

Can you predict what your market will do in the next five years and how your competitors will respond? Do you know what will be required of your data warehouse next year? How about the year after? Today's business environments are far from predictable, and your business intelligence solutions need to be flexible enough to adapt and grow to meet the rapidly changing business needs of the Internet-driven i.economy.

Informix[®] Extended Parallel Server[™] 8.3 is the latest release of Informix's high-end database. Its specialized technology delivers flexible, multiterabyte enterprise data warehouses and Web warehouses from which business users can analyze trends and respond quickly to gain and maintain a competitive advantage.



The Solution for Success—No Limits and No Compromises

Today, more than ever before, organizations require effective business intelligence systems to stay ahead of the competition. Informix Extended Parallel Server 8.3 is used by customers in all industries—including retail, healthcare, government, telecommunications, finance, and transportation—to support some of the world's largest and most heavily utilized business intelligence environments.

Extended Parallel Server 8.3 takes the risk out of deploying and managing comprehensive, multiterabyte data warehouses by imposing “no limits” to support the demands of the data warehousing technology. Unlike traditional transaction-focused systems, a data warehouse is an environment that requires flexibility and scalability, along with the ability to quickly query vast amounts of information. Extended Parallel Server 8.3 allows decision-makers to ask the kinds of questions necessary to uncover valuable insights that can lead to a competitive advantage.

No limits means that:

- your data warehouse can grow to meet your changing business requirements, no matter how much information you need to manage;
- you can expand available hardware as needed, without sacrificing price/performance;
- you can update your data warehouse even as you are running queries, giving users unlimited access;
- you can add processors or reconfigure your hardware to address high-demand periods without having to reinitialize;
- you can move between the most cost-effective open system platforms and a wide variety of SMP and parallel (NUMA, Cluster, and MPP) architectures; and
- you can manage your data from anywhere that you can access a Web browser.

No Limits: Performance

Extended Parallel Server 8.3 delivers *fast everywhere* performance—fast in loading data, fast in managing data, and fast in querying data. *Fast everywhere* extends beyond processing predictable queries into processing a wide range of complex, *ad hoc* queries, quickly and efficiently.

Extended Parallel Server 8.3 meets the performance requirements of industry-leading data warehouses by utilizing extensive performance-enhancing technologies that include:

- innovative indexing techniques, partitioning schemes, and data warehouse optimizations that deliver unprecedented price/performance;
- specialized decision support indexes that provide users with substantial performance gains;
- industry-leading partitioning that spreads processing over all available resources to expedite query resolution; and
- an exceptional optimizer technology and a high-speed parallel loader for faster availability and access to business-critical information.

No Limits: Scalability

Data continuously grows, and as it does, it becomes more valuable because it gives you more evidence to use as a basis for your decisions. Extended Parallel Server 8.3 can add capacity as you need it, allowing you to manage and plan your growth more cost-effectively. As your queries become more complex and you drill down

into increasingly larger volumes of data to ask harder questions, you need to be sure that you can add processing power to handle increasing data and analysis. This is called *scalability*. Extended Parallel Server 8.3 delivers exceptional scalability and price/performance, measured in terms of maximizing your return on investment with a proven linear relationship between dollars spent and performance gained.

No Limits: Data Volume

Extended Parallel Server 8.3 has the capacity to handle the most dynamic data warehouse environments, and since the capacity is increased with each release, it keeps comfortably ahead of the largest user requirements. There are already many implementations of data warehouses of multiple terabytes on Extended Parallel Server 8.3. Existing customers are planning 30-terabyte-and-larger implementations, which will eventually constitute the largest data warehouses in the world by a considerable margin.

No Compromise: Design

Many data warehouses are optimized to perform with particular schema designs. For some data warehouse users, the star or snowflake schema is optimal, but others require different schemas that may or may not be efficiently supported by a particular server. This can cause a user to have to choose between forcing their data into a sub-optimal design, or having an optimal design with poor performance. This limitation is eliminated with Extended Parallel Server 8.3, which can handle a wide range of schemas.

No Compromise: Accessibility

Any data warehouse can be updated, but many data warehouses can only be updated as background batch processes or as low-impact “trickle feed.” If you want to use your data warehouse in an operational setting, such as an operational data store (ODS), or if you want to use operational data in your warehouse setting, you need a server that can be updated as you are using it. Extended Parallel Server 8.3 enables the administrator to amend and correct data and data structures while analytical work is proceeding. The *parallel everywhere* architecture of Extended Parallel Server 8.3 means that the complete range of database functions can be fulfilled with maximum performance across all available system resources. Two additional features further enhance accessibility:

Minimize Down Time—All Informix servers are built around resilient design principles termed “reliability, availability, and serviceability” (RAS). In the case of Extended Parallel Server 8.3, reliability is taken to another level by its *shared-nothing* architecture that enables the database to be divided into a number of discreet entities, or *co-servers*. Co-servers allow maintenance to be performed while the database is running, and they isolate one section of the data warehouse from the failure of another. Because *parallel everywhere* applies to maintenance tasks as well as query and analysis, maintenance time is significantly reduced, compared to architectures in which multiple processes are competing for serial resources.

Reconfigure Your Data Warehouse

“On the Fly”—Over time, processing loads are not consistent. Peak traffic levels at certain times could benefit from additional hardware or a different hardware configuration than that which is normally optimal. With Extended Parallel Server 8.3, you can add processors and reconfigure the database to take advantage of them without reinitializing. This allows you to take maximum advantage of your hardware investment, and make sure that processing power is always being used where it is most needed.

No Compromise: Platform

Extended Parallel Server 8.3 is available on a wide range of UNIX® platforms. It is also designed to run on a variety of parallel architectures and, through the co-server design, to take full advantage of the special characteristics of these systems. Extended Parallel Server 8.3 can run on Uniprocessor and SMP systems and also on MPP, NUMA, and clustered systems.

The hardware industry changes rapidly, and pricing doesn’t always fall uniformly as new technologies are introduced. If you want to switch from manufacturer A to manufacturer B, Informix will be there for you, so you won’t have to throw away your database design and expertise when you migrate. The removal of limitation to a specific platform means that your investment in the database is protected.

**Administering the Database
from a Web Browser**

The browser-based management tool used with Extended Parallel Server 8.3 is designed to be simple and intuitive to operate. It is structured around the tasks that an administrator is most commonly called upon to perform, but they have access to the full set of commands and can submit SQL statements if and when needed. Procedures can also be built in a scripting language and added to the tool, so that you can develop sets of commands that are issued consistently and automatically to perform routine, site-specific tasks.

**Informix Extended Parallel Server:
a Key Component of Decision Frontier**

Informix's Decision Frontier™ delivers an end-to-end technology suite to serve as the foundation for smarter business intelligence solutions. Decision Frontier accelerates the delivery of both targeted analytic applications and custom solutions in traditional and Web-based environments; it also serves as the foundation for Informix Decision Solution Suite™, a range of complete analytic application solutions across major vertical markets.

About Informix

Informix Corporation, based in Menlo Park, California, provides innovative database solutions that assist the world's major corporations attain competitive advantage. Informix is widely recognized as the technology leader for corporate computing environments ranging from small workgroups to very large parallel processing applications. Informix's database server, application development tools, superior customer service, and strong partnerships enable the company to be at the forefront of major information technology solution areas including data warehousing, high-performance OLTP, and Web/e-commerce. For more information, contact the sales office nearest you or visit our Web site at www.informix.com.



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