



Welcome to the Virtual IMS user group newsletter. The Virtual IMS user group at www.fundi.com/virtualims is an independently-operated vendor-neutral site run by and for the IMS user community.

Virtual IMS user group presentation

The latest meeting of the Virtual IMS user group was included a presentation entitled, "Nearing 24x7 availability with structure changes too!", and was presented by Bill Chapin, Lead MSM SQA Engineer with BMC Software.

Bill Chapin has 37 years experience with IMS, starting out as an IMS applications programmer, then an IMS DBA for 11 years, later working in Professional Services as a Database Systems Consultant, all for a large Aerospace company. He has worked for two ISVs in IMS R & D, and BMC Software for over 11 years.

Bill started his presentation by looking at the challenges of 24x7 working with IMS. Companies need to

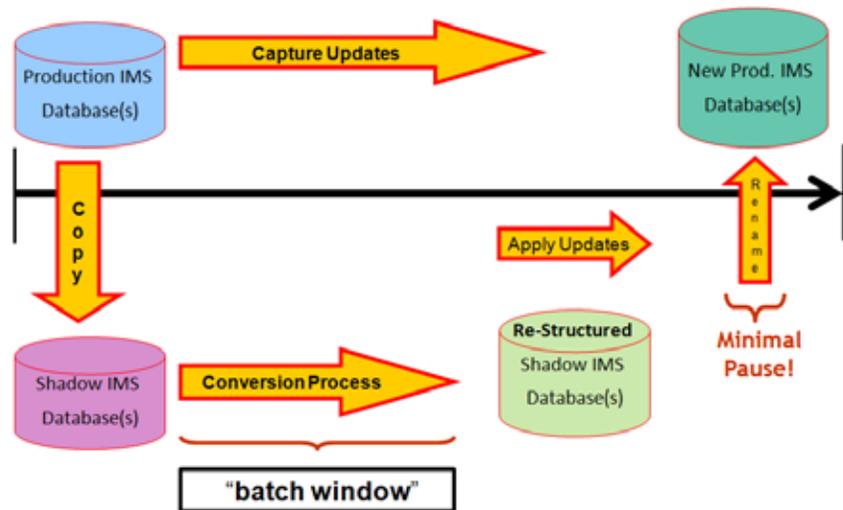


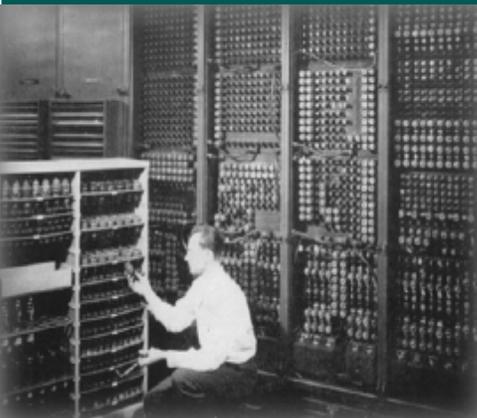
Figure 1: Process overview

make changes to meet ever changing business requirements, but do not have the necessary batch window.

They need to make structure changes to take advantage of available technologies (PDF, HALDB), and because they're exceeding the

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capabilities of the technology (size limitations, because business applications change (add new areas/partitions/secondary indexes), and to exceed performance capabilities (Fast Path DEDB vs. Full Function)

Sites also need to make tuning changes to decrease the likelihood of split segments, excessive RAP synonym chains, increase the size of the RAA, and overflow usage. They also need to provide the best access performance with the least amount of I/O.

Then there's space reclamation. Space fragmentation within the database data sets causes performance problems when IMS is inserting segments. Too much data can be moved into overflow areas. It's important to make the best use of available space.

Bill suggested that what's needed is a way to keep production databases online and actively being updated by MPP transactions and BMP programs, while at the same time you implement your changes. Figure 1 shows the process overview for BMC HALO for IMS.

BMC's Bill Chapin explained to the user group how their product could be used to achieve greater availability while still providing the the ability for IMS professionals

to work on the databases.

Figure 2 illustrates how HALO can provide necessary segment restructuring.

Bill candidly explained some of the limitations of HALO, telling the group that it cannot change the existing database segment hierarchy.

A copy of this presentation is available for download from the Virtual IMS user group Web site at www.fundi.com/virtualims/presentations/nearing24x7availabilityDec12.pdf.

You can see and hear the brief user group meeting by downloading the WMV file from www.fundi.com/virtualims/presentations/2012-12-04meeting.wmv.

Meeting dates

- 5 February 2013, Scott Quillicy, CEO of SQData will be talking about: "Best practices: maximizing the use of your IMS data through replication".

Companies are continuing to leverage IMS for some of their most critical applications. As the amount of data within IMS databases grows, so does the need to make it available to others in a variety of formats, including relational tables, XML messages, and application-specific data structures. Throw in the need for continuous availability, and data replication becomes a required component within the enterprise.

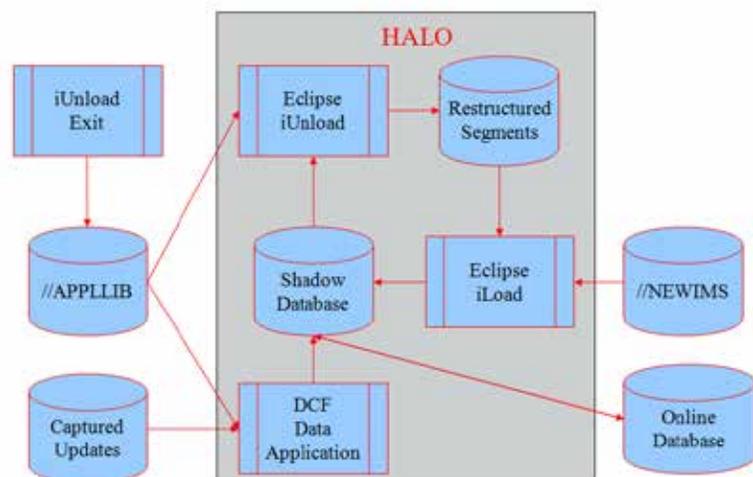


Figure 2: Segment restructuring

The challenge of replicating IMS data can be significant and must be done correctly using the proper methods and tools in order to be successful.

This presentation focuses on best practices and how they are used to maximize the use of your IMS data via data replication, including addressing common issues, avoiding pitfalls, and the best approach for a successful deployment.

- 9 April 2013, James Martin, Fundi Software, will be presenting.

IMS news

Grid-Tools has announced that its Enterprise Data Masking suite now provide full native support for data masking and subsetting for z/OS on DB2, VSAM, IMS, and non-indexed files. Enterprise Data Masking can provide all the functionality required to deliver compliant test data. The data masking solutions include the ability to implement dynamic masking routines and to return masked values to an application. In addition, users will now also be able to subset, unload and mask, and write to a flat file that can be loaded into DB2. More information can be found at www.pr.com/press-release/457000.

CA Technologies has announced Version 9 of CA Mainframe Application Tuner. The new graphical interface is designed to increase productivity to more quickly resolve performance inefficiencies. The product discovers tuning opportunities, simplifies root cause analysis, and speeds resolution of application performance problems. The new Eclipse-based user interface supports IBM Rational Developer for System z. CA Mainframe Application Tuner 9.0 provides enhanced support for applications that use DB2 for z/OS, IMS for z/OS, and CA IDMST databases. More information can be found at www.ca.com/us/news/Press-Releases/na/2012/CA-Technologies-Drives-Increased-Business-Continuity-by-Keeping-Critical-Applications-Humming.aspx.

Recent IMS articles

IMS: Stretching Across Computing Platforms and Applications by Trevor Eddolls, CEO, iTech-Ed Ltd, in *Enterprise Tech Journal* (Winter 2013). You can find the journal at <http://enterprisesystemsmedia.com/magazines/enterprise-tech-journal>.

About the Virtual IMS user group

The Virtual IMS user group was established as a way for individuals using IBM's IMS hierarchical database and transaction processing systems to exchange information, learn new techniques, and advance their skills with the product.

The Web site at www.fundi.com/virtualims provides a central point for coordinating periodic meetings (which contain technically-oriented topics presented in a webinar format), and provides articles, discussions, links, and other resources of interest to IBM IMS practitioners. Anyone with an interest in IMS is welcome to join the Virtual IMS user group and share in the knowledge exchange.

To share ideas, and for further information, contact trevor@itech-ed.com.

The Virtual IMS user group is free to its members.