

Session ID: 1325

Session Title: Managing and Optimizing the IBM Informix Server using
the Sysmaster Database

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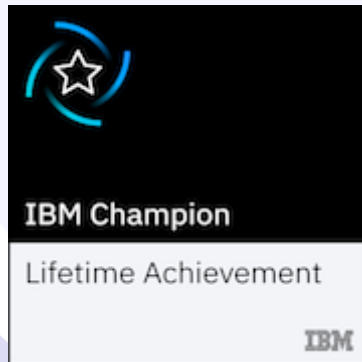


Lester Knutsen

Retired DBA



Lester Knutsen is a retired DBA. Lester was Founder and President of Advanced DataTools Corporation and has built and managed Informix database systems since 1983. Lester is an Informix IBM Lifetime Champion. Lester was one of the founders of the Washington Area Informix User Group and the International Informix Users Group.



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How to use the Sysmaster Database to measure the health and performance of your IBM Informix Server.

Agenda

- What is the Sysmaster Database?
- How do we measure the basic CPU and IO levels of the Server?
- What indexes are needed?
- How can we fit more tables into memory?
- How can we reduce the Buffer churn rate?
- How do we monitor Memory usage?
- How do we monitor Database Statistics?
- Extra Scripts


What is the Sysmaster Database?

A database that peeks into the shared memory structures of an INFORMIX-Dynamic Server

Script to create the Sysmaster Database:
\$INFORMIXDIR/etc/sysmaster.sql

Sysmaster Documentation

<https://www.ibm.com/docs/en/informix-servers/15.0.0?topic=informix-sysmaster-database>

 Documentation

Informix Servers

Change version

15.0.0

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All products / Informix Servers / 15.0.0 /

Was this topic helpful?

The sysmaster database

Last Updated: 2025-01-13

These topics describe the **sysmaster** database and provide reference information for the *system-monitoring interface* (SMI).

These topics include:

- A description of the **sysmaster** database
- Information about how to use SMI tables
- Descriptions of the SMI tables
- A map of the documented SMI tables

For information about the ON-Bar tables, see the *IBM® Informix® Backup and Restore Guide*.

- [The sysmaster Database](#)
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- [The System-Monitoring Interface Tables](#)

The **sysmaster** database contains many tables that you can use to monitor your system.

Parent topic:

→ [Configuring and monitoring Informix](#)

Script to Create the Sysmaster Database

`$INFORMIXDIR/etc/sysmaster.sql`

```
*****
{*
{* Licensed Materials - Property of IBM and/or HCL
{*
{* IBM Informix Dynamic Server
{* Copyright IBM Corporation 2001, 2013
{* (c) Copyright HCL Technologies Ltd. 2017, 2024. All Rights Reserved.
{*
{*
*****
{
{ Title: sysmaster.sql
{ Description: create sysmaster database and SMI tables
{
{
{ NOTE: Ensure that any changes in the schema of the "sysmaster" database
{ OR changes in the corresponding shared memory structure defns
{ are reflected *appropriately* in ALL the files below:
{
{ rsam/sysmaster.sql.IUS,
{ rsam/rsmem.h,
{ rsam/rspseudo.h and
{ rsam/rspseudo.c
{
{
{*****}

{ Create Pseudo Tables }

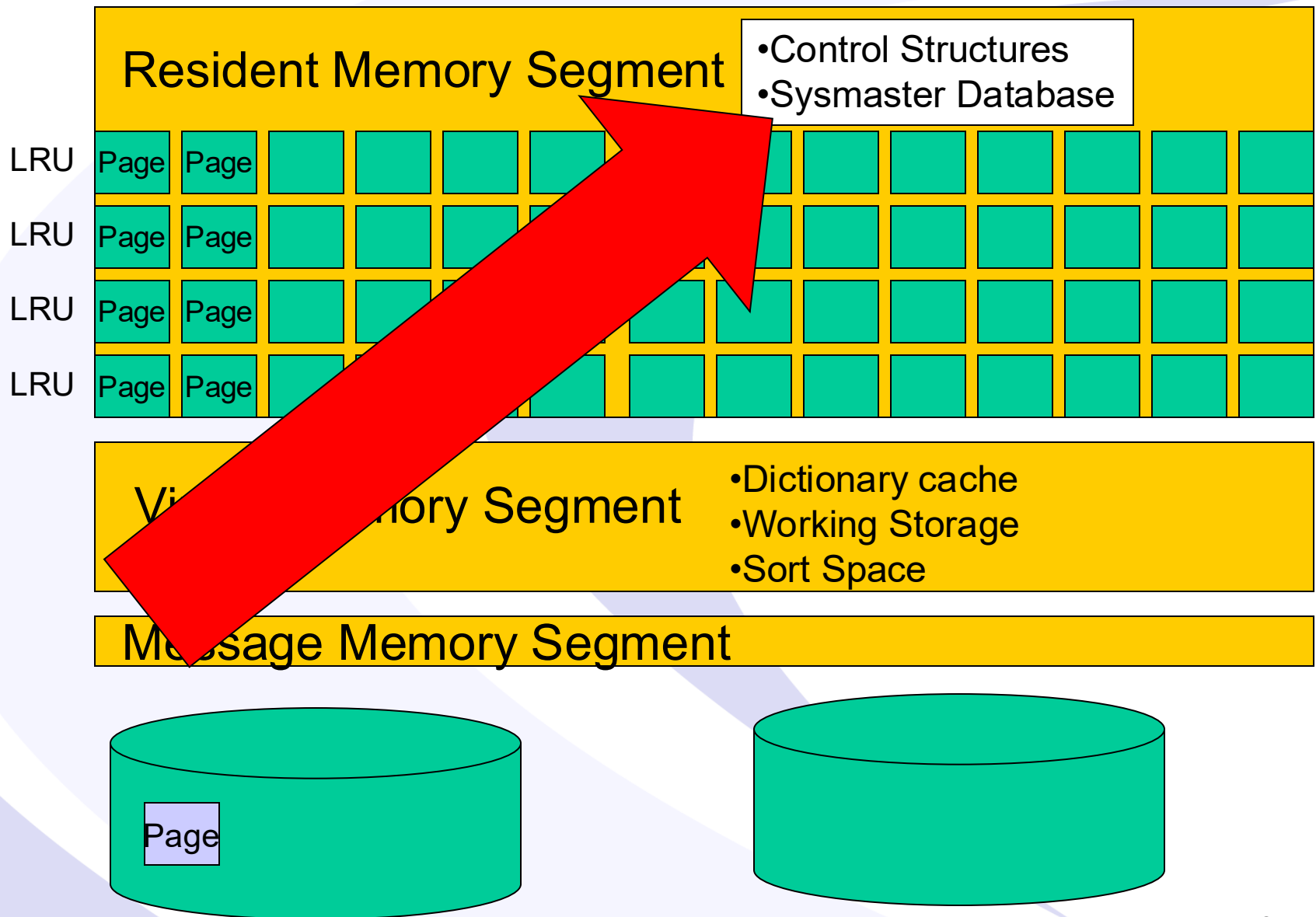
set lock mode to wait;

create database sysmaster with log;

database sysmaster exclusive;
set environment delimidnt off;

{ databases }
create table informix.sysdbspartn
(
partnum integer, { table id for systables }
created integer, { date created }
owner char(32), { user name of creator }
name char(128), { database name }
flags smallint { flags indicating logging }
);
```

Informix Control Structures in Memory are the Sysmaster Database



Same Data as Onstat

onstat -p

```
IBM Informix Dynamic Server Version 14.10.FC10 -- On-Line -- Up 5 days 17:47:53 -- 3743588 Kbytes
2024-07-22 11:08:58
```

Profile

dskreads	pagreads	bufreads	%cached	dskwrits	pagwrits	bufwrits	%cached
19317116	1139646955	4085576579	99.58	265242536	273592030	2986321451	91.12

isamtot	open	start	read	write	rewrite	delete	commit	rollbk
5096252946	852816	654133	246676456	2226728322	33723456	134957	355623	1364

gp_read	gp_write	gp_rewrt	gp_del	gp_alloc	gp_free	gp_curs
0	0	0	0	0	0	0

ovlock	ovuserthread	ovbuff	usercpu	syscpu	numckpts	flushes
0	0	853764	28464.27	5942.33	972	1229

bufwaits	lokwaits	lockreqs	deadlks	dltouts	ckpwaits	compress	seqscans
79409	556174	628305395	95	0	414	780826	19969

ixda-RA	idx-RA	da-RA	logrec-RA	RA-pgsused	lchwaits	logpgs-RA
2339516	16104	6212898	0	4717540	20979443	1153

```
informix@tiger6:~ train1 >
```

Sysmaster

select * from sysprofile

```
DISPLAY:  Next Restart Exit
Display next page of results.

----- sysmaster@train1 ----- Press CTRL-W for Help -----

name                value
-----
dskreads             19317116
bufreads             408557677
dskwrites            265242536
bufwrites            2986321451
isamtot              5096253119
isopens              852834
isstarts             654157
isreads              246676550
iswrites             2226728322
isrewrites           33723456
isdeletes            134957
iscommits            355623
isrollbacks          1364
ovlock               0
ovuser               0
ovtrans              0
latchwts             20979444
buffwts              79409
lockreqs             628305566
lockwts              556174
ckptwts              414
deadlks              95
lktouts              0
numckpts             972
plgpagewrites        10028330
plgwrites            158089
llgrecks             145636378
llgpagewrites        30408339
llgwrites            1080984
pagreads             1139646955
```

Sysmaster Database Contains:

- Server information
- Dbospace & chunk information
- Database & table information
- User session information
- Currently running SQL

Performance of Queries on Sysmaster Database

The data is in shared memory but:

- Views used by tables require disk access and may be slow
- Complex views are used to hide complex data
- Some tables are large (million locks)
- Unbuffered logging of temp tables

Differences from Other Databases

- Do not update Sysmaster tables, as this may corrupt the server
- Cannot use dbschema on pseudo tables
- Cannot drop pseudo tables or the Sysmaster Database
- Triggers on Sysmaster tables never execute

Isolation Level is Dirty Read

- Data is dynamic and can change as you retrieve it (Dirty Read)
- Dynamic nature may return inconsistent results
- However, reading from the Sysmaster Database uses Unbuffered logging, and temp tables are logged

Sysmaster Database May Change

- Some undocumented tables and columns may change in future versions
- Scripts in this presentation using undocumented features may not work on all versions of Informix
- New scripts have been run on versions 12.10, 14.10, and 15.0

Disclaimer

- All scripts are experimental
- Use at your own risk
- Still under test and development
- Tested on 15.0, 14.10.FC3-10, and 12.10.FC15
- May need to be updated in future releases of Informix

Sysmaster Presentations and Scripts

Download all 58 scripts at:

<https://advanceddatatools.com/Downloads/Sysmaster.zip>

OR

**See Past Presentations and Download
all 58 scripts at:**

<https://advanceddatatools.com/tech-info/tech-sysmaster/>

Sysmaster Scripts

```
informix@tiger6:~/Sysmaster2025 train15 > ls
```

AUS_last_run.sql	database_list.sql	logs_status.sql	server_performance.sql	table_extents.sql
AWSiops.sql	database_size.sql	logs_transaction.sql	server_readahead.sql	table_info_all.sql
checkpoint_history.sql	DB_index_usage.sql	logs_usage.sql	server_sort_ratios.sql	table_info_freerows.sql
checkpoint_last.sql	DB_loop_run.sh	README.txt	server_sqlhosts.sql	table_io_statistics.sql
checkpoint_summary.sql	dbspace_blob_free.sql	server_btr_ratio.sql	server_statics.sql	table_performance.sql
chunk_free_list.sql	dbspace_free.sql	server_buff_cach_ratio.sql	server_uptime.sql	table_waste_space.sql
chunk_io_history.sql	dbspace_io.sql	server_buff_cach_sum.sql	session_list.sql	table_with_seqscans.sql
chunk_io.sql	DB_update_stats_info.sql	server_cpu_time.sql	session_lockwait.sql	vp_profile.sql
chunk_io_stat.sql	dbwho.sh	server_licensehistory.sql	session_statistics.sql	vp_statistics.sql
chunk_io_sum.sql	dbwho.sql	server_machineinfo.sql	session_wait_list.sql	
chunk_io_times.sql	logs_not_backup.sql	server_memsegments.sql	SQL_cost_explain.sql	
chunk_layout.sql	logs_position.sql	server_onconfig.sql	table_disk_layout.sql	
chunk_status.sql	logs_statistics.sql	server_performance_all.sql	table_extent_plan.sql	

Example: What Percent of Dbspace is Free?

```
-- Module: @(#)dbspace_free.sql 2.5      Date: 2013/04/10
-- Author: Lester Knutsen  Email: lester@advancedatools.com
--       Advanced DataTools Corporation
-- Discription: Displays free space in all dbspaces like Unix "df -k " command
--       Tested with Informix 11.70 and Informix 12.10
-- Update: 1/20/2023 - Tested on Informix 14.10.FC9
-- Update: 8/17/2025 - Tested on Informix 15.0.1
-----
```

```
database sysmaster;
```

```
select      name[1,8] dbspace,          -- name truncated to fit on one line
            sum(chksize) Pages_size, -- sum of all chuncks size pages
            sum(chksize) - sum(nfree) Pages_used,
            sum(nfree) Pages_free,     -- sum of all chunks free pages
            round ((sum(nfree)) / (sum(chksize)) * 100, 2) percent_free

from        sysdbspaces d, syschunks c
where       d.dbsnum = c.dbsnum
group by 1
order by 1;
```

Example: DbSPACE_free.sql

```
SQL: New Run Modify Use-editor Output Choose Save Info Drop Exit
Run the current SQL statements.

----- sysmaster@train1 ----- Press CTRL-W for Help -----

dbspace      pages_size    pages_used    pages_free    percent_free
datab3db     20000000     10029006     9970994      49.85
datadbs      2000000      1707306      292694       14.63
logdbs       1000000      800053       199947       19.99
rootdbs      1000000      264176       735824       73.58
tmpdbs       1000000      53           999947       99.99
```

How do we measure the basic CPU and IO levels of the Server?

**How do you measure the
time since the Server
Statistics have been reset?**

**Required for Performance
Ratios**

Important undocumented table – Sysshmvals

sh_mode	int, turbo mode number	sh_optstgbsnum	int, subsystem Blobspace
sh_boottime	int, boot time of day	sh_cpflag	int, TRUE => doing checkpoint
sh_pfcrltime	int, time profilers were last clr	sh_rapages	int, # pages to read ahead
sh_curtime	int, current mt_time	sh_rathreshold	int, # to start next read ahead
sh_bootstamp	int, boot time stamp	sh_lastlogfreed	int, last log (id) written to tape
sh_stamp	int, current time stamp	sh_rmdlktout	int, max timeout when distributed
sh_mainlooptcb	int, address of main thread	sh_narchivers	int, number of active archives
sh_sysflags	int, system operating flags	sh_maxpdqpriority	int, max pdqpriority
sh_maxchunks	int, size of chunk table	sh_fuzcpflag	int, fuzzy checkpoint flag
sh_maxdbspaces	int, size of dbspace table	sh_needcpsyn	int, hard checkpoint
sh_maxuserthreads	int, max # of user structures	sh_nfuzzy	int, # buffers marked fuzzy
sh_maxtrans	int, max # of trans structures	sh_nfuzzypre	int, # buffers fuzzy in last ckpt
sh_maxlocks	int, # of locks total	sh_oldestlsnuq	int, lsn of oldest update not
sh_maxlogs	int, size of log table	sh_oldestlsnpos	int, flushed to disk
sh_nbufs	int, # of buffers total	sh_builddpt	int, building DPT necessary
sh_pagesize	int, buffer size in bytes	sh_ndptentries	int, # entries in DPT
sh_nlrus	int, # of lru queues	sh_dptsize	int, size of DPT
sh_maxdirty	float, LRU max % dirty pages	sh_curmaxcons	int, max #connections in this run
sh_mindirty	float, LRU min % dirty pages	sh_ovlmaxcons	int, max #connections to server
sh_ncleaners	int, # of cleaning/flushing procs		
sh_longtx	int, # the long transaction flag		

Sysshmvals

select * from sysshmvals

```
SQL: New Run Modify Use-editor Output Choose Save Info Drop Exit
Run the current SQL statements.

----- sysmaster@train1 ----- Press CTRL-W for Help -----

sh_mode                5
sh_boottime            1721164864
sh_pfcrlrtime          1721164864
sh_curtime             1721661884
sh_bootstamp           0
sh_stamp               -1015320195
sh_mainlooptcb         1263831040
sh_sysflags            4099
sh_maxchunks           32766
sh_maxdbspaces         2047
sh_maxuserthreads     131072
sh_maxtrans            131072
sh_maxlocks            640000
sh_maxlogs             80
sh_nbufs               1500000
sh_pagesize            2048
sh_nlrus               16
sh_maxdirty            10.04838755775
sh_mindirty            8.373656298127
sh_ncleaners           8
sh_longtx              0
sh_cpflag              0
sh_rapages             0
sh_rathreshold         0
sh_lastlogfreed        3047
sh_rmdlktout           60
sh_narchivers          0
sh_maxpdqpriority      0
sh_curmaxcons          101
sh_ovlmaxcons          101

1 row(s) retrieved.
```


When Were the Statistics Cleared?

```
-- Module: @(#)Server_server_uptime.sql 2.0      Date: 2013/04/10
-- Author: Lester Knutsen  Email: lester@advancedatools.com
--          Advanced DataTools Corporation
-- Discription: Displays how long the Informix Server has been up and when the
--               last time stats (onstat -z) were cleared.
--               Tested with Informix 11.70 and Informix 12.10
-- Update: 1/20/2023 - Tested on Informix 14.10.FC9
-- Update: 8/17/2025 - Tested on Informix 15.0.1
-----

database sysmaster;

select
    current current_time,
    DBINFO ('utc_to_datetime', sh_boottime ) boot_time,
    DBINFO ('utc_to_datetime',sh_pfclrtype) stats_reset_time,
    current - DBINFO ('utc_to_datetime',sh_pfclrtype) interval_since_stats_reset,
    ( sh_curtime - sh_pfclrtype) units second seconds_since_stats_reset,
    (ROUND (( sh_curtime - sh_pfclrtype)/60) ) minutes_since_stats_reset
from sysshmvals;
```

When Were the Statistics Cleared?

```
SQL:  New  Run  Modify  Use-editor  Output  Choose
Run the current SQL statements.

----- sysmaster@train15 ----- Pre

current_time          2025-09-05 14:23:43.000
boot_time             2025-09-04 12:05:25
stats_reset_time      2025-09-04 12:05:25
interval_since_stat+  1 02:18:18.000
seconds_since_stat+   94698
minutes_since_stat+   1578
```

Scientific Method for Database Tuning

- **What is the Scientific Method?**
 - Ask a question - Define the Problem
 - Perform research - Observe and Measure
 - Construct a Hypothesis - Plan a Test
 - Test Your Hypothesis - Do an Experiment
 - Analyze Your Data - Draw a Conclusion
 - Communicate Results - Document Results
- **Repeat, Repeat, Repeat**

Benchmark Worksheet to Measure Performance

Run #	Changes	Total Time	CPU % (usercpu + syscpu)	Disk I/O (pagreads + pagwrits)	Buffer I/O (bufreads + bufwrits)	Memory Used	Comments
1	BASELINE	17m49.455s	651.43	6494677	30566862	687428	buffers=250000
2	BUFFERPOOL=125000	8m37.551s	322.88	1402911	22158499	2933444	buffers=1250000
3	SHMVIRTSize 200000	8m36.411s	327.43	1402927	22168298	2982836	One SHMVIRT Segment
4	LOCKS 640000	5m20.191s	123.7	1402942	22180898	3067708	Resident Segment increased
5	RESIDENT -1	5m11.777s	107.3	680186	19748667	3070500	
6	VPCLASS cpu,num=4,noag	5m5.403s	108.79	1403024	22205882	3070500	
7	VP_MEMORY_CACHE_KB	5m6.878s	108.57	1403389	22223989	3070500	
8	PHYSBUFF 512 LOGBUFF	3m20.977s	78.13	673413	21319488	3072548	
9	DIRECT_IO 1	3m27.670s	77.58	665103	19944711	3072548	
10	PLOG and LOG	4m11.27s	86.68	1795234	22266939	3072548	
11	SAME	4m13.798s	88.15	1133695	20665709	3236388	
12	SAME no Server restart	3m38.265s	172.32	3439465	42449726	3236388	
13	SQL changes - run1	2m16.111s	27.96	2321957	7626794	3236388	
14	SQL changes - run2	3m17.596s	94.72	2172403	13550781	3236388	
15	SQL changes - run3	0m21.523s	9	486110	3738464	3236388	

Key Metrics for Tuning

```

real    590m16.824s
user    0m0.040s
sys     0m0.008s

IBM Informix Dynamic Server Version 14.10.FC3 -- On-Line -- 09:55:11 -- 4408904 Kbytes

Profile
dskreads    pagreads    bufreads    %cached    dskwrits    pagwrits    bufwrits    %cached
135662      137436      122173960754 100.00    3158796    4171669    8263397    61.77

isamtot    open        start       read        write       rewrite     delete      commit      rollbk
26538791   59495      154488     7272863    1506243    1914195    641        7458        0

gp_read    gp_write    gp_rewrt    gp_del      gp_alloc    gp_free     gp_curs
0          0          0          0          0          0          0

ovlock     ovuserthread ovbuff      usercpu     syscpu      numckpts    flushes
0          0          0          35903.43   52.30      121         124

bufwaits   lokwaits    lockreqs    deadlks     dltouts     ckpwaits    compress    seqscans
163        0          61080286217 0           0           6           34362      101419

ixda-RA    idx-RA      da-RA       logrec-RA   RA-pgsused  lchwaits
900        144        108919      2           109062      12056
  
```

Displays Selected Server Performance Ratios

```
-- Module: @(#)server_performance.sql  1.0      Date: 2021/09/01
-- Author: Lester Knutsen  Email: lester@advancedatools.com
--        Advanced DataTools Corporation
-- Discription: Displays key server profile/performance ratios
--        Tested with Informix 12.10 and Informix 14.10
-- Update: 1/20/2023 - Tested on Informix 14.10.FC9
-- Update: 8/17/2025 - Tested on Informix 15.0.1
-----

database sysmaster;

select
    "Statics Uptime in Minutes: " metric,
    (ROUND (( sh_curtime - sh_pfclrtime)/60)) value -- hours_since_stats_reset
from sysshmvals

-- CPU Time
union all
select
    "Total CPU Time:" metric,
    (sum(usecs_user) + sum(usecs_sys) ) total_cpu
from sysvplst
union all
select  "Total Disk IO - Page RW" metric,
        ( select sum ( value ) from sysprofile where name in ( "dskreads", "dskwrites" )) total_disk_IO
from sysdual

union all
select  "Total Buffer IO - Buffer RW" metric,
        ( select sum ( value ) from sysprofile where name in ( "bufreads", "bufwrites" )) total_buff_IO
from sysdual

-- Memory
union all
select  "Total Memory" metric,
        sum( seg_size ) total_size
from sysseglst

;
```

Server Performance Ratios Example

```
SQL: New Run Modify Use-editor Output Choose Save Info Drop Exit
Run the current SQL statements.

----- sysmaster@train15 ----- Press CTRL-W for Help -----

metric                                value
Statics Uptime in Minutes:           8.00000000000000
Total CPU Time:                       11.71000000000000
Total Disk IO - Page RW               85566.0000000000
Total Buffer IO - Buffer RW            3256657.00000000
Total Memory                          205074432.000000
```

What Indexes are Needed?

- What indexes are used?
- What indexes are not used?
- What additional indexes are needed to speed up performance?

Look for:

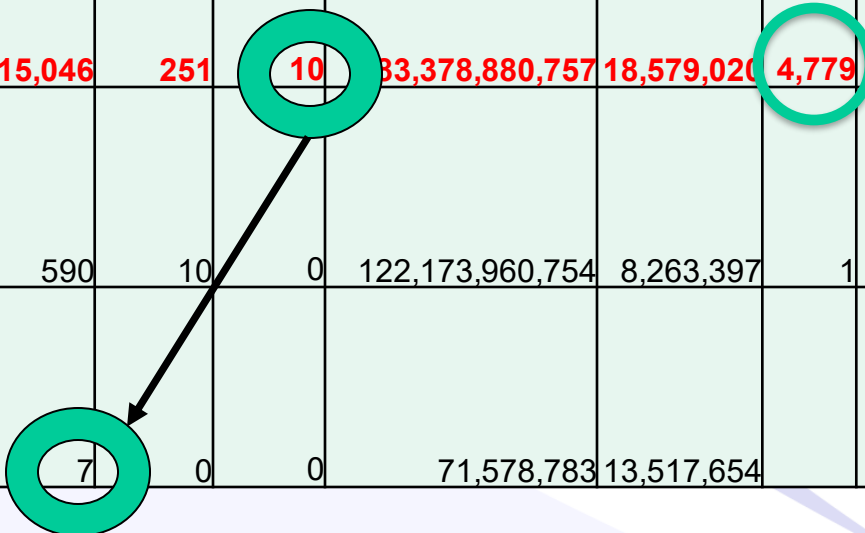
- Unnecessary sequential scans
- Excessive disk reads
- Avoid duplicate Indexes

Example of Poor Index Performance

- Same SQL Query (poorly written)
- Server – Default Configuration
- Server – Moderate Tuning (More Memory BUFFERS)
- Server – Default Configuration – Fixed one missing Index

Example of Poor Index Performance

Server Configuration	Index	Minutes	Hours	Days	Pages Read	Pages Write	BTR	CPU	Mem
Default Configuration	Missing Index	15,046	251	10	33,378,880,757	18,579,020	4,779	597,001	264,884
Moderate Tuning	Missing Index	590	10	0	122,173,960,754	8,263,397	1	35,956	4,408,904
Default Configuration	Added Index	7	0	0	71,578,783	13,517,654		664	256,692



Show Tables with Most Sequential Scans

```
-- Module: @(#)table_with_seqscans.sql  2.3      Date: 2020/01/01
-- Author: Lester Knutsen  Email: lester@advancedatools.com
--       Advanced DataTools Corporation
-- Description: Find tables with sequential scans
-- Update: 1/20/2023 - Tested on Informix 14.10.FC9
-- Update: 8/17/2025 - Tested on Informix 15.0.1

database sysmaster;

select  first 100
        dbsname database,
        tabname table,
        partnum partnumber,
        ti_npdata  table_size_pages,
        sum(seqscans) total_scans,
        (ti_npdata * (sum(seqscans))) total_pages_scanned
from    sysptprof, systabinfo
where   sysptprof.partnum = systabinfo.ti_partnum
and seqscans > 0
and tabname not in ( select tabname from systables where tabid < 100 )
and dbsname not in ( "sysmaster", "sysadmin" , "sysuser", "sysutils" )
group   by 1, 2, 3, 4
order   by 6 desc
```

Show Tables with Most Sequential Scans

```
database      benchmark1
table         benchmark
partnumber    3145797
table_size_pages 418980
total_scans    6
total_pages_scanned 2513880
```

```
database      benchmark1
table         zip
partnumber    3145802
table_size_pages 711
total_scans    2021
total_pages_scanned 1436931
```

```
database      benchmark2
table         bills
partnumber    3145874
table_size_pages 605280
total_scans    1
total_pages_scanned 605280
```

Scripts Monitoring Index Performance and Usage

- DB_index_usage.sql
- DB_loop_run.sh

Index Performance and Usage

- When was my index last used?
 - Oncheck –pt database:table
- What is the ratio of index reads to writes?
- The more reads, the more efficiently an index is used..

We will Use Data from 3 Sources

- Sysmaster database
- System Tables in each database
- Important to join between Sysmaster and Systables database using table partno to avoid duplicate data

How to Monitor Index Usage

Compare reads and writes on an index by partition ...fewer reads indicates the index may not be needed unless it is a constraint

```
#####
-- ## Module: @(#)DB_index_usage.sql      2.0      Date: 08/25/2019
-- ## Author: Lester Knutsen  Email: lester@advanceddatatools.com
-- ##      Advanced DataTools Corporation
-- Update: 1/20/2023 - Tested on Informix 14.10.FC9
-- Update: 8/17/2025 - Tested on Informix 15.0.1
-- #####

-- Execute this query in a user database
-- Connect to the database you want the info from - Not Sysmaster

-- unload to index_usage.uld
select
    t.tabname,
    i.indexname,
    bufreads,
    bufwrites,
    case
        when bufwrites = 0 then bufreads
        when bufreads = 0 then 0
        else ( bufreads /bufwrites )
    end ratio
from    systables t, sysfragments i,  outer sysmaster:sysptprof p
where   t.tabid = i.tabid
and     i.fragtype = "I"
and     i.partn = p.partnum
and     t.tabid > 99;
```


How to Monitor Index Usage

tablename	state
indexname	idx_state_1
bufreads	15
bufwrites	11
ratio	1.3636363636363636

tablename	zip
indexname	idx_zip_1
bufreads	630617
bufwrites	931
ratio	677.354457572503

tablename	benchmark
indexname	idx_benchmark_1
bufreads	214154
bufwrites	4614
ratio	46.4139575205895



Poor Index Usage



Great Index Usage



Good Index Usage

DB_loop_run.sh - Script to create a list of databases and loop through a script for each database

```
#####  
## Module: @(#)DB_loop_run.sh      2.1    08/17/2025  
## Author: Lester Knutsen  Email: lester@advancedatools.com  
##          Advanced DataTools Corporation  
## Description: Runs the same script for all database on the server  
#####  
  
DD=`date +%Y%m%d%H%M%S`  
LOG=Logfile$DD.log  
  
## Create a log file to capture stdio and stderr  
echo "Log file: $LOG"  
echo "Script to run: $1"  
{  
echo $INFORMIXSERVER  
  
dbaccess sysmaster - <<EOF 2>&1  
-- create a list of database names that can be used in a loop  
unload to database_list.x delimiter " "  
select  trim(name)  
        from sysdatabases  
        where name not in ( "sysmaster", "sysadmin", "sysuser", "sysutils" )  
EOF  
  
for db in `cat database_list.x`  
do  
echo "Results for: $db"  
dbaccess $db $1 2>&1  
done  
  
rm database_list.x  
  
} 2>&1 | tee $LOG
```

How can we fit more tables into memory?

Show Tables with Wasted Space - table_waste_space.sql

```
-- Module: @(#)Table_waste_space.sql 1.0 Date: 2022/01/01
-- Author: Lester Knutsen Email: lester@advanceddatatools.com
-- Advanced DataTools Corporation
-- Description: Calculate Wasted space used by table
-- Update: 8/17/2025 - Tested on Informix 15.0.1
-----

database sysmaster;

-- unload to tablewaste.uld
select
    systabnames.dbsname      database,
    systabnames.tabname      tabname,
    ( dbinfo('dbspace', ti_partnum )) dbspace,
    systabnames.partnum,
    ti_rowsize      row_size,
    ti_pagesize     page_size,
    ti_npused       pages_used,
    ti_npdata       pages_data,
    (ti_nptotal - ti_npused ) pages_free,
    ti_nrows        num_rows,
    case
        when ( (ti_pagesize +4) -28) < ti_rowsize then "Row larger then pagesize"
        else "Row smaller then pagesize"
    end rowfit,
    case
        when ti_rowsize > 0 then
            trunc ((ti_pagesize -28) / ( ti_rowsize +4))
        else 0
    end rows_per_page,
    case
        when ti_rowsize > 0 then
            ( trunc ((ti_pagesize -28) / ( ti_rowsize +4)) * ( ti_rowsize +4))
        else 0
    end kb_used_per_page,
    case
        when ti_rowsize > 0 then
            ((ti_pagesize -28) - ( trunc ((ti_pagesize -28) / ( ti_rowsize +4)) * ( ti_rowsize +4)))
        else 0
    end kb_waste_per_page,
    case
        when ti_rowsize > 0 then
            (((ti_pagesize -28) - ( trunc ((ti_pagesize -28) / ( ti_rowsize +4)) * ( ti_rowsize +4)))* ti_npdata )
        else 0
    end kb_waste_per_table
from systabnames, systabinfo, outer sysptprof
where  systabinfo.ti_partnum = systabnames.partnum
and    systabinfo.ti_partnum = sysptprof.partnum
and    systabnames.dbsname not in ( "sysmaster", "sysuser", "sysutils", "sysadmin" )
and    systabnames.tabname not in ( select tabname from systables where tabid <=99 )
and    ti_npdata > 0 -- remove partitions with no data pages
order by kb_waste_per_table desc;
```

Show Tables with Wasted Space - table_waste_space.sql

```
database      benchmark3
tablename     customer
dbspace       datab3dbs
partnum       5242979
row_size      684
page_size     2048
pages_used    2000519
pages_data    2000022
pages_free    3387
num_rows      6000000
rowfit        Row smaller then pagesize
rows_per_page 2
kb_used_per_page 1376
kb_waste_per_page 644
kb_waste_per_table 1288014168

database      benchmark1
tablename     benchmark
dbspace       datadbs
partnum       3145797
row_size      3534
page_size     2048
pages_used    838168
pages_data    418980
pages_free    79183
num_rows      418980
rowfit        Row larger then pagesize
rows_per_page 0
kb_used_per_page 0
kb_waste_per_page 2020
kb_waste_per_table 846339600
```

Show Tables with Free Row Space: table_info_freerows.sql

```
-- Module: @(#)table_info_freerows.sql 1.0      Date: 2015/03/20
-- Author: Lester Knutsen  Email: lester@advancedatools.com
--        Advanced DataTools Corporation
-- Description:
--        Tested with Informix 11.70 and Informix 12.10
-- Update: 1/20/2023 - Tested on Informix 14.10.FC9
-- Update: 8/17/2025 - Tested on Informix 15.0.1
-----

database sysmaster;

select
    dbsname      database,
    tabname      tabname,
    ( dbinfo('dbspace', ti_partnum ) ) dbspace,
    partnum,
    ti_rowsize   row_size,
    ti_ncols     num_columns,
    ti_nkeys     num_indexes,
    ti_nextns    num_extents,
    ti_pagesize  page_size,
    ti_nptotal   pages_total,
    ti_npused    pages_used,
    ti_npdata    pages_data,
    (ti_nptotal - ti_npused ) pages_free,
    ti_nrows     num_rows,
    case
        when ( ti_pagesize -24) < ti_rowsize  then "Row larger then pagesize"
        else "Row smaller the pagesize"
    end rowfit,
    case
        when ti_rowsize > 0 then
            trunc ((ti_pagesize -24) / ti_rowsize )
        else 0
    end rows_per_page,
    case
        when ti_rowsize > 0 then
            ( ( trunc ((ti_pagesize -24) / ti_rowsize ) ) * (ti_nptotal - ti_npused ) )
        else 0
    end free_rows,
    DBINFO ('utc_to_datetime', ti_created ) create_date
from systabnames, systabinfo
where ti_partnum = partnum
and    systabnames.dbsname not in ( "sysmaster", "sysuser", "sysutils", "sysadmin", "system" )
and    systabnames.tabname not in ( select tabname from systables where tabid <=99 )
and    systabnames.tabname != "TBLSpace"
and    ti_npdata > 0
order by free_rows;
```

Show Tables with Free Row Space: table_info_freerows.sql

```
database      benchmark4
tablename     bmsql_new_order
dbspace       datab4dbs
partnum       6291530
row_size      12
num_columns   0
num_indexes   0
num_extents   28
page_size     2048
pages_total   7168
pages_used    7168
pages_data    2178
pages_free    0
num_rows      172078
rowfit        Row smaller the pagesize
rows_per_page 168
free_rows     0
create_date   2022-05-25 11:21:48
```

Table Performance Scripts

- `table_extent_plan.sql`
- `table_info_all.sql`
- `table_info_freerows.sql`
- `table_io_statistics.sql`
- `table_performance.sql`
- `table_waste_space.sql`
- `table_with_seqscans.sql`

Table Information - `table_info_all.sql`

- Everything you want to know about your tables
- Load results into an Excel Worksheet
- Updated to exclude System tables and Indexes

Questions about Tables

- What tables fit on a page?
- What tables have free space before a new extent?
- How big are the tables?
- What tables have the most lock activity?
- What tables have the most I/O activity?
- What tables have sequential scans?
- What is the buffer read % by table?
- What tables could be partitioned?

Join Between Four Base Tables

- Systabnames – Basic Table Information
- Systabinfo – Undocumented
- Sysptprof – Performance Information

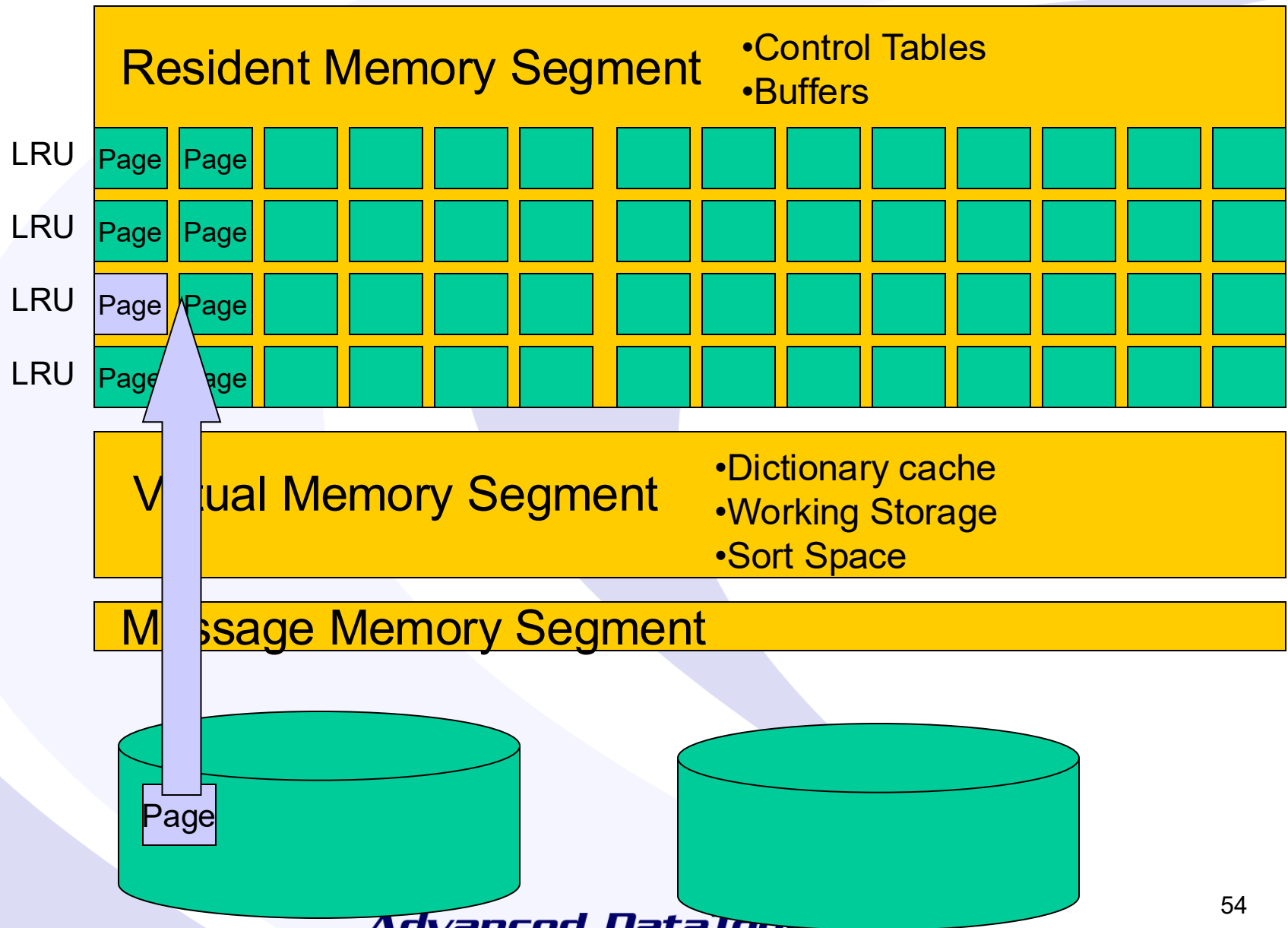
Table_info_all.sql

```
-----  
-- Module: @(#)table_info_all.sql      1.0      Date: 2016/04/01  
-- Author: Lester Knutsen   Email: lester@advancedatools.com  
--       Advanced DataTools Corporation  
-- Description: New Table Information Script - Unload the output to a file  
--             and the load the results into a worksheet for analysis  
--       Tested with Informix 11.70 and Informix 12.10, 14.10  
-- Update: 1/20/2023 - Tested on Informix 14.10.FC9  
-- Update: 8/17/2025 - Tested on Informix 15.0.1  
-----  
  
database sysmaster;  
  
-- unload to tableinfo.uld  
select  
    systabnames.dbsname      database,  
    systabnames.tabname      tabname,  
    ( dbinfo('dbspace', ti_partnum )) dbspace,  
    systabnames.partnum,  
    ti_rowsize      row_size,  
    ti_ncols      num_columns,  
    ti_nkeys      num_indexes,  
    ti_nextns      num_extents,  
    ti_pagesize      page_size,  
    ti_nptotal      pages_total,  
    ti_npused      pages_used,  
    ti_npdata      pages_data,  
    (ti_nptotal - ti_npused ) pages_free,  
    ti_nrows      num_rows,  
    case  
        when ( (ti_pagesize +4) -24) < ti_rowsize then "Row larger then pagesize"  
        else "Row smaller the pagesize"  
    end rowfit,  
    case  
        when ti_rowsize > 0 then  
            trunc ((ti_pagesize -24) / ti_rowsize )  
        else 0  
    end rows_per_page,  
    case  
        when ti_rowsize > 0 then  
            ( ( trunc ((ti_pagesize -24) / ti_rowsize ) ) * (ti_nptotal - ti_npused ) )  
        else 0  
    end free_rows,  
    DBINFO ('utc_to_datetime', ti_created ) create_date,  
    lockreqs,  
    lockuts
```

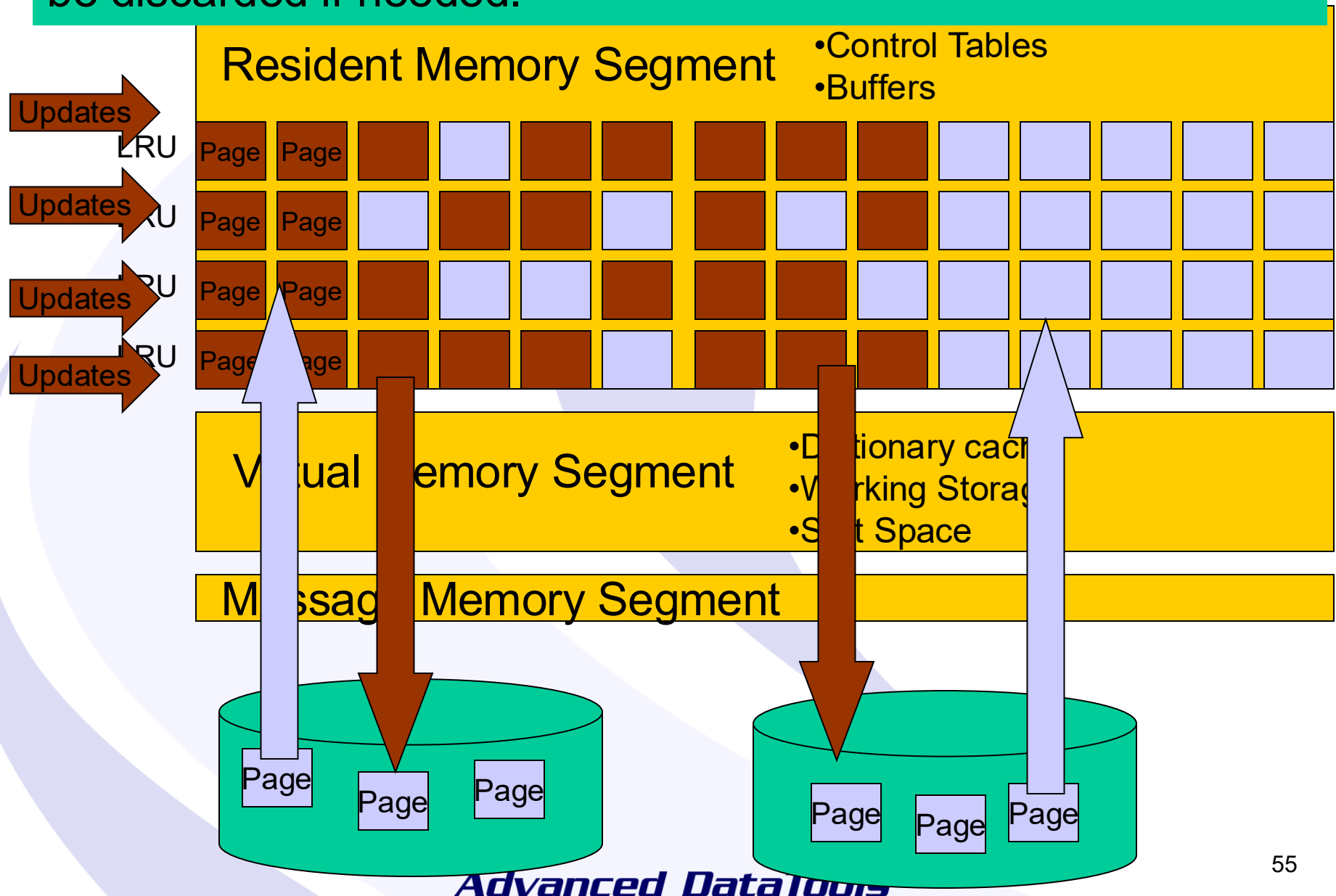
How can we reduce the Buffer churn rate?

- How much memory is available on the machine?
- How much is used by the Operating System and other applications?
- How much will be assigned to Informix?
- ***DO NOT allow the machine to Swap memory to disk as this will SLOW everything down***

Page Gets Read into Memory by a Select



When a buffer is written to disk, it is marked as clean and may be discarded if needed.



BUFFERPOOL Best Practices

- Biggest performance gain is to have enough Buffers to hold as many pages as possible in Memory
- ***More Buffers = the better and faster your database will perform***
- Goal is to put all the active data into Memory
- Goal is to prevent high Memory Buffers Turnover (Art Kagel's rule – less than 8 times per hour)

Monitoring BUFFERPOOL Turnover

```
-- Module: @(#)Server_btr_ratio.sql      2.0      Date: 2013/04/10
-- Author: Lester Knutsen  Email: lester@advancedatatools.com
--      Advanced DataTools Corporation
-- Discription: Display Buffer Turnovers per hour
--      Based on Art Kagels performance tuning tip on monitoring
--      how much buffer churn your server has.
--      Goal is BTR of less then 7 times per hour
--      Tested with Informix 11.70 and Informix 12.10
-- The Error - 1202: An attempt was made to divide by zero. happens when
-- the server has been up less then one hour
-- Update: 1/20/2023 - Tested on Informix 14.10.FC9
-- Update: 8/17/2025 - Tested on Informix 15.0.1
-----

select
    bufsize,
    pagreads,
    bufwrites,
    nbuffs,
    ((( pagreads + bufwrites ) /nbuffs )
      / ( select (ROUND ((( sh_curtime - sh_pfclrtype)/60)/60) )
          from sysshmvals )
      ) BTR
from sysbufpool;
```

How do we monitor Memory usage?

Show Memory Usage by Segment

```
-- Module: @(#)Server_memsegments.sql 1.0 Date: 2015/03/20
-- Author: Lester Knutsen Email: lester@advancedatools.com
-- Update: 1/20/2023 - Tested on Informix 14.10.FC9
-- Update: 8/17/2025 - Tested on Informix 15.0.1
-----

database sysmaster;

-- Summary by Memory Segments Class
select
  -- seg_class,
  case
    when seg_class = 1 then "Resident"
    when seg_class = 2 then "Virtual"
    when seg_class = 3 then "Message"
    when seg_class = 4 then "Buffer"
    else "Unknown"
  end class,
  count(*) number ,
  sum( seg_size ) total_size,
  sum( seg_blkused ) total_blkused,
  sum( seg_blkfree ) total_blkfree
from sysseglst
group by 1;

-- Detail by Memory Segment
select
  -- seg_class,
  case
    when seg_class = 1 then "Resident"
    when seg_class = 2 then "Virtual"
    when seg_class = 3 then "Message"
    when seg_class = 4 then "Buffer"
    else "Unknown"
  end class,
  seg_size,
  seg_blkused,
  seg_blkfree
from sysseglst;
```

Show Memory Usage by Segment

class	number	total_size	total_blkused	total_blkfree
Message	1	561152	136	1
Resident	1	92274688	22419	109
Buffer	2	3577741312	873472	0
Virtual	7	255131648	24620	37668

class	seg_size	seg_blkused	seg_blkfree
Resident	92274688	22419	109
Virtual	204800000	23768	26232
Buffer	3409969152	832512	0
Message	561152	136	1
Buffer	167772160	40960	0
Virtual	8388608	37	2011
Virtual	8388608	46	2002
Virtual	8388608	118	1930
Virtual	8388608	495	1553
Virtual	8388608	107	1941
Virtual	8388608	25	2023

How do we monitor Database Statistics?

Monitoring AUS and Update Statistics

- AUS_last_run.sql
- DB_update_stats_info.sql

Update Statistics Status

- When did Automatic Update Status last run?
- When did Update Status last run for all databases and tables?

Aus_last_run.sql

```
----- benchmark3@train1 ----- Press CTRL-W for Hel
```

db	table	level	when
benchmark1	state	l	2019-09-24 01:01:16
benchmark1	state	H	2019-09-24 01:01:16
benchmark1	benchmark	l	2019-09-24 01:01:16
benchmark1	benchmark	H	2019-09-24 01:01:16
benchmark2	state	l	2019-09-24 01:01:21
benchmark2	state	H	2019-09-24 01:01:21
benchmark2	customer	l	2019-09-24 01:01:21
benchmark2	customer	H	2019-09-24 01:01:21
benchmark2	product	l	2019-09-24 01:01:21
benchmark2	product	H	2019-09-24 01:01:21
benchmark2	bills	l	2019-09-24 01:01:21
benchmark2	bills	H	2019-09-24 01:01:21

DB_update_stats_info.sql

```
tabname      customer
low_update   2019-09-21 01:11:02.00000
column       customer_number
update       09/21/2019
mode         H
uptime       2019-09-21 01:11:02.00000
updduration   0:00:00.02175
maxseqno     9
```

```
tabname      product
low_update   2019-09-21 01:11:02.00000
column       product_number
update       09/21/2019
mode         H
uptime       2019-09-21 01:11:02.00000
updduration   0:00:00.00001
maxseqno     1
```

```
tabname      state
low_update   2019-09-21 01:11:02.00000
column       state
update       09/21/2019
mode         H
uptime       2019-09-21 01:11:02.00000
updduration   0:00:00.00002
maxseqno     2
```


Extra Scripts

AWS Calculations for IOPS and Throughput

```
-- Module: @(#)AWSIOPS.sql      version: 2.5      Date: 10/1/2021
-- Author: Lester Knutsen   Contact: lester@advancedatools.com
-- Copyright: Advanced DataTools Corporation - 2021
-- Description: Use AWS Calculations for IOPS and Throughput
-- Update: 1/20/2023 - Tested on Informix 14.10.FC9
-----

{ ==
AWS IOPS Calculations
Disk reads/sec + disk writes/sec = IOPS
Disk read bytes/sec + disk write bytes/sec = Throughput
}

database sysmaster;
select
    "Statics Uptime in Seconds: " metric,
    (ROUND (( sh_curtime - sh_pfcrltime))) value -- hours_since_stats_reset
from sysshmvals
union all
select  "Average Disk IOPS - Page RW per Second" metric,
        (( select sum ( value ) from sysprofile where name in ( "dskreads", "dskwrites" ))
         / ( select (ROUND (( sh_curtime - sh_pfcrltime))) from sysshmvals )) value

from sysdual
union all
select  "Average Disk Throughput - Bytes per Second" metric,
        ((( select sum ( value ) from sysprofile where name in ( "dskreads", "dskwrites" ))
          * ( select sh_pagesize from sysshmvals ))
         / ( select (ROUND (( sh_curtime - sh_pfcrltime))) from sysshmvals )) value

from sysdual;
```

Checkpoints and Logs Performance

- `checkpoint_summary.sql`
- `logs_not_backup.sql`
- `logs_usage.sql`

Checkpoint Performance Summary

```
-----
-- Module: @(#)checkpoint_summary.sql      1.0      Date: 2019/09/01
-- Author: Lester Knutsen  Email: lester@advancedatools.com
--        Advanced DataTools Corporation
-- Description:
--        Tested with Informix 12.10 and Informix 14.10
-- Update: 1/20/2023 - Tested on Informix 14.10.FC9
-----

database sysmaster;

-- unload to checkpoint_summary.uld
select
    type,
    count(*) num_checkpoints,
    max ( dbinfo( "utc_to_datetime", clock_time)) last_checkpoint,  -- Clock time of the checkpoint
    max ( crit_time ) max_sec_crit_time, -- Fractional seconds spent in critical sections
    sum ( crit_time ) sum_sec_crit_time, -- Fractional seconds spent in critical sections
    max ( flush_time ) max_sec_flush_time, -- Fractional seconds spent flushing dirty pages during the checkpoint
    sum ( flush_time ) sum_sec_flush_time, -- Fractional seconds spent flushing dirty pages during the checkpoint
    max ( cp_time ) max_checkpoint_time, -- Duration of the checkpoint in fractional seconds
    sum ( cp_time ) sum_checkpoint_time, -- Duration of the checkpoint in fractional seconds
    max ( n_dirty_buffs ) max_dirty_buffs, -- Number of dirty buffers at the beginning of the checkpoint
    sum ( n_dirty_buffs ) sum_dirty_buffs, -- Number of dirty buffers at the beginning of the checkpoint
    max ( n_crit_waits ) max_crit_waits, -- Number of processes that had to wait for the checkpoint
    sum ( n_crit_waits ) sum_crit_waits, -- Number of processes that had to wait for the checkpoint
    max ( tot_crit_wait ) max_crit_sec, -- Total time all processes waited for the checkpoint - fractional seconds
    sum ( tot_crit_wait ) sum_crit_sec, -- Total time all processes waited for the checkpoint - fractional seconds
    max ( block_time ) max_block_time, -- Longest any process had to wait for the checkpoint - fractional seconds
    sum ( block_time ) sum_block_time -- Longest any process had to wait for the checkpoint - fractional seconds
from syscheckpoint
group by 1
order by 1 ;
```

Checkpoint_summary.sql

----- sysmaster@train1 -----

type	Blocking
num_checkpoints	8
last_checkpoint	2019-09-24 21:07:41
max_sec_crit_time	1.725911e-05
sum_sec_crit_time	7.05932528e-05
max_sec_flush_time	0.001612641024
sum_sec_flush_time	0.00474524459
max_checkpoint_ti+	0.004824562211
sum_checkpoint_ti+	0.014854903223
max_dirty_buffs	52
sum_dirty_buffs	141
max_crit_waits	1
sum_crit_waits	3
max_crit_sec	0.003520003761
sum_crit_sec	0.00634974786
max_block_time	0.00
sum_block_time	0.00

----- sysmaster@train1 -----

type	Non-Blocking
num_checkpoints	20
last_checkpoint	2019-09-24 20:32:15
max_sec_crit_time	3.04870461e-05
sum_sec_crit_time	0.000438870645
max_sec_flush_time	63.46445248515
sum_sec_flush_time	92.86006797244
max_checkpoint_ti+	63.48626005307
sum_checkpoint_ti+	93.01298011093
max_dirty_buffs	251943
sum_dirty_buffs	436956
max_crit_waits	1
sum_crit_waits	3
max_crit_sec	36.72768298873
sum_crit_sec	36.74681120340
max_block_time	36.72765214286
sum_block_time	46.15479190084

Logical Log Performance

- For HDR Planning – How much data will be going to the Secondary Servers?
- What is my Log turnover rate?
- Do I have enough Logs?
- Are the Logs too small or too big?
- Goal – Enough Logs for 4 days
- Goal – Turnover 12 to 24 Logs per hour

Logical Log Performance

```
-----  
-- Module: @(#)logs_usage.sql    2.0      Date: 2019/09/01  
-- Author: Lester Knutsen  Email: lester@advancedatools.com  
--        Advanced DataTools Corporation  
-- Description:      Calculates how many logs and log pages used in the past 8 days.  
--        Tested with Informix 12.10 and Informix 14.10  
-- Update: 1/20/2023 - Tested on Informix 14.10.FC9  
-----  
  
database sysmaster;  
  
-- unload to log_usage.uld  
select  "Logs for last 7 days",  
        count(*) logs_used,  
        sum( size ) log_pages_used,  
        dbinfo('utc_to_datetime', min( filltime ) ) start_time,  
        dbinfo('utc_to_datetime', max( filltime ) ) end_time,  
        (dbinfo('utc_to_datetime', max( filltime ) ) - dbinfo('utc_to_datetime', min( filltime ) )) total_time,  
        (( max( filltime)) - ( min( filltime) )) total_secs,  
        ((( max( filltime)) - ( min( filltime) )) /60 ) total_minutes,  
        ((( ( max( filltime)) - ( min( filltime) )) /60 ) /60 ) total_hours,  
        ( count(*) / ((( ( max( filltime)) - ( min( filltime) )) /60 ) /60 )) logs_per_hour,  
        ( sum(size) / ((( ( max( filltime)) - ( min( filltime) )) /60 ) /60 )) pages_per_hour  
from syslogfil  
where filltime > 0  
and ( dbinfo('utc_to_datetime', ( filltime ) ) > ( current - 7 units day ));
```

Logical Log Not Backed up

```
-- Module: @(#)logs_not_backup.sql    1.0    Date: 2019/09/01
-- Author: Lester Knutsen  Email: lester@advancedatatools.com
--       Advanced DataTools Corporation
-- Description:
--       Tested with Informix 12.10 and Informix 14.10
-- Update: 1/20/2023 - Tested on Informix 14.10.FC9
-----

database sysmaster;

-- select * from syslogs;
-- This query should normally only return the current log (is_current = 1)
-- and possibly the log with the previous unqid to the current one if you
-- happen to catch it just as it filled and didn't get backed up yet.
-- If more than those last two unquids are returned, then something is amiss.

-- unload to logs_not_backup.uld
select unqid, is_current, is_used, is_backed_up, is_new
from syslogs
where is_used = 1
    and is_new = 0
    and is_temp = 0
    and is_pre_dropped = 0
    and is_backed_up != 1
order by unqid;
```


DbSPACE and Chunks Performance Scripts

- `dbspace_free.sql`
- `chunk_io.sql`
- `dbspace_io.sql`

DBspace and Chunks Performance

- Started with a script to measure dbspace free
- Added Summary of underlying Chunk IO
- Added Ratios
 - Real read ahead
 - Pages per read/write operation
 - Pages read per minute
 - Pages write per minute
 - Percent of Total IO
- Data from syschktab and sysdbstab

DbSPACEIO.sql

```
current_time      2023-01-31 12:18:05.000
stats_reset_time  2023-01-23 11:55:19
minutes_since_sta 11543
dbspace           tmp3dbs
pagesize          2048
num_chunks        1
size_sys_pages    1000000
free_pages        999947
size_kb           2000000
free_kb           1999894
pagereads         1133
pagewrites        3010
num_reads         96
num_writes        557
usecs_readtime    822.9473712101
usecs_writetime   6147.077034593
pages_per_read    11.80208333333333
pages_per_writes  5.40394973070018
pages_read_per_mi 0.09815472580785
pages_write_per_m 0.26076409945421
read_percent      0.00
write_percent     0.00
```

Session Performance and Monitoring Scripts

- session_lockwait.sql
- session_statistics.sql
- session_wait_list.sql

Displays User Session Profile info

- session_statistics.sql

```
username    informix
sid          42
lockreqs     6132777
bufreads     164089089
bufwrites    303812

username    informix
sid          43
lockreqs     6939395
bufreads     126226004
bufwrites    517732

username    informix
sid          886
lockreqs     10567488
bufreads     5249040
bufwrites    278452
```

Displays only Locks with Other Users Waiting

- `session_lockwait.sql`

```
dblname    benchmark3
tablename  warehouse
type       X
ownersid   952
ownername  informix
waitsid    901
waitname   informix

dblname    benchmark3
tablename  105_25
type       X
ownersid   925
ownername  informix
waitsid    944
waitname   informix

dblname    benchmark3
tablename  district
type       X
ownersid   863
ownername  informix
waitsid    881
waitname   informix
```

Displays User Session Waits and Status

- session_wait_list.sql

```
-- Module: @(#)session_wait_list.sql      2.3      Date: 2013/04/10
-- Author: Lester Knutsen  Email: lester@advancedatools.com
--        Advanced DataTools Corporation
-- Discription: Displays session status
--        Tested with Informix 11.70 and Informix 12.10
-- Update: 1/20/2023 - Tested on Informix 14.10.FC9
```

```
database sysmaster;

select
    sid,
    username,
    is_wlatch,
    is_wlock,
    is_wbuff,
    is_wckpt,
    is_wlogbuf,
    is_wtrans,
    is_monitor,
    is_incrit
from
    syssessions
where
    ( is_wlatch != 0 )
or
    ( is_wlock != 0 )
or
    ( is_wbuff != 0 )
or
    ( is_wckpt != 0 )
or
    ( is_wlogbuf != 0 )
or
    ( is_wtrans != 0 )
or
    ( is_monitor != 0 )
or
    ( is_incrit != 0 )
order by username
```

Displays User Session Waits and Status

- session_wait_list.sql

```
sid      959
username informi
is_wlatch 0
is_wlock  1
is_wbuff  0
is_wckpt  0
is_wlogbuf 0
is_wtrans 0
is_monitor 0
is_incrit 0

sid      958
username informix
is_wlatch 0
is_wlock  0
is_wbuff  0
is_wckpt  0
is_wlogbuf 0
is_wtrans 0
is_monitor 0
is_incrit 1

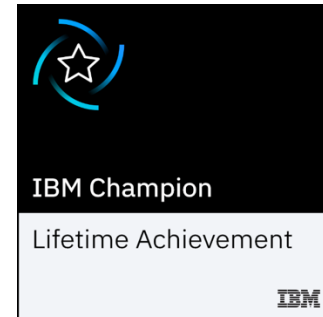
sid      956
username informix
is_wlatch 0
is_wlock  1
is_wbuff  0
is_wckpt  0
is_wlogbuf 0
is_wtrans 0
is_monitor 0
is_incrit 0
```


Questions?



Please ask your questions in the chat!

Thank You!



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