

# Pointer Checker Plus

Maximize data integrity, availability,  
and performance for IBM® IMS™ databases

## PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

Pointer Checker Plus maximizes data integrity and availability for IBM IMS databases by identifying internal database problems. It improves application availability and performance by proactively monitoring database space utilization.

## BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Finding pointer errors is challenging and resource-intensive, particularly now that fewer experienced IMS DBAs are managing increasing amounts of data. Your organization depends on the accuracy and completeness of its data. But procedural, software, and hardware errors can threaten the integrity of your databases. When these errors occur, you must detect, analyze, and correct the corrupted data as quickly as possible. Because your IMS databases must be available 24x7, you don't have much time to validate database integrity. You must balance data integrity requirements with wise usage of available resources.

## BMC SOLUTION

Pointer Checker Plus validates, analyzes, and repairs IMS databases quickly and efficiently. When you run the Hash Checking technique concurrently with the image copy or the recovery, the I/O operations to the database data sets are performed only once, saving CPU resources and elapsed time. You can run the Hash Checking technique at the same time you copy or recover the database, with little increase in the elapsed time required for just the image copy or the recovery. If Pointer Checker Plus discovers a pointer error, you can use the Full Checking technique to generate intensive diagnostic information about the problem. If necessary, you can use the Database Zap utility to repair the problem interactively. In addition, Pointer Checker Plus gathers space usage and database statistics during the pointer checking process so you don't need to run a separate step to get this important information. It can notify you when statistics deviate from established thresholds, thus automatically monitoring the condition of the database.

## KEY FEATURES

- **Validates pointers** (using either full or hash checking) concurrently with backup and recovery processes
- **Proactively monitors database space utilization**
- **Provides interactive charts and tables** that display current state and historical information about jobs, databases, database partitions, data sets, and segments

## KEY BENEFITS

- **Ensures data integrity**
- **Provides utilities** for diagnosing and repairing structural problems in IMS databases
- **Improves availability** by validating pointers concurrently with image copy and recovery tasks



Repair IMS  
databases efficiently



Maintain  
data integrity



Ensure  
high availability

## PRODUCT DETAILS

**Improve availability while using resources efficiently:** Pointer Checker Plus improves availability by:

- Verifying pointers during image copy or recovery using less CPU time and fewer EXCPs than IBM IMS High Performance Pointer Checker
- Reducing EXCPs and elapsed time by using alternative access methods and parallel processing
- Offloading eligible processing to the zIIP
- Running concurrently with image copy or recovery processes performed by BMC backup and recovery products

**Ensure data integrity:** Pointer Checker Plus helps you protect critical IMS data by:

- Validating the database from an image copy, verifying that the image copy is readable and the database is free of pointer errors
- Incorporating threshold monitoring to warn of potential problem areas before they affect data availability
- Verifying pointers each time an image copy or recovery is performed

**Analyze and repair databases:** Pointer Checker Plus diagnoses and fixes database structural problems by:

- Collecting database statistics and information about space usage and comparing them to thresholds you set to provide

alerts allowing you to repair broken databases, verify data content, or learn the internal structure of IMS DL/I databases with the online Database Zap utility

- Enabling you to create hard copies of database blocks in DUMP, DL/I, or EXTENDED DL/I format with the DL/I Block Dump utility
- Analyzing the effectiveness of the HDAM randomizing parameters currently defined for a database and the effect of changes to those parameters with the **HDAM Randomizer Analysis utility.**

The **BMC IMS DBA Toolkit**, included with Pointer Checker Plus, provides a single interface to all the IMS databases in your enterprise. With each BMC reorganization utility execution, information about what maintenance has been performed (and when) on a database is automatically recorded and accumulated into monthly and yearly reports so you can analyze trends. Interactive charts and tables display current state and historical information about jobs, databases, database partitions, data sets, and segments. A Disassembly function ensures that the source code for IMS control blocks is available.

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more, please visit [bmc.com/ims](https://bmc.com/ims)

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BMC delivers software, services, and expertise to help more than 10,000 customers, including 92% of the Forbes Global 100, meet escalating digital demands and maximize IT innovation. From mainframe to mobile to multi-cloud and beyond, our solutions empower enterprises of every size and industry to run and reinvent their businesses with efficiency, security, and momentum for the future.

**BMC – Run and Reinvent**

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