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## NEWSLETTER 06 | OCTOBER 2023

Virtual Db2 User Group Presentation

# UNDERSTANDING THE CONTINUOUS DELIVERY OF DB2 AND APPLICATION COMPATIBILITY

Last month we heard from Leila Hosseini, Senior DBA, DB2 for z/OS, as she presented Db2 Level up.

In today's rapidly evolving technological landscape, staying up-to-date with software advancements is crucial for businesses to thrive. In the world of databases, IBM Db2 stands as a widely used system that offers a range of functionalities and features. With the introduction of continuous delivery, IBM has revolutionized the way Db2 is updated and enhanced. In our recent session with Leila Hosseini, we delved into the concepts of continuous delivery for Db2 and application compatibility, discussing their significance and how they could be effectively managed. We explored the world of Db2's continuous delivery, its impact on developers and application DBAs, and the crucial role of application compatibility.

### UNDERSTANDING CONTINUOUS DELIVERY:

Traditionally, IBM released new versions of Db2 every three to four years, packed with numerous changes and functionalities. However, with the adoption of continuous delivery in Db2 12, IBM introduced a more agile approach. Db2 is now updated multiple times a year, with each update introducing smaller changes and new features. These updates are delivered as code changes and fixes through PTFs (Program Temporary Fixes) for the target libraries of Db2. System administrators play a vital role in maintaining these libraries to ensure the availability of the latest Db2 code.

### CODE, CATALOG, AND FUNCTION LEVELS:

Db2's continuous delivery revolves around three essential levels: code level, catalog level, and function level. Code level represents the state of the Db2 libraries, which can be higher than the catalog level and function level due to continuous maintenance. Catalog level refers to the adjustments made in the Db2 catalog and directory, necessary to activate new function levels. Function level signifies the introduction of new enhancements and features in Db2. Developers and applications can only consume functionality up to the activated function level, providing control over functionality deployment.

### THE ROLE OF CATALOG AND FUNCTION LEVELS:

Catalog level changes are crucial for activating new function levels. They involve adding columns to tables in the Db2 catalog or making adjustments in the directory. Once the new function level is activated, applications and DBAs can leverage the new features and enhancements introduced by Db2, ranging from SQL statement improvements to optimization techniques. By understanding the catalog and function levels, developers and DBAs can better navigate the continuous delivery process and harness the full potential of Db2.

## SPONSORS



NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING - November 21, 2023, 10:30 AM CDT

## Gaining Insights from Db2 Statistics and Accounting Data

Db2 produces extensive SMF metrics that can provide great insights into how the many facets of your Db2 environment are operating. This session will explore many examples of how Db2 Statistics (SMF 100) and Accounting (SMF 101) data can be leveraged to enhance performance and availability



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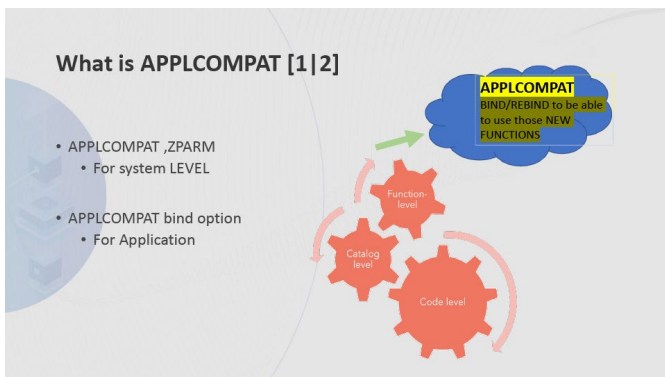
## UNDERSTANDING THE CONTINUOUS DELIVERY OF DB2 AND APPLICATION COMPATIBILITY

Continued

### APPLICATION COMPATIBILITY AND MANAGING IT:

Application compatibility, also known as APPLCOMPAT in Db2, enables applications to leverage the new features and enhancements introduced in different function levels of Db2. By activating a specific function level, developers and application DBAs gain access to a plethora of new capabilities.

To effectively manage application compatibility, it is crucial to understand the current APPLCOMPAT level the package or program is working with. Static packages can be rebound using the APPLCOMPAT keyword, while dynamic packages can utilize the “set current application compatibility” command.



### CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, continuous delivery has revolutionized the way Db2 is updated and enhanced, offering smaller updates more frequently. By understanding the concepts of continuous delivery, including code, catalog, and function levels, developers and DBAs can make the most of Db2’s capabilities. Moreover, application compatibility plays a vital role in enabling applications to leverage new features. By effectively managing application compatibility and staying informed about the latest APPLCOMPAT levels, organizations can seamlessly transition to higher function levels and ensure the smooth operation of their applications. Stay at the forefront of Db2 technology, maximize database efficiency, and enhance your knowledge and career with these valuable concepts.



[Access the Recording](#)



## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sponsorship opportunity—We are looking for additional co-sponsors for the Virtual Db2 user group. The user group has been in existence since 2022 and is gaining respect among users of Db2. The user group gives its sponsors an opportunity to show that they are working with, and helping to build, the Db2 user community.  
Contact [virtualusergroups@gmail.com](mailto:virtualusergroups@gmail.com) for more information.
- After you register for our next event on November 21, save the date for our January 16th session with Dave Beulke

## ABOUT THE VIRTUAL DB2 USER GROUP

The Virtual Db2 user group is an independently-operated vendor-neutral site run by and for the mainframe Db2 user community. This is a mainframe Db2 information website, not in any way related to, sponsored, or approved by IBM, which is the legitimate owner of the trademark, and any use of the mark in the URL or the body of the site is for information, education, and opinion expression purposes. The Virtual Db2 user group was established as a way for individuals using IBM's Db2 for z/OS database to exchange information, learn new techniques, and advance their skills with the product. Anyone with an interest in Db2 for z/OS is welcome to join the Virtual Db2 user group and share in the knowledge exchange.

## SPONSORS

