Northbridge Financial Corporation Improves SQL Efficiency and Performance of Its IBM® Db2® Environment

BMC’s Performance for Db2® SQL has added speed to our Db2 environment that we didn’t have before. Now our staff is empowered to perform, making them happier which makes our company that much better as a result.

Company Overview
Northbridge is the leading commercial property and casualty insurance group in Canada, serving Canadian businesses for over 90 years and ranked as a Five-Star Carrier by Insurance Business Canada.

Business Goals: Standardize Its Mainframe Application and Increase Employee Productivity
Northbridge needed to upgrade its mainframe application, but faced a number of challenges related to the declining performance of its IBM® Db2® environment and the need to fine-tune SQL to improve speed and efficiency.

The Challenges: Improve SQL Efficiency, Speed, and Performance of Its Db2 Environment
IT staff faced increasing challenges around the declining speed and performance of SQL across their Db2 environment. This presented a number of issues for the team including:

- Poor employee experiences and a growing number of complaints due to slow response times
- Non-production IBM® CICS® and Db2 work couldn’t run during peak shifts, lowering productivity
- Overnight testers couldn’t do their jobs because the overnight batch consumed all available resources, and end-of-month processing consumed 100% of CPU time, running for two days
The Solution: BMC Performance for Db2 SQL

Why did Northbridge choose this BMC solution?

Northbridge’s IT staff used BMC Performance for Db2 SQL to improve two important business functions:

1. Receipt processing
   The first run processed over 1,500 receipt headers and 4,200 receipt lines that used 2 CPU minutes and 4 minutes of elapsed time. The second run processed 5,100 receipt headers, 37,000 receipt lines, and used 27 CPU minutes and 37 minutes of elapsed time. Using BMC Performance for Db2 SQL to fine-tune the second run resulted in only using 2 CPU seconds and 8 seconds of elapsed time.

2. Collecting credit card information
   In this ever-growing landscape of data breaches, there are high security measures built around Northbridge’s credit card information collection process. Northbridge’s data was continually encrypted and decrypted, which eventually had a significant impact on overall application performance. IT used the BMC solution to identify a tablespace scan, which was fine until it started processing thousands of rows and performance started to decline. By clearly identifying the problem with BMC Performance for Db2 SQL, IT changed the view definition to a user-defined function—drastically improving response time.

The IT team has been able to achieve their goals of standardizing their mainframe application at lower costs and improving overall efficiency. Now, there’s better employee satisfaction and increased productivity. Optimized processing and boosted speed across Northbridge’s Db2 environment has reduced both CPU and elapse time, improving performance and freeing up development time. This also allows for testing overnight without concern about CPU bandwidth or usage issues.

Other benefits include:
- Improved response time by throughput
- Increased value for employees as development jobs can run during the prime shift
- Reduced CPU and elapse time to run receipt processing

Learn More About BMC Performance for Db2 SQL

- Visit the webpage
- Download the datasheet