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Managing the DB2 objects life cycle **DDL Changer**

Manages the life cycle of DB2 objects and DDL (Data Definition Language) and automatically makes changes to the source objects as they move through the change life cycle.

The DB2 objects are often considered as side elements of the application life cycle, even in areas where changes to the main application components – programs and copybooks – is managed via tools and strict standards of behavior.

In the most common situations, the management of DB2 objects and DDLs is a highly manual process, characterized by a lack of automation, a higher risk for errors and difficulties in the application of standards.

The most common issues are:

- difficulty communicating between the development and systems management departments
- Inability to manage the correctness of the DDL statements generated by development staff
- risk of misalignment of the generated DDL statements with the target environment
- no internal history of the variations of the changes to Db2 objects and DDL statements
- lack of independence for operations from the applications areas
- labor intensive effort when attempting to adapt the DB2 related objects to different production environments in a multi-company environment.

Often, the technological solutions for the management of DB2 objects in the Change Management area are not relevant to their own nature, which is typically regarded as just lines of code in the Change Management process.

Other solutions address this issue as an extra functionality included in general purpose “suites” of products which are typically very expensive and complex, often with significant areas of overlap with other DB2 Management tools already in use.

The DDL Changer Solution

DDL Changer makes it possible to manage the life cycle of DB2 structures and DDL and is able to automatically make changes during the migration of DDL objects through various environments, while also being a technological solution for efficient change management, low cost and low organizational impact.

DDL Changer brings order in the communication between development and management, acting as an “interface” between the two areas.

The object of change, the *DDL package*, comes from an initial environment, typically the test environment, which already includes DDL Changer, making it possible to manage the progress up through implementation into production, with features appropriate to each stage of the life cycle. DDL Changer is able to generate, syntax check, interact with Quality Assurance and consolidate and promote for an improved result. With DDL Changer, the DDL can be regenerated according to the structural changes occurred in the source environment and modified based on the naming conventions and standards associated with the target environment(s).

Automatic control, generation of different conditions in the DDL, modifications, etc. are guaranteed throughout the change process. It can be set up to suit the most complex requirements of any customer including parallel testing, multiple test environments, multi-company, etc.

DDL Changer is also able to align or create new target environments starting from an existing model in very short time and with very little effort.

For any of these issues, DDL Changer is able to interface with virtually any of the most common DB2 Administration tools available today, and interfaces with the most common change management tools.

Objectives and Features of DDL Changer

DDL Changer is a tool that supports the management of the life cycle of the DB2 objects and DDL through all states of change, from test to production.

DDL Changer is not just a change management tool, which also makes possible the navigation and versioning of DDL statements, it also focuses its capabilities on the ability to control the generation and modification of the different environments which make up the change life cycle path, all the while ensuring the movement of the change package which contains DDL statements is correctly formatted and structured to be consistent with each transitional phase.

DDL Changer also standardizes the interaction between the areas of application development and information systems management, providing greater operational independence to the applications development group and at the same time relieving the DBA of the management of verification and correction for the initial level requests for any changes to be made.

DDL Changer makes it possible to:

- manage the entire change process of the DDL from test to production through
 - a guarantee of no concurrent changes for the same DB2 object
 - automatic editing of the change request
 - automatic control of the movement of the change package
 - generation of a history of modifications and versions of the DDL
- have a centralized control method for operations and applications
- include the functions of:
 - syntax checking of the DDL
 - compare structure of the DDL objects between environments
 - automatic generation of DDL for the target environment
- provide quality control of additional user parameters to manage consistency, reserved words, ...
- automatically convert object names to match the DDL according to naming standards of the target environment
- execute the input DDL, in a controlled manner, into the appropriate starting environment for the application and in the following environments for the DBA
- activate exit points to enable custom options designed to add security, user profiles,...
- enable the X-system capability for interfacing with a network of DB2 subsystems which may also be located on different platforms with access via TCP-IP
- interface the most common change management tools through API and SOA Web Services.



SCP - Strategic Consulting Partnership Pty Ltd
PO Box 1529 North Sydney
NSW 2059 Australia
Tel: +61 411 888 390 - Fax: +61 2 9977 4450
www.scpaustralia.com - contact@scpaustralia.com

