

Fastest Informix DBA Contest II



Background

Advanced DataTools sponsored a contest at the Informix User Conference, to find and honor the fastest Informix DBAs. The challenge was to take a basic Informix database server and a SQL script that takes about 30 minutes to run, and see who can get it to run the fastest. Can you take a new Informix install and, without any prior knowledge, optimize it in 30 minutes?

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Contest Tasks

The challenge will be to complete the following tasks in under 30 minutes:

- Tune and optimize the Onconfig file
- Tune the optimize dbspace/table layout
- Tune the optimize SQL script
- Run the script

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- **June 1 to September 30, 2009 – winners announced in October**
- **Download data and base scripts from our web site starting June 1**
- **Use the new Informix IDS 11.50 xC4 Virtual Appliance to test and run it**
- **Send back to us:**
 - Your ONCONFIG file
 - Your SQL script
 - Script to create your Informix environment (dbspaces/logs)
- **We will run the benchmark on hardware in our office**
- **10 Winners – best times on our hardware**

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- **Overview of the Setup script – setup.sh**
- **Overview of the Benchmark script – benchmark_run.sql**
- **Questions – to date...**
- **Additional Questions from call**

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Question is:

- **Is it allowed to remove some unneeded columns from the bills table as long as the results from the last two selects show the correct expected values?**

Answer:

- **Changing columns or data types is not allowed.**

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Question is:

- **Do I have to fill all columns in the bills table with data? The results from the last two selects do not change if I leave some columns like "bills.last_name" blank...**

Answer:

- **Judges reviewed this and decided that all the columns in the Select clause must remain. Last name would be needed to send a real bill.**

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Question is:

- **Some joins like "customer.product_code[1] = product.product_code[1]" are not needed because all product codes are the same. They would only be necessary if you want to generate bills for products with a different product code. Is it allowed to remove those joins?**

Answer:

- **As long as the results are the same unnecessary SQL code can be removed from the where clause.**

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Question is:

- **Some conditions like "customer.start_date >= "01/01/2000" are not necessary because all current customers fulfill this condition. Is it allowed to remove those conditions?**

Answer:

- **As long as the results are the same unnecessary SQL code can be removed from the where clause.**

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Question is:

- **Will the database engine be restarted after setup.sh when you perform the benchmark with my files?**

Answer:

- **Yes**

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Question is:

- Is compression (new in 11.5) allowed?

Answer:

- Yes

Host – Lester Knutsen

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Provides:

- Informix Training
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- Informix Performance Tuning
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Advanced Informix Performance Tuning Course

August 17-20, 2009 - Advanced Informix IDS Performance Tuning and Optimization.

- Attend online or in person
- 4 days of benchmarking on our servers
- This course is for database administrators and application developers who will be responsible for managing, optimizing, and tuning an IDS database server. The focus is on skills, procedures, and scripts to improve the performance of your database server. The course will provide a toolkit of scripts and utilities to start monitoring and optimizing your IDS database server.
- **More info online at www.advanceddatatools.com**

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Thank You

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