EPV Technologies

Newsletter

May 2023

THIS MONTH HIGHLIGHTS

- Exploiting the z/OS SYSLOG
- EPV for Db2 V16 MA

Exploiting the z/OS SYSLOG

A system log (SYSLOG) is an important component of the z/OS system (and of every operative system).
It can be very useful to audit the behavior of systems and applications by collecting and analyzing the messages, commands and command responses they write.

At every site, automation is in place to intercept specific messages and eventually issue commands to solve most of the possible issues or directly or by requesting operator actions.
However, collecting SYSLOG in a performance database may allow to exploit this large amount of information even more.

In this paper, after a short introduction to the SYSLOG, we will look in detail to the SYSLOG record layout.
Then we will discuss some examples of messages which can be collected in a table and used for short and medium term analysis.

Finally, we will show how SYSLOG data can be integrated in EPV.

If you want to receive the paper you can reply to this e-mail writing **"Exploiting the z/OS SYSLOG"** in the subject

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EPV for Db2 V16 MA

EPV for Db2 V16 is installed in Managed Availability at a customer site.
It provides full support of Db2 13.

New data and views include information about:

- Long index split
- GBP residency time
- SQL Data Insights

All the new usability functions of the User Interface V16, such as Dynamic Driven Queries and Breadcrumb navigation, are available.

General availability is planned by the end of June.

When looking at SMF 30 step records (subtype 4) we see that when SMF30PSN is not blank the procedure step is showed in SMF30STM while the step name is moved to SMF30PSN.
Is that correct or it is a bug in EPV zParser?

EPV Technical Support answer
We confirm that EPV zParser reads SMF 30-4 correctly.
You are right. When a job step invokes a procedure in SMF30STM (step name) you find the procedure step name and the job step name is moved to SMF30PSN.

We think IBM labs made this choice because the goal of the step records is to collect information about step activity and when a job step (e.g. JOBST001) invokes a procedure all the activity is done by the procedure steps not by the job step.

You have also to consider that the procedure steps can be more than one. Let's suppose they are PROCST01 and PROCST02.
In this example the activity would be performed by PROCST01 and PROCST02
So, IBM writes two SMF 30-4 records with PROCST01 and PROCST02 in SM30STM. In both cases SMF30PSN is set to JOBST001.

The alternative could have been to write two SMF 30-4 records both with JOBST001 in SM30STM.
They would be differentiated by PROCST01 in SMF30PSN of the first record and PROCST02 in SMF30PSN of the second record.
But, because the activity is performed by the procedure steps not by the job step, it would be logically wrong.
In addition, the alternative solution could create issues in old applications processing the step records by using the SMF30STM field.

Anyway, if you want, we can help you setting a rule in EPV zParser to invert these fields.

IEFBR14_DELMIGDS

The IEFBR14_DELMIGDS (DELete MIGrated DataSet) parameter is included in the ALLOCXX member of the system parmlib.

It specifies the policy to be used to recall a migrated data set when you use an IEFBR14 JCL program with DD DISP=(x,DELETE) to delete the data set.

Possible values are:

- LEGACY, it indicates that the system needs to recall HSM-migrated data sets before deletion;
- NORECALL, it indicates that the system can delete (through HSM HDELETE processing) the data set without first recalling the data set to the primary storage.

The default is LEGACY.
Our advice is to set it to NORECALL to avoid wasting time waiting for recalling a dataset which will be deleted anyway.

An alternative could be using IDCAMS instead of IEFBR14, but it will require JCL changes.

Quotes

"A shoe is just a shoe until someone steps into it"

Air

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