RTD Ensures an Optimum Disk-Space Management

Disk-space management at AUDI AG

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Increasing data amounts at the dp-center, 24-hour up time for production, and an ever-shrinking batch-window all lead to a greater demand for maintenance and management of DASD loads. RealTime Defrag (RTD) provides the remedy and gives us a noticeable reduction in costs. RTD's working methology enables a cost efficient, optimum DASD management around the clock.

The AUDI concern had in the first half of 1998 enjoyed a marked growth and an increase in turnover. Already in 1997 the AUDI corporation had reached more than 1,1 billion-DM in profit before tax. In total the average daily vehicle production went up by 14% to about 2.500 vehicles. This rising trend is expected to continue due to the continuous process of consolidation within the automobile industry.

Naturally this leads to growing data amounts within the DP centre, and therefore to greater demands on IT management. Formally, as a matter of principle, we executed our defragmentation jobs on the disk volumes during the weekend. Following the globalisation and expansion of the IT, we were no longer able to do this within the available batch window. Time related problems, caused by the production expansion, forced AUDI to rethink their present concept.

Even with the use of new disk technology, which in theory allows direct defragmentation, we were unable to detect any noticeable improvements because of the inherent MVS limitations.

Because of this AUDI started to search the market for an adequate tool to solve the problem. The test installation of RTD convinced AUDI, and since the end of 1997 RTD has been running in production.

INTERCHIP

RTD has been set-up to run in all MVS environments at AUDI. This also applies to all DASD pools managed by SMS. The only exception being the System disks. The volume of data managed by RTD at AUDI is about 1200 GB.

AUDI makes use of all 3 function areas supported by RTD:

- Defrag – automatic joining of data extents.
- Release – to free any unused disk space
- Combine – combining multiple extents

RTD was quickly and easily installed. Since then it has been running unnoticed and elegantly at AUDI as a Started Task.

The Benefit for AUDI:

Time Gain:

RTD runs in parallel with the normal production. In this way the volumes are automatically and permanently defragmented in the background. Since RTD works in a resource saving manner, running it in parallel with production creates no problems at all. Our batch window has been enormously relieved, and has made our 24x7 operations much less problematic.

Each and every weekend we gain about 4 hours, since the defragmentation jobs no longer run. This time-window may now be used for our remote production sites (China, Mexico, Brazil, and Hungary).

Disk Space Savings:

Furthermore AUDI gained considerable savings in disk space. The Release and Combine functions especially have enabled AUDI to save in the neighbourhood of 200 GB.

Return on Investment:

Due to the permanent time gain as well as the savings in disk space, RTD has paid for itself in less than ½ year.

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