Informix Red Brick Decision Server
Version 6.10

The Informix® Red Brick® Decision Server™ is a database server designed to meet the specialized requirements for business-critical, high-demand data analysis. It provides a robust and scalable platform for developing decision support applications, through the application of innovative technology. Designed to be practical, cost effective, and scalable, the Informix Red Brick Decision Server enables more users to analyze more data and make better decisions faster than with a general-purpose database.

The Challenge

As the volume of business data grows, the ability to access mission-critical data to make informed decisions is becoming a business imperative. Companies need a business intelligence solution that can integrate with existing technologies and can scale to meet their growing needs. Companies also require the processing power to handle huge amounts of complex data—all in a database solution that is easy to implement, administer, and use.

The Solution

The Informix Red Brick Decision Server places your business problems first, addressing the ease of implementation, management, and use requirements that are critical to maintaining a business focus. The majority of data marts and data warehouses are focused on addressing very specific business needs. The Red Brick Decision Server focuses on meeting these needs, including the ability to support complex queries, fast load performance, high-capacity/high-performance processing, and efficient management of very large databases. Unlike traditional databases, Informix Red Brick Decision Server is a specialized database technology that has been designed and optimized to meet the requirements of analytic data marts and data warehouses.

Benefits

- **High-demand analysis**
  The Informix Red Brick Decision Server is optimized for efficient processing of very large sets of data and delivers outstanding response times for the most complex business questions. The Red Brick database server can handle thousands of concurrent queries, hundreds of concurrent users, and terabytes of data.

- **Fast, comprehensive analytic applications**
  The Red Brick Decision Server is optimized for building comprehensive, fast, analytic applications, and is an ideal cornerstone for any third-party decision support solution you may choose.

- **Reduced deployment time and support costs**
  A powerful database shouldn't be hard to use. Whether managed by an experienced database administrator (DBA), solutions programmer, or business analyst, the Red Brick server is a "hands off" database engine. Also, it is an ideal engine for business environments where MIS support is unavailable or undesirable because the Red Brick server doesn't require a group of experts or a roomful of hardware for installation or maintenance.

Features

- **High-speed, high-volume query performance**
  The Red Brick Decision Server delivers fast performance in analytic data warehouse environments through several key technology features, including highly optimized indexing, aggregation, and parallelism technologies.
- **High-performance data management**
  The Red Brick database server supports high-speed, high-volume data loading within a single, integrated process. The Red Brick server's superior data-loading process provides maximum efficiency and automation, enabling easier and quicker availability of query-ready data.
- **Linear scalability for unlimited growth**
  The Red Brick server's linear scalability and capability to support increasing numbers of users without impacting performance enables it to easily adapt to large volumes of data.

What's New in Red Brick Decision Server v. 6.10?

The Red Brick Decision Server, v. 6.10, builds on the Red Brick history of easy implementation, low maintenance, and high performance. Some of its new features include:

- **Aggregate maintenance**
  Red Brick Vista™, a comprehensive, server-integrated solution for aggregate computation and management, now provides transparent maintenance of aggregates. When detail tables are modified either through server-based DML operations or through the bulk data loader, the modifications are automatically propagated to the aggregates. This server-integrated solution provides an automatic and efficient way of keeping aggregates "in-sync" with detail data, thereby simplifying the administration tasks associated with aggregates while maximizing their usability.

- **Sampling**
  This feature allows random sampling of data. It is useful for applications such as data mining, and provides the ability for users to efficiently produce approximate results based on sampled sets of data. Sampling can be performed on any table or sub-select in a query, and can be block-based or row-based.

- **Data Loading Enhancements**
  Version 6.10 of Informix Red Brick Decision Server includes several enhancements to bulk data loading. These include optimizations and parallelism support for loads involving modifications to existing data, as well as improvements to referential-integrity checking.

- **Query Optimizations**
  New enhancements to the Red Brick's query engine further improve the performance of complex queries. These include improved plan selection for queries involving multi-table joins, and query plan transformations that enable better utilization of join techniques and indexes for more efficient processing of queries containing multiple blocks.

- **Platform Support**
  Informix Red Brick Version 6.10 is now also available on Linux and Windows 2000.

- **Connectivity**
  The Red Brick JDBC and ODBC drivers now support JDBC version 2.0 and ODBC version 3.5, respectively.

Summary

The Informix Red Brick Decision Server v.6.10 delivers the ease of implementation, scalability, and reliability requirements that are critical for allowing businesses to more effectively deploy data warehouse applications. With the Red Brick business intelligence, any part of an organization can be examined to see the "big picture," providing vital trend information that supports better decision-making. The Red Brick Decision Server provides an ideal way to gain a competitive edge by allowing more users to gather, understand, and act on information faster and more easily than with a general-purpose database.

About Informix

Informix Software is the technology leader in software infrastructure and solutions for the Internet. Informix brings a focused set of products and services that integrate e-business and business intelligence on an Internet infrastructure. The Company's highly scalable database engines, in addition to its business intelligence, content management and e-commerce solutions, enable customers to succeed in the new economy. For more information, contact the nearest sales office or visit the Web site at www.informix.com.

50 Washington Street
Westboro, MA 01581
Tel. 508.366.3888
www.informix.com

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