



Explaining EXPLAIN: DB2 10 Edition

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Willie Favero

Dynamic Warehouse on z/OS Swat Team (DB2 SME)
IBM Silicon Valley Laboratory
713-940-1132
wfavero@attglobal.net







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What is EXPLAIN?



EXPLAIN captures detailed information about what could impact SQL performance

- or -

It gathers access path selection information

- or -

- A peek at what the optimizer might do! -



EXPLAIN was introduced in DB2 Version 1.2 on March 7, 1986

How is it Executed?



Can be dynamically prepared

Run as a static SQL statement

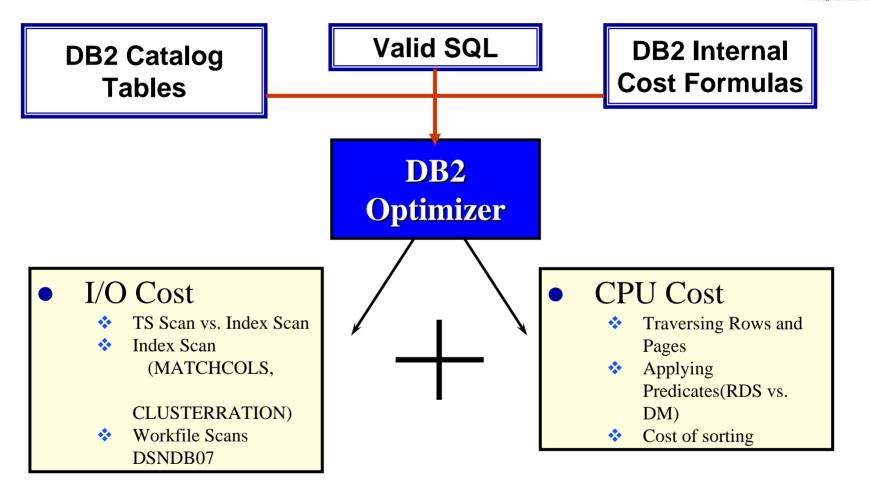
BIND/REBIND command option

Automatically at automatic REBIND

Special register

Access Path Selection







"Least Cost Access Path"

Your Output is Only as Good as Your Input



Statistics

RUNSTATS

Inline stats (REORG, LOAD, etc...)

And don't forget about Stats Advisor

SQL EXPLAIN



EXPLAIN PLAN SET QUERY=nnn sql_statement

EXPLAIN STMTCACHE ALL

EXPLAIN STMTCACHE STMTID value

EXPLAIN STMTCACHE STMTTOKEN value

EXPLAIN PACKAGE COLLECTION ccccc PACKAGE pppppp

Only works with DB2 9 packages and above. Available in Conversion Mode (CM)

Plan (Package) Management



- DSNZPARM keyword PLANMGMT
 - ◆Need to specify BASIC or EXTENDED
 - BASIC
 - □ Access path information in repository
 - One access path retained
 - EXTENDED
 - □ Access path information in repository
 - □ Two access paths are retained; previous and original
 - EXPLAIN PACKAGE keyword COPY specifies CURRENT, PREVIOUS, or ORIGINAL should be used
 - HINT_USED contains which one
 - □0 (current copy of package)
 - □ 1 (previous copy of package)
 - □2 (the original copy of the package)

QUERYNO



- The column that "brings it all together"
 - Of the 18 (DB2 9 has 16 or V8 has 15) EXPLAIN tables, all but 1 has a QUERNO column
- Populated by
 - EXPLAIN SQL statement

QUERYNO



- Populated by
 - When EXPLAIN (YES) or EXPLAIN (ONLY) is specified on the BIND/REBIND commands
 - QUERYNO is SQL statement number in pgm unless
 - □ Including QUERYNO keyword on SQL statement

```
SELECT ....FROM .....WHERE .....WITH....QUERYNO nnn
```

- 32767 statement limit (is that really a problem)
- Could simplify using OPTHINTS

Also used as QUERYNO in SYSIBM.SYSSTMT and SYSIBM.SYSPACKSTMT

EXPLAIN(ONLY)



- Populate EXPLAIN tables without creating or replacing package
 - □ Available in Conversion Mode (CM)
 - Same cost as bind
 - Do not need the authority to run SQL in package to EXPLAIN package
 - Populate EXPLAIN tables even though EXPLAIN(NO) was originally specified

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- Test access path before replacing
 - Goes well with APREUSE(ERROR) or APCOMPARE(ERROR)

APREUSE(ERROR) – Reuse previous access path. If any statement cannot be reused, bind ends. APCOMPARE(ERROR) –compare old and new access for each statement. Terminate if different.

EXPLAIN Tip



DSNZPARM

- ◆ABEXP keyword on the DSN6SPRM macro
 - Should EXPLAIN processing take place at automatic rebind?
 - YES Default; perform EXPLAIN processing at auto rebind
 You want to specify YES
 - NO no EXPLAIN processing at auto rebind
- If package bound with EXPLAIN(NO), no EXPLAIN processing takes place at rebind regardless of this ZPARM's setting.
- ◆If the package was bound with EXPLAIN(YES) and ABEXP is YES EXPLAIN processing still happens during auto rebind even if the PLAN_TABLE doesn't exist, there's just no output produced.

EXPLAIN Special Register



SET CURRENT EXPLAIN MODE =

- NO turns of capturing EXPLAIN information. This is the default
- YES turns feature on causing EXPLAIN information to be collected and plan tables to be updated.
- EXPLAIN this option is the same of YES. However, the dynamic SQL statements are not executed
- host_variable must be CHAR or VARCHAR and can only contain one of the above in uppercase and left justified
- Valid for eligible SQL only
 - SELECT, INSERT, and the searched form of UPDATE and DELETE.

For this one, you'll have to wait for new function mode (NFM) to use

EXPLAIN Privilege



- EXPLAIN is considered a "system privilege" that allows you to grant select privileges without granting execute on the SQL
 - EXPLAIN specifying any of these keywords
 - ALL/PLAN,
 - STMTCACHE ALL,
 - STMTCACHE STMTID,
 - STMTCACHE STMTTOKEN,
 - MONITORED STMTS,
 - Issue the SQL statements DESCRIBE TABLE and PREPARE
 - Specify BIND options EXPLAIN(ONLY) and SQLERROR(CHECK),
- ◆ Explain dynamic SQL statements executing under Explaining EXPLAIS PLAIN MODE

EXPLAIN Privilege



- Syntax:
 - ◆GRANT EXPLAIN TO
 - ◆Can grant on authorization ID, role, or to PUBLIC
 - Can also specify WITH GRANT OPTION

Once again, for this one, you'll have to wait for new function mode (NFM) to use



- EXPLAIN's will go here:
 - PLAN_TABLE
 - Describes access path of SQL state
 - Help better design SQL statem
 - Can be used for optimization

No wait... correct?
That doesn't seem

BTW, Remember when everyone was trying to get to the hidden EXPLAIN tables?



- Explain's output actually goes three places:
 - PLAN_TABLE
 - Describes access path of SQL state
 - Help better design SQL statem
 - Can give optimization hints
- Added in DB2 Version
 - ◆ DSN_STATEMN ____E
 - Provides co
 - Cost in se
 Mits and in milliseconds
 - For dynamic and static SQL statements
 - DSN_FUNCTION_TABLE
 - How DB2 resolves functions
 - One row for each function in an SQL statement



- And then there were 15:
 - ◆PLAN_TABLE, DSN_STATEMNT_T \ LE, DSN_FUNCTION_TABLE
- Tables added in DB2 Version
 - ◆DSN_STATEMENT_CA BLE
 - If you have dynamic caching enabled, the statement cache table control ormation about any SQL statements in the cache as a result of issuing the SQL stater. AIN STATEMENT CACHE ALL.
 - To consider having IFCIDs 316,317,and 318 active for additional details.
 - DSN_DETCOST_TABLE
 - The detailed cost table contains information about detailed cost estimation of the mini-plans in a query.



- Tables used by EXPLAIN :
 - **◆DSN FILTER TABLE**
 - closer. predicates are The filter table contains information used processing. during query
 - **◆DSN PGRANGE TABLE**
 - The page range table. ★ANGE_TABLE, contains information about or ∡rtitions for all page range scans in a query.
 - ◆DSN PGR(
 - ∡ρ table, DSN_PGROUP_TABLE, contains The par ≾out the parallel groups in a query.





- Tables used by EXPLAIN :
 - DSN_PREDICAT_TABLE
 - DSN_PTASK_TABLE
 - The parallel tasks table ASK_TABLE, contains information about a rallel tasks in a query.
 - DSN_QUERY
 - The query rains information about a SQL statement, and distant statement before and after query transform.
 - Not populated for static SQL statements at BIND or REBIND with EXPLAIN(YES)



- Tables used by EXPLAIN :
 - DSN_SORTKEY_TABLE
 - closer... sort keys for all The sort key table contains informat of the sorts required by a query
 - **◆DSN SORT TABLE**
 - In about the sort operations The sort table contains required by a query
 - ◆DSN STRUC
 - The struct contains information about all of the query blocks i
 - ◆DSN VIEW ∠EF TABLE
 - The view reference table contains information about all of the views and materialized query tables that are used to process a query.



- Tables used as input to EXPLAIN :
 - DSN_VIRTUAL_INDEXES
 - The virtual indexes table enables or the tools to test the effect of creating and dropping in the performance of particular queries
 - □ Added in DB2 Version &

- ◆DSN_USER C TABLE
 - contain
 mation about optimization hints
 - □ Added B2 10



- Tables used by EXPLAIN as of DB2 10:
 - DSN_KEYGTDIST_TABLE
 - This table contains non-uniform index expression statistic that are obtained dynamically by the optimizer.
 - DSN_COLDIST_TABLE
 - contains non-uniform or dynamically by DB2
- up statistics that are obtained -index leaf pages

- DSN_QUERYINFO_TABLE
 - Used for the IBM DB2 Analytics Accelerator

DB2 10 Format



- EBCDIC EXPLAIN tables deprecated in DB2 10
- EXPLAIN tables in format before DB2 Version 8 disallowed
- Migration job SDSNSAMP(DSNTIJPM) has queries to discover non-compliant tables
- DDL for EXPLAIN tables
 - SDSNSAMP(DSNTESC) contains DDL to build all EXPLAIN tables
 - Data Studio (no-charge download)
 - Optim Query Tuner (charge)
 - Optim Query Workload Tuner (charge)

DSN_STATEMENT_CACHE_TABLE



The next few slides discuss how to use the dynamic statement cache

Activate Dynamic Statement Cache



- Activate Dynamic Statement Cache and make sure it's of adequate size
 - To activate the Dynamic Statement Cache:
 - Install panel
 - CACHE DYNAMIC SQL field

or

- DSNZPARM keyword
 - □ DSN6SPRM macro, keyword CACHEDYN
- Statement cache must of size to hold the entire workload
 - Install panel
 - □ EDM STATEMENT CACHE field
 - 5000 to 1048576 KB allowed, default is 113386
 - The dynamic statement cache space is above the 2GB bar

or

- DSNZPARM
 - □ DSN6SPRM EDMSTMTC (specified in KB)

Start Trace for Cache



Non-Data-Sharing -START TRACE command example

```
-STA TRACE(MON) CLASS(30) IFCID(316,317,318) DEST(SMF)
```

- □ DSNW130I MON TRACE STARTED, ASSIGNED TRACE NUMBER 04
- □ DSN9022I DSNWVCM1 '-STA TRACE' NORMAL COMPLETION

Data-Sharing –START TRACE command example

```
-STA TRACE(MON) CLASS(30) IFCID(316,317,318)
DEST(SMF) SCOPE(GROUP)
```

- □ DSNW130I MON TRACE STARTED, ASSIGNED TRACE NUMBER 04
- □ DSN9022I DSNWVCM1 '-STA TRACE' NORMAL COMPLETION

Note:

Do not use a Monitor Class 29 trace. It only starts IFCIDs 316 & 318 when IFCID 317 is also required.

^{*} The DEST is optional on the -START TRACE command in the above examples.

Start Trace for Cache



IFCID 316

- First 60 bytes of SQL statement plus identifying information and statistics (statement ld, authid, usage counters)
 - http://publib.boulder.ibm.com/infocenter/tivihelp/v15r1/index.jsp?topic
 =/com.ibm.omegamon.xe_db2.doc/ko2rrd20228.htm

IFCID 317

- Used in addition to IFCID 316 to obtain the full SQL statement text
 - http://publib.boulder.ibm.com/infocenter/tivihelp/v15r1/index.jsp?topic =/com.ibm.omegamon.xe_db2.doc/ko2rrd20228.htm

■ IFCID 318

- Contains no data and acts only as a switch for IFCID 316 to collect all available information
 - Stopping and Starting IFCID 318 will reset stats and cause a new interval to start

Minimal impact on CPU and minimal impact (if any) on SMF.

Capture Dynamic Statement Cache



Execute the EXPLAIN STMTCACHE ALL

- Issuing the above SQL statements results in one row being returned for each statement cached in the dynamic statement cache to the DSN_STATEMENT_CACHE_TABLE table. Each row returned contains identifying information about the cached statement along with statistics reflecting that statements execution. Statistics are returned ONLY when the IFCID 316 and 318 traces are active.
- This SQL statement can be executed using SPUFI, DSNTEP2, DSNTEP4, or any number of programs that allow dynamically prepared SQL statements.
- Ensure SCHEMA (SQLID if pre DB2 9) is set correct for the EXPLAIN tables you are using for processing.
- Make sure you have the proper authorization to dump all the SQL in the dynamic statement cache.
 - For example, running the EXPLAIN STMTCACHE ALL with SYSADM authority will avoid this issue.

Stop Trace



- Stop the trace ONLY after verifying DSN_STATEMENT_CACHE_TABLE table appears to be accurate
- Stop trace

```
-STOP TRACE(MON) CLASS(30)

DSNW131I - STOP TRACE SUCCESSFUL FOR

TRACE NUMBER(S) 04

DSN9022I - DSNWVCM1 '-STO TRACE' NORMAL

COMPLETION
```

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Verify trace has been successfully stopped

-DISPLAY TRACE(*)

PLAN_TABLE, etc...



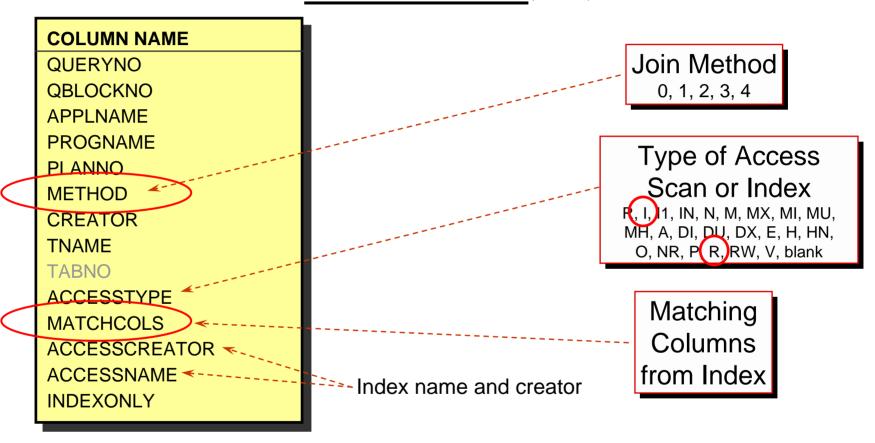
EXPLAIN Output tables:

- You are responsible for creating all EXPLAIN tables
- Ownership
 - For Dynamic SQLID
 - For PLAN Plan owner
 - For Package Package owner
 - Can use ALIAS as of Version 8
- Data in tables MUST be interpreted
 - Must Understand Column Meaning and Codes
- EXPLAIN Won't Tell You Everything
 - Run Time Access Enhancements
 - Referential Integrity
 - Access to LOB values

The PLAN_TABLE



25 Column Format (V2.1)



Is a table space scan bad?

And, is an index access good? It's not all magic!!!!

Methods – Joins and Sorts



METHOD

- 0 First table accessed
- 1 Nested Loop Join
- 2 Merge Scan Join
- ◆ 3 Sort
- 4 Hybrid Join

MATCHCOLS



IX(C1, C2, C3, C4)

	1	_1
C	ı	= $ $

C2 = 2

ACCESSTYPE='I' and MATCHCOLS=3

C3>3

C4=4

C3>2

C4 = 3

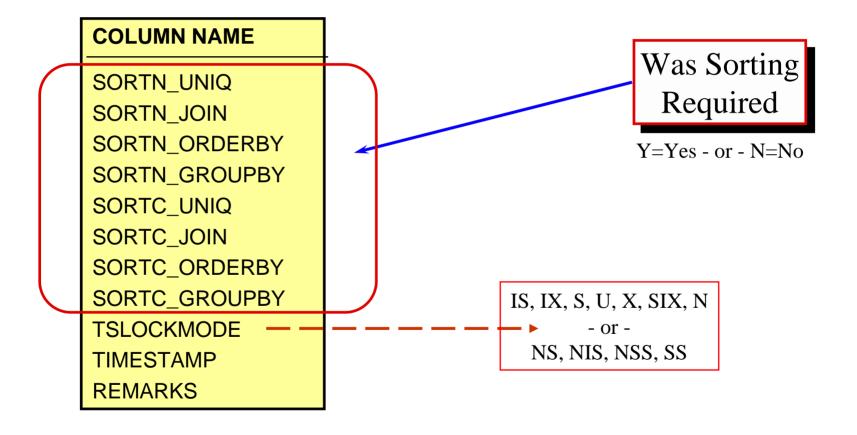
ACCESSTYPE='I' and MATCHCOLS=1

C5 = 1

ACCESSTYPE='I' and MATCHCOLS=0



25 Column Format (V2.1)





28 Column Format (V2.2)



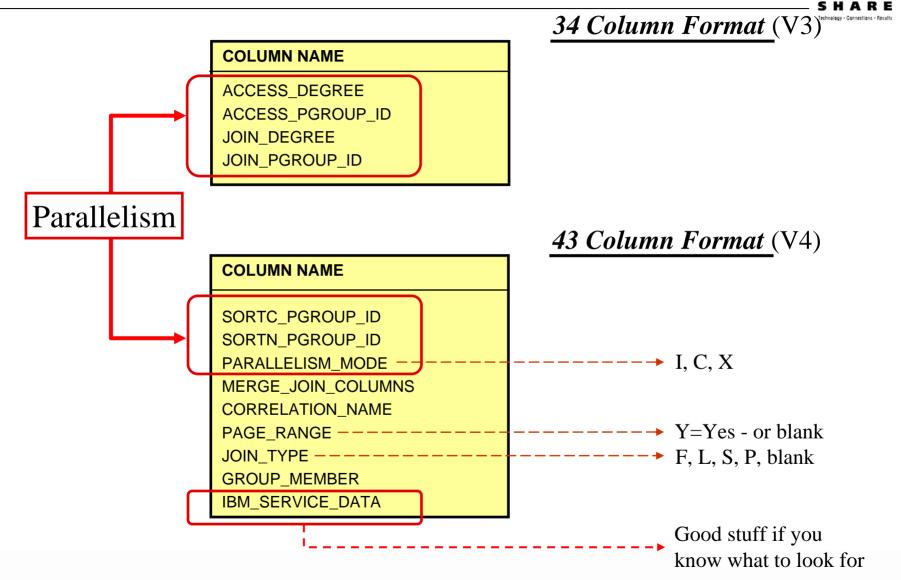
30 Column Format (V2.3)

COLUMN NAME

VERSION COLLID

For **Packages**





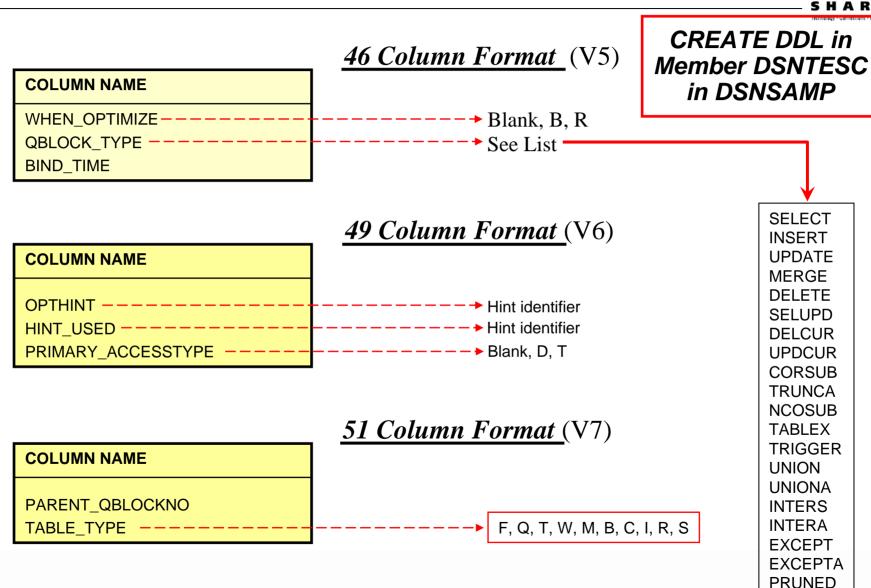
Joins



JOIN_TYPE

- F Full Outer Join
- ◆ L Left Outer Join
- ♦ S Star Join
- blank Inner Join or No Join







COLUMN NAME

- TABLE_ENCODE
- TABLE_SCCSID
- TABLE MCCSID
- TABLE_DCCSID
- ROUTINE ID

58 Column Format (V8)

E - EBCDIC

A - ASCII

U - Unicode

M – multi CCSID sets

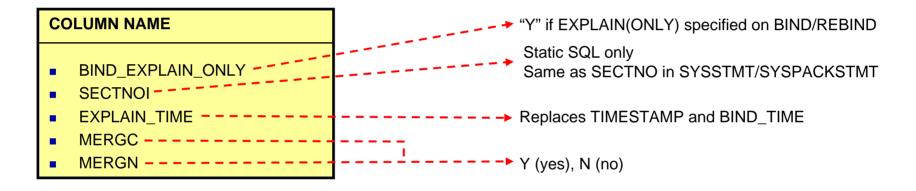
COLUMN NAME

- CTEREF
- STMTTOKEN
- PARENT_PLANNO

59 Column Format (DB2 9)



64 Column Format (DB2 10)



Plan_Table Access



Version 8 allows the use of an ALIAS to access PLAN_TABLE

CREATE ALIAS WILLIE.PLAN_TABLE FOR

PRODUCTION.PLAN TABLE

Willie runs query

EXPLAIN PLAN FOR SELECT

Ordering PLAN_TABLE Data



- PLAN_TABLE should be sorted by:
 - ◆ EXPLAIN_TIME
 - When EXPLAIN information was captured
 - QUERYNO
 - QUERYNO clause on EXPLAIN
 - QUERYNO clause on a DML statement
 - Line number from source
 - QBLOCKNO
 - Query position in statement
 1 is outer most query block
 - PLANNO
 - Execution order of steps
 - MIXOPSEQ
 - Step order for multiple index operations

TIMESTAMP & BIND TIME have been deprecated. Use EXPLAIN TIME.

Which Rows Do You Want?



- Search for Plans:
 - APPLNAME = the application plan name
- Search for Packages:
 - PROGNAME = the package name
 - COLLID = the collection id
 - VERSION = the version identifier

Only applies to rows produced from some kind of BIND

Querying from Plan/Package



For Plans:

```
SELECT *
    FROM YOUR PLAN TABLE

WHERE APPLNAME = 'application_plan_name'
ORDER BY
    EXPLAIN_TIME, QUERYNO, QBLOCKNO, PLANNO,
    MIXOPSEQ;
```

For Packages:

SELECT *

```
FROM YOUR_PLAN_TABLE

WHERE PROGNAME = 'package_name'

AND COLLID = 'collection_id'

AND VERSION = 'version_identifier'

ORDER BY
```

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EXPLAIN TIME, QUERYNO, QBLOCKNO,

PLANNO, MIXOPSEQ;

And Just for the Fun of It...



```
SHARE
Technology · Connections · Results
```

```
SELECT
 A.EXPLAIN_TIME, ',', A.QUERYNO,',',
A.OBLOCKNO, ', ',
 A.PLANNO,',',
 SUBSTR(A.PROGNAME, 1, 22) AS PROGNAME, ',
 SUBSTR(A.COLLID, 1, 22) AS COLLID, ', ',
 SUBSTR(A.VERSION, 1, 14) AS VERSION, ', ',
 SUBSTR(A.CREATOR, 1, 14) AS CREATOR, ', ',
 CASE A METHOD
            WHEN 0 THEN 'FIRST'
            WHEN 1 THEN 'NLJOIN'
            WHEN 2 THEN 'MSJOIN'
            WHEN 3 THEN 'SORT'
            WHEN 4 THEN 'HYBRID'
                    ELSE 'UNKNWN'
       END AS METHOD, ', ',
 SUBSTR(TNAME, 1, 14) AS TABLENAME, ', ',
 BIGINT(C.CARDF) TCARDF, ',',
 BIGINT(C.NPAGESF) TNPAGESF, ',',
 C.PCTPAGES TPCTPAGES, ',', TABNO,',',
 B.PROCMS, ',', B.PROCSU, ',',
 B.COST CATEGORY, ',',
 SUBSTR(B.REASON, 1, 25) AS REASON, ', ',
 ACCESSTYPE AS ACCTYP, ', ',
 MATCHCOLS AS MCOLS, ', ',
 SUBSTR(ACCESSCREATOR, 1, 14) AS ACCSSCRTR, ', ',
 SUBSTR(ACCESSNAME, 1, 14) AS ACCSSNM, ', ',
 CASE A.INDEXONLY
            WHEN 'Y' THEN 'INDEXONLY'
                      ELSE ' '
       END, ', ',
```

```
SORTN UNIO AS SN U,',',
SORTN JOIN AS SN J,',',
SORTN ORDERBY AS SN O, ', ',
SORTN GROUPBY AS SN G,',',
SORTC UNIQ AS SC_U,',',
SORTC JOIN AS SC_J,',',
SORTC_ORDERBY AS SC_O,',',
SORTC GROUPBY AS SC G,',',
TSLOCKMODE, ', ',
CASE A.PREFETCH
            WHEN 'S' THEN 'SEO'
            WHEN 'L' THEN 'LST'
            WHEN 'D' THEN 'DYN'
            WHEN 'U' THEN 'LPRID'
                      ELSE ' '
END AS PRFTCH, ', ', COLUMN FN EVAL AS COL FN E,
',', MIXOPSEQ,',',
SUBSTR(A.VERSION, 1, 14) AS VERSION, ', ',
SUBSTR(A.COLLID, 1, 14) AS COLLID, ', ',
ACCESS DEGREE AS ACC D,',',
ACCESS PGROUP ID AS ACC PGID, ', ',
JOIN DEGREE AS JN D, ', ',
JOIN PGROUP ID AS JN PGID, ', ',
SORTC PGROUP ID AS SC PGID, ', ',
SORTN PGROUP ID AS SN PGID, ', ',
PARALLELISM MODE AS P ISM MD, ', ',
MERGE JOIN COLS AS M J COL, ', ',
SUBSTR(CORRELATION NAME, 1, 10) AS CORL NM, ', ',
PAGE RANGE, ', ',
```



```
SUBSTR(A.GROUP_MEMBER, 1, 8) AS GRP_MBR, ', ', ',
WHEN_OPTIMIZE, ',',
QBLOCK_TYPE, ', ',
CASE A.JOIN TYPE
             WHEN 'F' THEN 'FULLOJ'
             WHEN 'L' THEN 'LEFTOJ'
             WHEN 'P' THEN 'PAIRWS'
             WHEN 'S' THEN 'STAR'
             WHEN ' ' THEN 'INNER'
                    ELSE 'UNKNWN'
       END AS JNTYPE, ', ',
PRIMARY_ACCESSTYPE AS PRI_ACCES_TYPE, ',',
PARENT_QBLOCKNO, ', ',
PARENT PLANNO, ', ',
TABLE_TYPE, ',',
TABLE_ENCODE, ',',
CTEREF,',',
SUBSTR (STMTTOKEN, 1, 14) AS STMTTOKEN, ', ',
A.EXPLAIN_TIME, ',',
MERGC, ', ', MERGN, ', ',
```



```
SHARE
```

```
(CASE SUBSTR(HEX(SUBSTR(IBM SERVICE DATA, 17, 1)), 1, 1)
      WHEN 'A' THEN 10
      WHEN 'B' THEN 11
      WHEN 'C' THEN 12
      WHEN 'D' THEN 13
      WHEN 'E' THEN 14
      WHEN 'F' THEN 15
ELSE
INTEGER(SUBSTR(HEX(SUBSTR(IBM_SERVICE DATA,17,1)),1,1))
END * POWER (16, 3) + CASE
SUBSTR(HEX(SUBSTR(IBM SERVICE DATA, 17, 1)), 2, 1)
      WHEN 'A' THEN 10
      WHEN 'B' THEN 11
      WHEN 'C' THEN 12
      WHEN 'D' THEN 13
      WHEN 'E' THEN 14
      WHEN 'F' THEN 15
ELSE
INTEGER(SUBSTR(HEX(SUBSTR(IBM SERVICE DATA, 17, 1)), 2, 1))
END * POWER (16, 2) + CASE
SUBSTR(HEX(SUBSTR(IBM SERVICE DATA, 18, 1)), 1, 1)
      WHEN 'A' THEN 10
      WHEN 'B' THEN 11
      WHEN 'C' THEN 12
      WHEN 'D' THEN 13
      WHEN 'E' THEN 14
      WHEN 'F' THEN 15
ELSE
```

```
INTEGER(SUBSTR(HEX(SUBSTR(IBM SERVICE DATA, 18, 1)), 1, 1))
END * POWER (16, 1) + CASE
SUBSTR(HEX(SUBSTR(IBM SERVICE DATA, 18, 1)), 2, 1)
      WHEN 'A' THEN 10
      WHEN 'B' THEN 11
      WHEN 'C' THEN 12
      WHEN 'D' THEN 13
      WHEN 'E' THEN 14
      WHEN 'F' THEN 15
   ELSE
INTEGER(SUBSTR(HEX(SUBSTR(IBM SERVICE DATA, 18, 1)), 2, 1))
END * POWER (16, 0)) AS NUMCP EXP, ', ',
    HEX(SUBSTR(IBM SERVICE DATA, 23, 1)) AS REASON, ',',
    HEX(SUBSTR(IBM SERVICE DATA, 25, 2)) AS CPU, ',',
    HEX(SUBSTR(IBM_SERVICE_DATA,69,4)) AS CPUSPEED,',',
    HEX(SUBSTR(IBM SERVICE DATA, 13,4)) AS RIDPOOL, ', ',
    HEX(SUBSTR(IBM SERVICE DATA, 9, 4)) AS
    SORT_POOL_SIZE_HEX,
    SUBSTR(IBM SERVICE DATA, 67,7) APAR, ', ',
    IBM SERVICE DATA
FROM
        WILLIE.PLAN TABLE A,
      DSN STATEMNT TABLE B,
      SYSTEM SYSTABLES C
   WHERE C.DBNAME = 'BID1TB'
      AND C.NAME = A.TNAME
      AND C.CREATOR = A.CREATOR
      AND C.TYPE = 'T'
      AND A.OUERYNO = 91111
```

ORDER BY A.EXPLAIN_TIME, A.QUERYNO, A.QBLOCKNO, A.PLANNO, A.MIXOPSEO;

Using OPTHINT



- Create and index on PLAN_TABLE
 - Key = QUERYNO, APPLNAME, PROGNAME, VERSION, COLLID, OPTHINT
- On installation panel DSNTIP4
 - Set OPTIMIZATION HINTS to YES
- Update Plan_Table
- Set OPTHINT column to "some_value"
- Tell DB2 to use the hint
 - EXPLAIN(YES) and OPTHINT('some_value')
 - or
 - ◆SET CURRENT OPTIMIZATION HINT =' some_value ';
- Check Plan_Table and see if hint was used

References



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