

Measuring Db2 Locks and Latches

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1. Introduction

One of the most important goals of any DBMS is to provide data concurrency by enabling multiple users to access the same data without compromising data consistency and integrity.

To reach this goal Db2 combines many different serializing mechanisms such as :

- Db2 Latches;
- IRLM latches;
- Locks;
- Global Locks (L-Locks and P-Locks) in data sharing environments.

In this paper, we will discuss the most relevant metrics, provided in Db2 statistics and accounting traces, to be used to control and tune Db2 locks and latches.

We will also suggest how to build metrics and contention indexes to compare with best practices values in order to check if there is a performance problem due to excessive locking and latching.

Finally, we will try to indicate possible reasons of excessive values and the actions you could do to reduce them.