Jazz home > Papers & Training

TurboIMAGE database tools   » Return to original page

Products

Adager from Adager Corporation, http://www.adager.com
DBGeneral from Bradmark, http://www.bradmark.com
Flexibase from Open Seas, http://www.open-seas.com

Introduction

The products named above have been examined and compared. The first thing that should be noted is that *all* of these products are excellent replacements for DBChangePlus.

Four areas of functionality were looked at, and these are described under separate headings below.

- Dataset capacity changes
- Reporting
- Fixing structural damage
- Database restructuring

Due to different product structures and pricing strategies, exact comparisons of functionality and value for money cannot be made. The following product combinations are roughly equivalent, and have been used for comparison.

For a *lite* version which does dataset capacity management, database reporting and structural fixes, but no restructuring:

- Adager's *Adager Model 1*
- Bradmark's *DBGeneral Introduction Package plus Section 2*
- No Flexibase option

For a *full* version which restructures the database as well:

- Adager's *Adager Model 2*
- Bradmark's *DBGeneral Standard Package plus Section 2*
- Open Seas' *Flexibase*

The vendors of these products have special offers in place at present, due to the obsolescence of DBChangePlus. It would be wise to visit their web sites for information on the special offers and for more information on the products, before making a choice.

Dataset capacity changes

All three products can modify dataset capacities.

Adager provides an MPE/iX script file to set minimum and maximum capacity thresholds for datasets, and increase & decrease those capacities accordingly.

DBGeneral has similar capacity changing features that are executed by the DBGeneral program itself. DBGeneral can also do some trend analysis of dataset capacities. DBGeneral can also be set to identify, within a range of +/- 5 around the calculated required capacity, that capacity which will produce the best primary/secondary ratio for master datasets

Flexibase has the same capacity management features as the other two products; they are executed by the Flexibase program. It can also accept quite complex calculations to determine the new capacity of a dataset, based upon the capacities of other datasets.

All three can set up batch jobs that will automatically manage dataset capacities when streamed on a regular basis.

Reporting

All three products provide some level of reporting. They can all list details of the structure of the database, and recreate the database schema.

In addition, they all include further reporting features:

> Both the DBGeneral *Section 2* package and Flexibase provide database analysis. They will examine the whole database for capacity information, blocking factors, and path, chain and sortitem efficiency within master and detail datasets. Then they make recommendations such as '*reduce dataset capacity*' or '*repack dataset*'. DBGeneral will also make recommendations on structural damage and inefficient synonym chains in master sets.

> Adager *lite* includes *howmessy* from Robelle, which reports information about datasets.

> DBGeneral *Intro* will store dataset capacity information spanning up to six years for trend analysis.

> Flexibase will analyze log files in order to report database access information (as will DBGeneral's DBAudit option). Some trend analysis of this information is planned for future releases.

Fixing structural damage

All three products can detect broken chains. This feature is included in all the *lite* and *full* packages described in the introduction; in DBGeneral's case it is included in the *Section 2* module.

> Adager allows you to choose which dataset and path you wish to check at high speed.

> DBGeneral provides menu options to examine specific datasets, paths or the whole database for errors, at high speed.

> Flexibase provides a separate utility that examines the whole database.

All three products can repair or rebuild broken chains/paths and datasets.

Adager can also replace 'lost' dataset files (but not the data within).

Database restructuring

All three products can list the database structure and modify it to add, delete, modify and rename dataitems, datasets, paths, and sortitems. They all allow you to modify the security on datasets and dataitems, and rebuild the database schema file. DBGeneral and Flexibase can restructure a database either directly from a schema file or from individually specified changes. Adager is introducing the restructure from schema feature.

As described earlier, both Adager and DBGeneral supply versions that do not do structural changes. The references below are to the *full* functionality packages, which do.

All products can re-pack datasets for optimum performance and efficiency.

All three products support most of the latest Turboimage and Image/SQL features:

> All three support B-Trees and Third Party Indexing.

> Image/SQL - DBGeneral, Adager and Flexibase all handle Image/SQL attached databases automatically. DBGeneral can generate a list of commands used to re-attach the database if it cannot automatically do so itself.

> Adager and DBGeneral support Jumbo datasets (> 4Gb).

> Dynamic Detail set expansion and Master set expansion (DDX and MDX) are both supported by Adager. DBGeneral and Flexibase support DDX.

Other features

Adager offers and supports a program to convert DBCPlus scripts into Adager jobstreams for those users that have DBCPlus command files.

Adager and DBGeneral fully support Netbase/Shareplex. In both *lite* and *full* version, database modifications are automatically mirrored to the slave database.

DBGeneral has a *Storbase* option, which writes compressed database data to tape.

DBGeneral has a *DBAudit* option that will report analyze Turboimage logs and report information on database access.

DBGeneral will create a test multi-database environment for you at the size of your choice and copy logically and physically consistent data across; this could be very useful in an active development environment. This function is found in *Section 6*, and must be bought separately.

Flexibase can extract data from one database and copy it to another to create test data.

Flexibase provides German, French and Spanish versions as well as English.

Flexibase can check *logical* data relationships are consistent in addition to the structural checking mentioned above.

Discussion

The sections below relate to these products' standard prices. However, the vendors are responding to the obsolescence of DBChangePlus and have special offers in place. Please visit their websites for further information.

Adager from Adager Corporation

Adager has a non-tiered pricing structure based on two models. Adager *Model 1* provides all functionality (including capacity changing) except database restructuring. This would be particularly suitable for sites with a large number of stable production systems. The full-function *Model 2* could still be installed on development systems.

Adager's non-tiered pricing structure is also to the advantage of sites with larger systems. Comparing the full function products at a single-system site, Adager becomes the best-value option compared to both Flexibase and DBGeneral at about the series 957 size.

Adager offers reduced prices for second and subsequent copies. Subsequent copies are priced at

either 30% or 39% of the first-copy price. This comparatively low second-copy price may make Adager attractive to sites with many systems.

Support for the first copy of Adager is priced at 13% of the original purchase price, (in Adager's case, purchase includes first-year support), and between 4% and 13% of the first-copy price for support of subsequent copies.

DBGeneral from Bradmark

DBGeneral's product is modular, so it is possible tailor it to requirements, this would useful for the cost-sensitive site which requires a database tool, but does not want to spend money on redundant functionality.

DBGeneral's test database creation feature would be ideal for a busy and dynamic development environment, however this is not included in the packages described so far, but must be bought separately.

DBGeneral's *lite* combination provides all functionality (including capacity changing) except database restructuring. This would be particularly suitable for sites with a large number of stable production systems.

DBGeneral has tier-based pricing, which may make it more economic for use on smaller systems. Comparing the full function products at a single-system site, DBGeneral has a price advantage compared to Adager on 922-size systems and matches it on systems up to 949s.

Bradmark offers reduced prices for second and subsequent copies. Subsequent copies are discounted at between 10% and 40% of the list price; most customers would benefit from a 10% or 20% discount.

Support is priced at 20% of the list price. Bradmark offers further discounts to education, government and non-profit organizations.

Flexibase from Open Seas

Flexibase's ability to check logical data consistency within a database could be useful for development, testing and 'uncontrolled' environments where users or developers have ad-hoc access to the production database. This would also be a useful once-only feature for legacy or inherited databases.

The sophisticated dataset capacity calculation supplied by Flexibase may be most suitable for very active databases where the quantity of data in some datasets is highly dependent upon the quantity of data in other sets.

Flexibase's multiple language functionality is ideal for the European marketplace.

Flexibase has tier-based pricing, which may make it more economic for use on smaller systems. Comparing the full function products at a single-system site, Flexibase has the advantage over Adager up to the series 937 size systems, and to DBGeneral on the smallest systems, such as the 922.

Open Seas offers reduced prices for second and subsequent copies. Subsequent copies are priced at 50% of the first-copy price.

Support is priced at 15% of the list price.

Owned by:Sally Blackwell, Hewlett-Packard Ltd.
Last updated: April 2000

» Return to original page