



May 2011 Newsletter

DB2 9 for z/OS Schedule (June-Sept)

June

6th Database Design & Administration

July

11th Using QMF
13th Monitoring & Tuning Applications' Performance
18th Introduction, Concepts & Facilities
20th SQL for Query Users

September

12th Database Design & Administration – Advanced Topics
26th Introduction, Concepts & Facilities
28th SQL for Query Users
26th Operations & Recovery
29th Changes & New Features

Updated Virtual Training Schedule

June 6th – IMS Essentials

June 20th- Data Communications Fundamentals

June 22nd- An Operations Guide to z/OS

July 7th- Workload Manager Fundamentals

August 29th-z/OS Fundamentals Boot Camp

Sept 12th- VSAM Essentials Workshop

Public Schedule Highlights

This is not the complete schedule, if you can't find what you seek on techknowledge.com, call your Education Rep at 410-891-1707

May

25th UNIX Basics for Users "GTR"

June

6th REXX Programming Workshop
9th REXX Advanced Programming Workshop
8th CICS/TS- Concepts & Facilities
13th COBOL Programming Part 1- Foundation Level
13th UNIX Boot Camp
13th IMS Database Design & Implementation
20th Using z/OS Assembler
20th CICS/TS Web Services
20th Java for Mainframe Programmers

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Instructor's Corner

DB2

By: [Joe Luthman](#)

And there it is. You exit from a meeting with your boss, and find that you now have sole authority for systems DBA work for a production subsystem. It's your first assignment of this magnitude. Where to start?

Foremost among job duties for a systems DBA is backup and recovery. You must first assess whether all tablespaces are getting backed up. What is the agreement for how long these must be kept? How frequently (ever?) are tests made for recovery of those same backups?

Of course you must first allay any fears about your own prioritization of work duties. Likely your boss has forwarded complaints about performance. Possibly you've been told that the most pressing need is to convert from version 9 to version 10. And even though you must answer those immediate concerns, bear in mind the often untested assumption is that you really can recover from any mistaken changes made for either performance or conversion. In short, even though backup/recovery is NOT stated as a first task, you still need to silence your own concerns about being able to undo any systems changes you make for other reasons.

To assess which tablespaces might not have backups, you can use set theory. [More information see here.](#)

Set A is the list of all tablespaces in your subsystem. Find this by constructing SQL against SYSIBM.SYSCOPY. Set B consists of all backups known to DB2, using a SELECT statement against SYSIBM.SYSTABLESPACES. Your differences result is the set of all tablespaces without known DB2 backups. You must first address that problem!

Then, while you're taking inventory, you may as well determine how old some of those backups are. If your installation policy is that any data must be able to be studied up to 60 days ago, then any image copy information older than that should be discarded, using the MODIFY utility. [Sample utility statements can be found here.](#)

Finally, and most importantly, HAVING backups does not ensure recoverability. Nor does it mean that you possess this skill if you never practice it. You are the go-to person for data persistence.

Practicing recovery in a production system? Not a good idea. Lobby for a 'sandbox' subsystem for this type of work. You'll be able to use this same subsystem to rehearse performance changes. And of course you'll need it to safely try out any migration activities.

My overall aim is to efficiently execute my primary DBA duties, in order to free up time for more creative and fun activities such as functions, triggers, and stored procedures. In subsequent articles, we'll cover just a few more basic DBA tasks before delving into the fun part of your work.