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The ASE MDA Tables
Finding Out What Goes On Inside ASE

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About Us

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About Peter

- 12 years at Sybase ASE Engineering
- Designs and develops system management, monitoring and diagnostic tools for the ASE
- Leads the design and development of system management features for the ASE and other Sybase database products
- Peter.dorfman@sybase.com



About Us

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About Rob

- Consultant for ASE & Replication Server
- Worked with ASE since 1989
- Based in The Netherlands
- www.sypron.nl

Published three books about Sybase:

- "The Complete Sybase Replication Server Quick Reference Guide" (new)
- "The Complete Sybase ASE Quick Reference Guide" (3rd edition, new)
- "Tips, Tricks & Recipes for Sybase ASE"

Since 1 February 2005: joined Sybase, Inc.

Sybase Engineering, Evangelism Group



Topics

- Quick introduction to MDA tables
- Possible applications of MDA tables
 - What's that application doing?
 - Identifying unused indexes
 - Identifying 'hot' tables
- Historical MDA tables
- Archiving historical MDA table data
- Performance impact of MDA tables
- Counter wrap
- Analyzing stored procedure activity
- Miscellaneous topics
- Recent Enhancements
- Q&A



Quick Introduction to MDA Tables

- MDA tables were introduced in ASE 12.5.0.3
 - MDA = Monitoring and Diagnostic Access
 - also called "monitoring tables"
- 35 proxy tables in 'master' database
 - monSysSQLText, monObjectActivity, monCachedObject (etc.)
 - Can be accessed with regular SQL statements
 - When queried, tables are created on-the-fly from memory structures
 - No data is stored in master database
 - The proxy tables may also be created in a different database than master
- Must be installed: 'installmontables' script
- No license needed: included in ASE base product
- Only small performance impact on ASE (<5%)



Quick Introduction to MDA Tables

- MDA tables provide access to low-level monitoring data
 - Resource usage in ASE per table/query/entire server
 - Current activity in ASE per spid/query/procedure/table
 - Recent activity: recently completed statements, with the resources they required
- Some examples of practically relevant information:
 - Amount of memory occupied in the data cache by each table or index
 - Most frequently used tables/procedures
 - Top-N queries for CPU, I/O, elapsed time,...
 - Find unused indexes
 - SQL text of currently executing/recently executed statements
 - Automatically kill user processes that have been idle for more than X minutes
 - Provide server status information even when tempdb is full





Quick Introduction to MDA Tables

- For more MDA basics, and a brief discussion of all tables:
 - See Rob's presentation from Techwave 2003 (www.sypron.nl/mda)
- In this presentation:
 - We want to go one step further than just the basics
 - Look at practical applications of MDA tables
 - Things that are useful for you as a DBA





Possible Applications of MDA Tables



What's That Application Doing?

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Does this sound familiar?

- A third-party 'black box' application runs on your ASE server
- You have the feeling it sometime slows down the entire server...
- ... but you don't know which queries it is sending to ASE

Classic solutions:

- Use "cmdtext" auditing to intercept the application's T-SQL commands
- Use traceflag 11202 (writes all incoming client language to the errorlog)
- Use third-party tools to find T-SQL commands by intercepting network packets
- dbcc sqltext()
- ...but all these methods have significant limitations or drawbacks





What's That Application Doing?

- Solution: MDA tables monProcessSQLText & monSysSQLText
- monProcessSQLText: currently executing SQL
- monSysSQLText: recently executed SQL, now completed
 - Historical table
 - Lets you "look back" in time
 - By copying rows regularly into an 'archive' table, complete history can be preserved



What's That Application Doing? Statement Statistics

- Also: monSysStatement: info about completed SQL statement
 - Number of logical I/Os
 - Number of physical I/Os
 - Number of network packets sent/received
 - Number of milliseconds of 'waiting time' during statement execution
 - Exact starttime & endtime of execution
 - Not the SQL Text itself; for this, see monSysSQLText
 - Historical table
 - Lets you "look back" in time
 - By copying rows regularly into an 'archive' table, complete history can be preserved





Measuring Statement I/O and CPU Time

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select * into #ts from master..monSysStatement

KPID	BatchID	LineNumber	LogicalReads	Elapsed	
450298249	10	1	17844	0	
452133791	3	1	40401	0	
452790238	8	1	53003	0	
453837392	10	1	17970	0	
456197724	1	1	20585	0	
456853857	9	1	49588	2000	
457443052	8	1	66647	4000	
458622875	19	1	22402	0	
458622875	20	1	11214	1000	
459014430	8	1	53146	0	
459080255	1	1	108416	7000	
459278288	16	1	17832	2000	
460785077	9	1	55619	3000	



Capturing SQL Text

```
select * into #tsql from master..monSysSQLText
select SQLText from #tsql where KPID= 459080255
order by BatchID, SequenceInBatch
   SOLText
   select admnr = lvd.id_lm_adres,
            lvd.id logmiddel
        from
              logmi.dbo.lm_voorraad lvd,
              ravar.dbo.adm relatie adm
        where
               lvd.cdsys lm adrestype
                                       = "A"
               lvd.cdsys lm opslagstat = "0"
        and
                                       = adm.admnr
        and
               lvd.id lm adres
        and
               adm.dat_ingang
                                     <= @vandaag
        and
              (adm.dat einde
                                      >= @vandaag
               adm.dat einde
                                       = null)
         or
```





Monitoring Table Activity

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Monitoring activity on a specific table

```
select SQLText from master..monSysSQLText
where SOLText like '%MyTable%'
```

Also handy for RepServer DBAs:

- Quick way to figure out exactly which SQL is executed against your replicate DB
- Especially handy when developing/debugging custom function strings



Monitoring Index Utilization

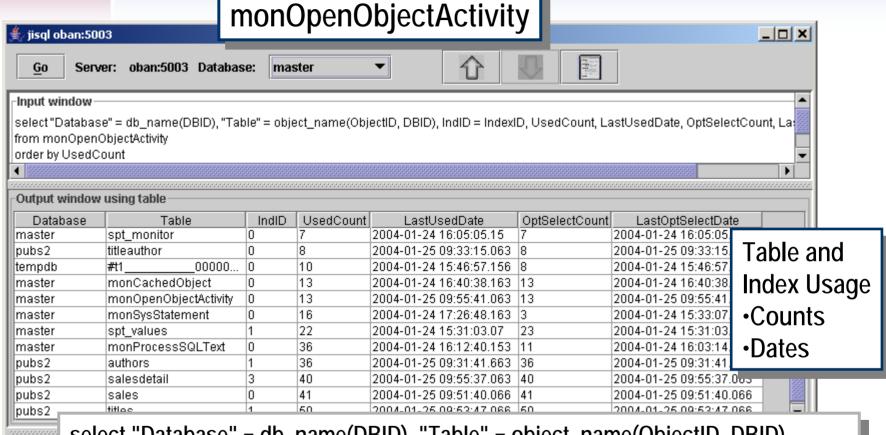
- Have you ever wanted to see
 - Which indexes are never used?
 - How frequently they are used?
 - How many inserts, deletes, updates, physical or logical I/O they incur?
- monOpenObjectActivity table provides:
 - Table usage count
 - Index usage count
 - Last used dates
 - Physical, logical I/O
 - Row-level insert/delete/update counts
 - Lock wait counts for tables and indexes
- NOTE: Statistics are reset when server is booted or object descriptor is reused in memory.





Monitoring Index Utilization

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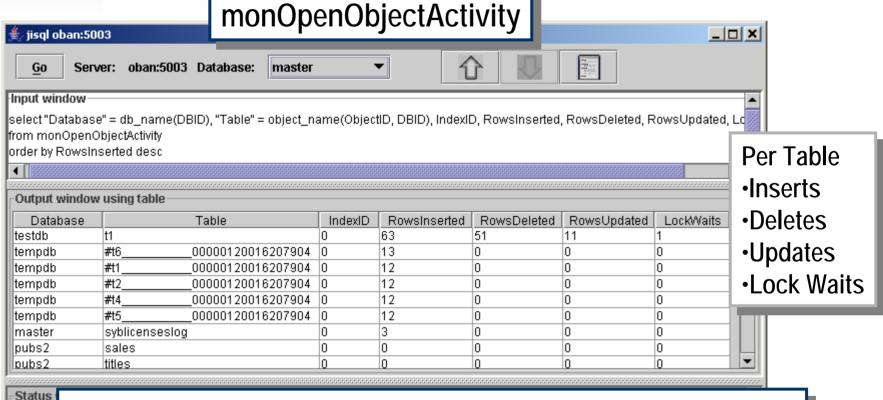
select "Database" = db_name(DBID), "Table" = object_name(ObjectID, DBID), IndID = IndexID, UsedCount, LastUsedDate, OptSelectCount, LastOptSelectDate from master..monOpenObjectActivity order by UsedCount



Status

Monitoring Table Usage

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select "Database" = db_name(DBID), "Table" = object_name(ObjectID, DBID), IndexID, RowsInserted, RowsDeleted, RowsUpdated, LockWaits from monOpenObjectActivity order by RowsInserted desc



Identifying 'Hot' Tables

- What makes a table "hot"?
 - Logical reads?
 - Physical reads?
 - Number of queries?
 - Lock usage?
- monOpenObjectActivity reports a number of measures of table and index activity
- Example

```
select * into #t
from master..monOpenObjectActivity
go

select TableName = object_name(ObjectID, DBID), IndexID,
   LogicalReads, PhysicalReads, Operations, LockWaits
from #t
order by 3, 4
go
```





::ISUG Identifying 'Hot' Tables

TableName	IndexID	LogReads	PhysReads	Operations	LockWaits
products_tb	0	282294	9043	609	97
products_tb	2	36450	0	0	0
cust_tab	0	12315	0	17	2
cust_tab	2	239	0	0	0





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Understanding and Using Historical Tables



Using Historical Tables

- Which MDA tables are "historical" tables?
- What are Historical Tables?
- How do they work?
- What is the correct size to configure them?
- Archiving historical table data
- Tips on using historical tables



Which Tables are Historical Tables?

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monSysSQLText

Records every SQL command executed on the server

monSysPlanText

 Records the Query Plan for every SQL command executed on the server

monSysStatement

 Reports the statistics for every statement within every query, batch, stored procedure, trigger, etc. executed on the server

monErrorLog

Records every row written to the server errorlog

monDeadLock

Records information on every deadlock that occurs on the server



What are Historical Tables?

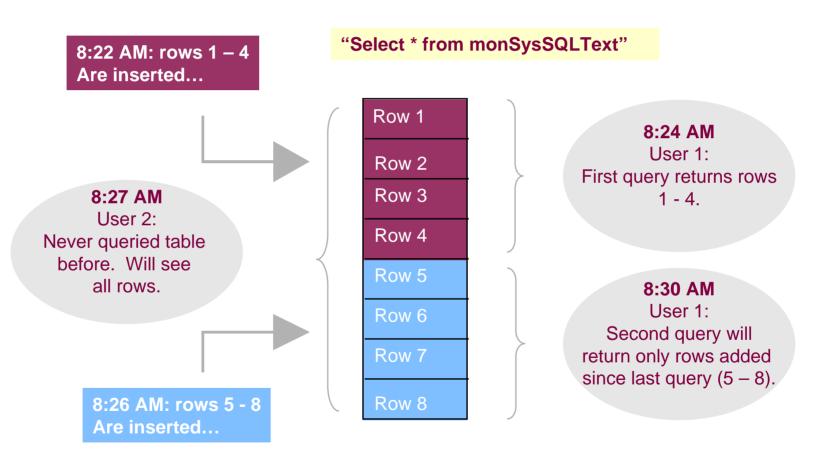
- The historical MDA tables contain a record of "events" within the ASE
 - E.g., SQL submitted for a query, a statement executed within a batch, error message added to the errorlog
- The data for these tables is stored in memory in fixed-sized arrays
 - Size is configurable using sp_configure
- Data in Historical tables is transient
 - The arrays are managed as "ring buffers": After the last entry in the array is written the first entry will be overwritten
- Historical tables are "stateful."
 - The ASE remembers which records a process has already seen
 - Subsequent queries on same table will return only new records
- Why are they stateful?
 - This allows applications to accurately collect or "drain" the rows in these tables without finding duplicates.





Queries on Historical Tables

- The ASE maintains the connection's *currency* in the MDA table
- Currency is reset for each new connection





Setting the Size of Historical Tables

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- These sp_configure parameters determine the number of rows in the historical tables
 - errorlog pipe max messages
 - plan text pipe max messages
 - sql text pipe max messages
 - statement pipe max messages
 - deadlock pipe max messages
- The value of the parameter is the number of rows per engine
- Correct size depends on
 - Rate at which rows are written to table

Rate x Frequency = Size E.g.: 5000/min x 5 min = 25000

Reasonable size on

Could be >> 100000

busy system??

- Frequency with which queries will be run against the table
- For example:
 - 2 engines
 - 5000 rows per minute per engine
 - Select * from monSysStatement every 5 minutes
 - Statement pipe max messages should be greater than or equal to 25000
 - Result set size??? (50000 rows!)
- Errorlog and deadlock pipes are usually much smaller than plan text, sql text and statement pipes



Tips on Using Historical Tables

- Do not use in subqueries or joins
- Save contents of tables to an archive table or database for analysis
- When collecting long-term data, archive data on a regular basis and size tables to avoid data loss
- How do you know whether the table for the buffer has wrapped?
 - If # of rows returned = size of buffer * # of engines
 - In other words, if you get the entire size of the buffer, some rows were <u>probably</u> lost
 - Only a "rule of thumb"
 - Currently, it is not possible to determine how many rows were lost





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Archiving Historical Table Data



Archiving Historical Table Data

- Why is an historical archive useful?
- Because data in historical tables is transient
 - Capture data for later or detailed analysis
- Because repeated queries on historical tables will not return the same rows
 - Even in subqueries or joins
 - Makes analytical queries directly against MDA tables difficult
- Solution
- Data from historical tables should be moved to separate storage for analysis
- Create a monitoring data repository for historical diagnostics or capacity planning



Archiving Historical Table Data

- A possible approach: a 'collector' stored proc which frequently extracts data from the MDA tables
 - 'sp_mda_collect'
 - sp_mda_collect 'start' [, 'hh:mm:ss'] -- runs in a loop (default interval = 30 sec.)
 - sp_mda_collect 'stop' -- run from a different session, stops the original procedure
 - sp_mda_collect 'status' -- displays #rows saved in archive tables
 - (download from www.sypron.nl/mda)
 - Uses a separate database to collect the historical data in permanent tables
 - The permanent tables have the same layout as the historical MDA tables
 - Added a composite unique index with ignore_dup_key on key columns (SPID, KPID, etc.) to filter out duplicates (in case the proc needs to be restarted...)





Enterprise Monitoring Repository and Center

- To access MDA tables from a remote server
 - Create the MDA proxy tables on a central server
 - Map MDA proxy tables to each monitored server
- Reduces load on monitored ASE servers
- Provides central source of monitoring data for your enterprise
- Allows easy archiving of enterprise data to permanent storage in database on repository server



Creating an Enterprise Monitoring Center

- Create monitoring database on central server
- Copy and edit installmontables script
 - Two options:
 - Create separate monitoring database for each monitored server
 - Add server name to MDA table names to create unique table names for each server within a single database
- Set the use database command to use the correct database
- Change the "loopback" server name to the remote server name of the monitored server in your central server





Modifying installmontables Script

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 Creating MDA proxy tables in a separate database for each monitored server

```
Use a separate database for each
use monitor svrtest1
                                             Monitored server
go
create existing table
monProcedureCache (
         Requests
                             int,
         Loads
                             int,
         Writes
                             int,
         Stalls
                             int,
                                           Proxy table points to monitored
external procedure
                                           server
at "svrtest1...$monProcedureCache"
go
```





Modifying installmontables Script

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 Creating MDA proxy tables in a single database for all monitored server

```
Database in which all proxy tables
use monitordb
                                          Will be created
go
                                             Unique table name constructed by a
create existing table
                                             Appending server name
monProcedureCache svrtest1 (
         Requests
                             int,
         Loads
                             int,
         Writes
                             int,
          Stalls
                             int,
                                            Proxy table points to monitored
external procedure
                                            server
at "svrtest1...$monProcedureCache"
go
```





Performance Impact of MDA Tables



Performance Impact of MDA Tables

- Two questions
 - Impact of data collection?
 - Impact of querying MDA tables?
- General performance impact: 5% or less
- Depends on a number of factors
 - Configuration of server (e.g., number of engines, memory size, processor speed)
 - Load on server
 - Configuration of Monitoring parameters
- Different monitoring configuration settings have different performance impacts
- Fully enabling all options will have greatest impact



Performance Impact: Configuration Settings

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Lowest impact

Enable monitoring with no other options

Tables enabled

 monEngine, monDataCache, monProcedureCache, monOpenDatabases, monSysWorkerThread, monNetworkIO, monLocks, monCachePool, monIOQueue, monDeviceIO, monProcessWorkerThread, monProcessNetIO

Low Impact Parameters

- wait event timing
- plan text pipe active
- sql text pipe active
- errorlog pipe active
- deadlock pipe active

Greatest impact

- Per Object Statistics
- Statement Historical table and Process Statements

Tables enabled

 monOpenObjectActivity, monProcessObject, monProcessActivity, monSysStatement, monProcessStatement

High Impact Parameters

- statement pipe active
- statement statistics active
- per object statistics
- statement pipe active





Understanding and Handling Counter Wrap



What is Counter Wrap?

- All MDA counter columns are 32-bit signed integers
 - Maximum value is 2147483647
- When signed integers are incremented above maximum value they become negative
 - 2147483647 + 1 => 2147483646
- Internal adjustments prevent MDA counter values from becoming negative
 - Therefore counter ranges are from 0 to 2147483647
- When the ASE increments an MDA counter past the maximum value it will return to 0 and start increasing again

Handling Counter Wrap with Delta Values

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 If counter has wrapped, add difference between start value and maximum value + 1 to the current value of the counter

Select CacheName,

```
CacheSearches =
case
  when e.CacheSearches < s.CacheSeaches
  then
     (2147483648 - s.CacheSearches) + e.CacheSearches)
  else
     (e.CacheSearches - s.CacheSearches)
end
from #cacheStart s, #cacheEnd e
where s.CacheID = e.CacheID</pre>
```

 Again: As long as change in counter values is <= 2147483647, delta values will be accurate



Which MDA Table Columns Can Wrap?

- Not all MDA columns are likely to wrap
 - Some counter values increment slowly
 - Some numeric columns are not counters
- Columns that can wrap pretty quickly
 - monDataCache
 - CacheSearches
 - LogicalReads
 - monNetworkIO
 - BytesSent
 - BytesReceived
 - monSysWaits
 - Waits
- Others wrap less quickly
 - monEngine.ContextSwitches
 - monNetworkIO.PacketsSent





sp_sysmon, subqueries, joins...





Using MDA Tables and sp_sysmon

- Monitor Counters are a set of counters used by sp_sysmon and Monitor Server
- Some MDA table columns are derived from Monitor Counters
- sp_sysmon resets the value of Monitor Counters when it starts
- This can have an impact on applications using MDA tables or Monitor Server
- MDA table columns that come from Monitor Counters are documented.
 - Attributes column = "counter, reset"





Using MDA Tables and sp_sysmon

- The ASE 12.5.3 release introduced changes to sp_sysmon that allow it to run without clearing monitor counters
- Also enhanced so that when multiple applications are using monitor counters the collection of monitor data will not be terminated until all applications are finished
- It is safe to run sp_sysmon when using the MDA tables as long as sp_sysmon is run with the 'noclear' option.



Subqueries, Joins and Self-Joins

- Rule of thumb: Don't use joins or subqueries when querying the MDA tables
- Why? Because the MDA table data is transient and reflects the ASE's instantaneous state, joins and subqueries may not give the expected result.
 - Sequential queries on same table can give different results
- Because of the currency mechanism, self-joins or subqueries involving one of the historical tables more than once <u>will not</u> work.
 - Currency is reset by first query and the same rows will not be seen by the subquery or inner join table
- Solution: Copy MDA table data to a work table or permanent repository when complex analysis is required.





Analyzing Stored Procedure Performance



Analyzing Stored Procedure Performance

- Historical Server provides stored procedure performance information
- MDA tables do not provide a table with historical stored procedure statistics
- The monSysStatement table can be used to report this information

```
select ProcName =
   isnull(object_name(ProcedureID, DBID),
   "UNKNOWN"),

DBName = isnull(db_name(DBID), "UNKNOWN"),
   ElapsedTime = datediff(ms, min(StartTime),
   max(EndTime))

from master..monSysStatement
group by SPID, DBID, ProcedureID, BatchID
having ProcedureID != 0
```



ProcName

Stored Procedure Statistics

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```
1> select ProcName = isnull(object name(ProcedureID, DBID), "UNKNOWN"),
2> DBName = isnull(db name(DBID), "UNKNOWN"),
3> ElapsedTime = datediff(ms, min(StartTime), max(EndTime))
4> from master..monSysStatement
5> group by SPID, DBID, ProcedureID, BatchID
6> having ProcedureID != 0
7> order by 3
8> go
```

DRNamo

FIOCINAINE		DDIVALLE	ETapsedTime
p_sybbug	gstatus	engcomdb	1096
sybrev_f	etch_revstatus	engcomdb	983
p_sybbug	gstatus	engcomdb	923
p_sybbug	gstatus	engcomdb	836
p_sybbug	gstatus	engcomdb	683
p_sybbug	gstatus	engcomdb	620
p_sybbug	gstatus	engcomdb	586
p_sybbug	gstatus	engcomdb	543
p_sybbug	gstatus	engcomdb	533
p_sybbug	gstatus	engcomdb	526

FlangedTime

0



Stored Procedure Performance Averages

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 Aggregate performance statistics can be derived from the output of the previous query

```
** Build a detail table
* /
select ProcName = isnull(object name(ProcedureID, DBID),
  "UNKNOWN"),
  DBName = isnull(db name(DBID), "UNKNOWN"),
  ElapsedTime = datediff(ms, min(StartTime), max(EndTime))
into #t1
from master..monSysStatement
group by SPID, DBID, ProcedureID, BatchID
having ProcedureID != 0
/*
** Calculate aggregate values
* /
select ProcName, DBName, "Avg" = avg(ElapsedTime),
  NumExecs = count(*)
from #t1
group by ProcName, DBName
order by 3 desc
```



::ISUG Stored Procedure Performance Averages

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Determine average elapsed time and total executions for stored procedures

```
1> select ProcName, DBName, "AvgElapsed" = avg(ElapsedTime),
2> NumExecs = count(*)
3> from #t1
4> group by ProcName, DBName
5> order by 3 desc
6> qo
ProcName
                              Database AvgElapsed NumExecs
                                                  483
                                                              32
p sybbugstatus
                              engcomdb
 sn temp filters qts1
                                                              26
                              qts_db
                                                  330
 sy resolution insert
                                                  260
                                                              44
                              ats db
p sybbugreleasematrix
                              engcomdb
                                                  186
                                                              21
create sn subscriptions
                              qts db
                                                  108
p_sybbugsrelease
                              engcomdb
                                                   91
                                                              37
 sn temp filters qts2
                              qts db
                                                   83
 sn temp filters qts4
                              qts db
                                                   73
                                                              11
                                                   69
 sn get next key
                              qts_db
create sn filters
                              qts db
                                                   65
```





Identifying Poorly Performing Statements

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Identify statements within stored procedures consuming greater than average elapsed time

```
/*
** Build work table
* /
select ProcName = isnull(object name(ProcedureID, DBID), "UNKNOWN"),
   DBName = convert(char(15), isnull(db name(DBID), "UNKNOWN")),
   LineNumber,
   ElapsedTime = datediff(ms, StartTime, EndTime)
into #t1
from master..monSysStatement
where ProcedureID != 0
/*
** Calculate aggregate values and find problematic statements
* /
select ProcName, DBName, LineNumber, "AvgElapsed" = avg(ElapsedTime)
from #t1
group by DBName, ProcName, LineNumber
having avg(ElapsedTime) > (select avg(ElapsedTime) from #t1)
order by 4 desc
```





0	0	•	

ProcName	DBName	LineNumber	AvgElapsed
row_update	qts_db	614	2160
p_sybbugstatus	engcomdb	60	240
row_update	qts_db	147	98
row_insert	qts_db	308	98
e2_CiMember	qts_db	71	77
p_sybbugstatus	engcomdb	56	76
sy_addl_case_update	qts_db	138	70
p_sybbugstatus	engcomdb	125	69
sybrev_report_newcrs	engcomdb	48	30
log_activity	qts_db	155	18
p_sybbugstatus	engcomdb	29	16
p_sybbugstatus	engcomdb	145	15
log_activity	qts_db	90	14



INSUCE Most Frequently Used Stored Procedures

```
1> select * into #t1 from master..monSysStatement
2> qo
1> select ProcedureName = isnull(object name(ProcedureID, DBID), "UNKNOWN"),
2> "Database" = db name(DBID),
3> "Execs" = count(*)
4> from #t1
5> where ProcedureID != 0
6> group by DBID, ProcedureID
7> order by 3 desc
8> ao
ProcedureName
                                Database
                                                                Execs
 sp mltypeset
                                                                       8138
                                empdb
p sybbugstatus
                                engcomdb
                                                                        888
                                                                        462
 sp help rep agent
                                sybsystemprocs
p sybbugsrelease
                                engcomdb
                                                                        205
 sn get next key
                                                                        176
                                qts db
 create sn filter criteria
                             qts db
                                                                        162
 create sn subscriptions
                                                                        136
                             qts db
 create sn filters
                                qts db
                                                                        120
```





Recent Enhancements



Enhancements in 12.5.1

- 360 columns in 12.5.0.3 (first version of MDA tables)
- 5 new columns in 12.5.1
 - monErrorLog.State state of error
 - monOpenDatabases.QuiesceTag tag specified with quiesce database (if any)
 - monOpenDatabases.SuspendedProcesses number of currently suspended processes due to log-full condition in this database
 - monProcessWorkerThread.FamilyID spid of parent process
 - monProcessWorkerThread.ParallelQueries total # parallel queries attempted



Enhancements in 12.5.2

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- 2 new columns in 12.5.2
 - monProcessObject.TableSize table size in Kb
 - monProcessActivity.WorkTables total number of work tables created by the process

• Fixes:

- milliseconds fixed in monSysStatement.StartTime / EndTime
- can be used to determine the exact duration of each statement (resolution = 3 milliseconds)



Enhancements in 12.5.3

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- 4 new columns in 12.5.3
 - monProcessActivity.ServerUserID Login ID (suid)
 - monProcessSQLText.ServerUserID Login ID (suid)
 - monSysSQLText.ServerUserID Login ID (suid)
 - monProcessProcedures.LineNumber Line number in a stored procedure

• Fixes:

Various small bugs were fixed



Your Questions are Welcome





Thanks!

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