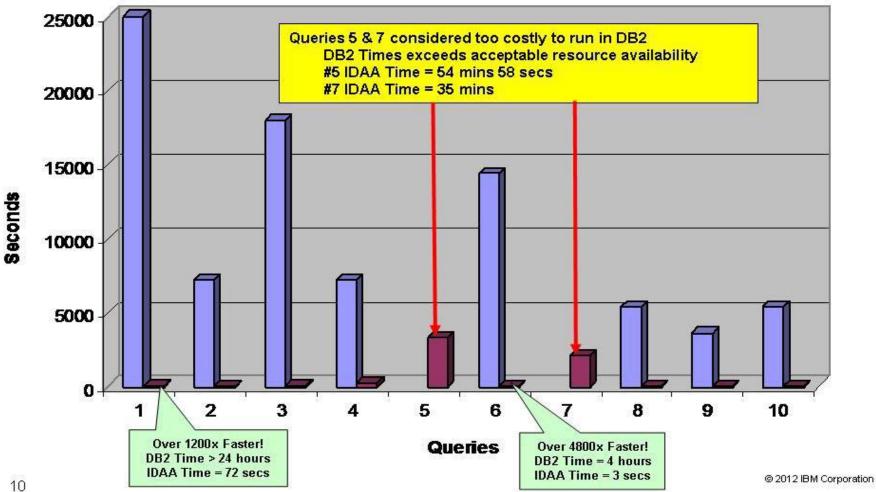


Queries

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Elapsed Time Comparison for Exception Queries





PoC Results (continued)

Magic???

- Behind the scenes work performed by Technology Support Team
 - Systems Programmers
 - DBAs
 - Data Warehousing Team
 - Networking Team
 - Data Center Team

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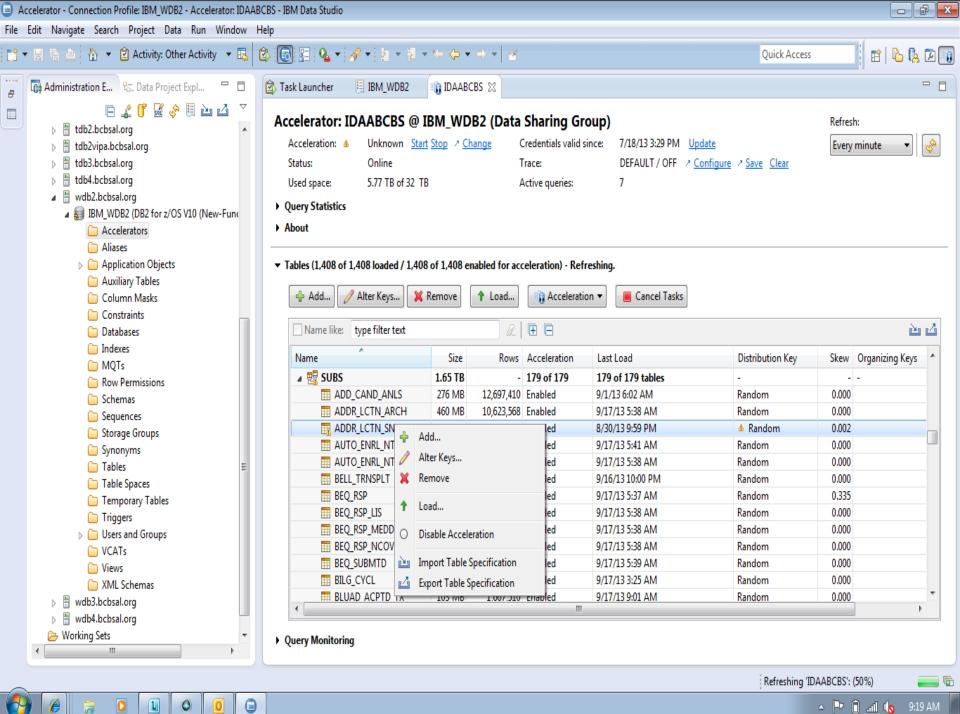
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Observations and Issues

No special security required

Java programs accelerated to DB2 Analytics Accelerator

COBOL programs with dynamic SQL accelerated to DB2 Analytics Accelerator

User concurrency

Query runtime increased with increased workload

Observations and Issues (continued)

Loads to Accelerator initially very slow

- Resolved by allowing more tasks in the WLM environment
- ODBC issue (DB2 Connect)
- Accelerator returned o rows for date dependent queries
 - Resolved with DB2 Connect 9.7 Fixpack 7

Business Value Proposition

Improved Business Intelligence

- 'Train of Thought' analysis
- Able to analyze more data than ever before

Query acceleration with little or no modifications to SQL

Minimal modifications to existing ETL processes

Additional step to load data to Accelerator

Business Value Proposition (continued)

Fewer indexes needed in Data Warehouse environment

Short implementation timeline

DB2 Analytics Accelerator Implementation

- Purchased Twinfin 12
- PoC was conducted on Twinfin 6

Mainframe connected to new Netezza appliance and DB2 Analytics Accelerator installed on the main Data Warehousing subsystem

DB2 Connect upgraded to version 9.7 Fixpack 7 across all desktops in the enterprise

DB2 Analytics Accelerator Implementation

Batch jobs created to refresh data to DB2 Analytics Accelerator based on the same schedule as the Data Warehouse

Turned on zParm to automatically accelerate all of the eligible workload

Post Implementation Observations

DB2 Analytics Accelerator returned data in different order than native DB2 processing

Resolved with ORDER BY clause

Accelerated queries run between Data Warehouse load and Accelerator load do not return most current data

DBAs must remove/add/load tables to Accelerator if structure of Data Warehouse table changes

IBM Data Analytics Software updated to version 3.1

Post Implementation Observations (continued)

New technology is a work in progress...

- A true monitoring tool for IDAA does not exist
- Black box
- Upgrades require IBM intervention

However, it quickly becomes a major part of business

- Queries expected to run quickly in business

areas

- Developers asking to utilize acceleration

Upgrade IDAA software to version 4.1

Partition existing appliance into Production/Development environments

Purchase a new appliance with upgraded technology to use in production environment and utilize existing appliance in a development environment.

Evaluate newly developed IDAA utility software

In Closing...

"I used to have to run a series of queries (in Crystal) against a pretty big table – the queries had to be split across multiple reports for multiple time periods due to the huge volume of data being gueried. Each report took between 30 and 60 minutes to run, and there was a lot of export/cut/paste on the back end to get all the data into a manageable format. Once IDAA was implemented, I was able to convert all those reports into one SQL query that runs in less than 15 minutes and returns over 7 million records. It has eliminated hours of work associated with the old way of preparing this data." - BCBSAL Healthcare Analytics employee



Business customers now rely on the "Magic Box" to retrieve critical data for analysis!!!



Thank You!

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