

It is very common that as the amount of data grows in our DB2 tables and as our applications become more complex, queries must run against a large amount of data. Even though the amount of data has increased, there are still business requirements to deliver response times as quickly as possible. Materialized query tables are very effective in working with data warehousing applications. This presentation will discuss the basics of materialized query tables and give you an understanding of how you can best utilize this new functionality in DB2 V8.

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Where Business & Data Converge

Who Are We?

IBM Software Group IBM Software Services for Information Management DB2 for z/OS Lab Services

The DB2 for z/OS and OS/390 Software Services Team delivers specialized services to accelerate your implementation and to fully leverage and exploit your investment in DB2 technology on these operating systems. Our consultants specialize in product installation and configuration and Version to Version migrations for DB2 for z/OS and OS/390 Server. They are highly skilled in system administration, including high availability, security, and health checks, and also provide expertise for utilities migration assessments and migration. We also have peer groups who specialize in DB2 on other platforms.

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Materialized query tables are tables that contain information that is derived and summarized from other tables.

Automatic query rewrite is the process DB2 uses to access data in a materialized query table.



A materialized query table (MQT) can avoid redundant work of scanning, aggregation and joins. Multiple levels of summary tables have been used in warehouses and complex applications for years. One of the major issues is communicating the summaries to the users. In some cases, the users want to query the base data. With MQTs, the query users do not have to be aware of the MQT.



Even though the query is submitted for the base table, the optimizer can rewrite the query to use the MQT. Using the precalculated information can improve subsequent queries by as much as two or three orders of magnitude. Materialization or precalculation and parallelism resolve the long response times.

A database administrator can use an MQT much as she or he would use an index for optimization. Controls for usage, initial loading and refresh are part of the definition.



Materialized Query tables are sometimes referred to Automatic Summary tables



Materialized query tables are particularly effective in data warehousing applications.

materialized query tables can simplify query processing and greatly improve the performance of dynamic SQL queries.



Because databases have grown substantially over the years, queries must operate over huge amounts of data.

For example, in a data warehouse environment, decision-support queries might need to operate over 1 to 10 terabytes of data, performing multiple joins and other complex SQL



It is difficult to provide a performance improvement number as it is very dependent on the summarization work that would need to be done on the base tables. Lab tests are seeing potential 100 times return with the use of MQT.



Make note of the MQT name and refresh table step.



Returning data from the MQT could be decided by AQR or data could be returned via direct access to the MQT.



MQT exploitation could also allow for different design of base tables.



Evaluation of the requirements of the requested information is key. Reviewing current SQL execution could also assist in determining ways to use MQT for existing applications.



MQT is in SYSTABLES with a TYPE = 'M'









Consider the power of using ALTER to disable/enable USER or SYSTEM maintenance

And disable or enable query optimization



The example assumes that there is a MQ Table T1 that already exists. The data in table T1 was

generated using the fullselect shown above. That is, the data stored in T1 is the result of a

pre-computation, which performs some scalar functions, a join, GROUP BY, and so on, which

make up the SELECT statement. When altering an existing table into an MQT, it is the user's

responsibility to make sure that the data in the table matches the result of the query that

makes up the MQT.



Only supported for DRDA, not private protocol



Automatic query rewrite is the process DB2 uses to access data in a materialized query table.





Special register CURRENT REFRESH AGE

This special register controls whether an MQT can be considered in query rewrite as follows:

Value '0' means no MQTs are considered in query rewrite

Value 'ANY' means all MQTs are considered in rewrite

The default value of this special register can be specified in the CURRENT REFRESH AGE field on panel DSNTIP4 at installation time.

The data type for CURRENT REFRESH AGE is DEC(20,6).

Special register CURRENT MAINTAINED TABLE TYPES

This special register specifies a VARCHAR(255) value. The name of the dynamic ZPARM is MAINTYPE. The value identifies the types of MQT that can be considered in query rewrite:

Value 'SYSTEM' means all system-maintained, query optimization enabled MQTs

Value 'USER' means all user-maintained, query optimization enabled MQTs

Value 'ALL' means all query optimization enabled MQTs

The initial value of this special register is determined by the value of field CURRENT MAINT

TYPES on installation panel DSNTIP6. The default of this field is SYSTEM.

There is a relationship between these two special registers







RI can be for lossless join, if extra tables are in MQT, these extra tables have to have lossless joins with the common tables. Without RIs, we cannot use an MQT if it contains extra tables for a query, which includes the common cases where a query has some dimensions missing but the MQT contains all dimensions.



Informational Referential Integrity to be used by AQR



Type 'M" for MQTs is stored in SYSIBM.SYSTABLES, SYSIBM.SYSVIEWS,

SYSIBM.SYSVIEWDEP, SYSIBM.SYSPLANDEP, SYSIBM.SYSPACKDEP,

SYSIBM.SYSVTREE, and SYSIBM.SYSVLTREE.

There are two new columns in catalog table SYSIBM.SYSRELS; they are ENFORCED and CHECKEXISTINGDATA. If the value of ENFORCED is set to N, the entry belongs to an informational RI constraint. CHECKEXISTINGDATA basically contains the same information. If ENFORCED is set to N, CHECKEXISTINGDATA is also always set to N.

Both SYSIBM.SYSTABLES and SYSIBM.SYSROUTINES are expanded by column

NUM_DEP_MQTS, which contains the information about how many MQTs are dependent on a table or a table UDF respectively.

In addition to that, table SYSIBM.SYSVIEWS has six new columns that contain information related to MQTs:

REFRESH - 'D' for deferred refresh mode; or blank, which means the row does not belong to an MQT.

- ENABLE - 'Y' or 'N' for QUERY OPTIMIZATION enablement, or blank for a view.

- MAINTENANCE - 'S' for system-maintained, 'U' for user-maintained or blank for view.

- REFRESH_TIME - only used by system-maintained MQTs. It indicates the timestamp of last REFRESH TABLE statement.

- ISOLATION - Isolation level when MQT is created or altered from a base table.

- SIGNATURE - Contains an internal description of the MQT.

