

JACKIE'S Forum

IBM Listens! DB2 Web Query Licensing



Jackie Jansen

As many of you know I have spent a significant amount of time recently talking to customers about DB2 Web Query. Overall the reaction has been extremely positive. The two main requests that I have heard are for a change to our named user licensing policy and for better batch support. I can assure you that IBM is listening closely to these concerns. On January 29th IBM announced a solution for the named user licensing concern. Keep tuned for more announcements coming for DB2 Web Query.



Many of you were concerned that you had to specifically name, and pay for, every user that might be viewing reports in DB2 Web Query. One option we looked at was changing to a concurrent user strategy but even with this strategy there are drawbacks. For instance, you would still need to know how many users you have and how many would be on at the same time. In a reporting environment it is common to have one concurrent sales user servicing many sales reps but at month end everyone in finance is often on concurrently. You don't want someone in finance to not be able to do their month end analysis if you don't have enough concurrent user licenses.

We came up with a solution we are calling "Run Time User Enablement" or RTE. You will still need to name your power users/developers who create or edit query definitions, but you will no longer need to name each and every person that simply runs reports. Rather, you will name groups of users with similar interests and security clearances. In theory, if everyone in your company could see every report, you could license one developer and one group user.

That one user license could cover all your employees whether there were one or one thousand, even if they were all signing on simultaneously.

RTE is a feature that will be licensed to a server, based on processor tier. User license pricing won't change except that you will now have far fewer users to license. As previously announced, OLAP and Active Reports are server based, and their charges won't change even though you could be adding tens or even thousands of users. RTE becomes even MORE of a bargain because of the power of OLAP and Active Reports!

With the highly parameterized reporting capabilities of DB2 Web Query, the analytical slice and dice capabilities of OLAP, and the ability to modify and manipulate data with Active Reports there is much less need for users to actually edit reports themselves than with traditional reporting tools. If a user needs to use tools such as Report Assistant then they will still need to be a named user. Basically, developers or "report authors" need to be named users, while end-users running or viewing reports, analyzing, slicing and dicing, sorting etc., may belong to a single group.

Let's look at how this works in a little more detail. In DB2 Web Query we create domains, and within those domains we have folders, and within those folders we have reports. Report security is controlled at a domain level. Within a domain an individual is either a report author or a member of a group authorized to the view and execute the reports, or he/she cannot see the domain at all. All members of a group have the same rights to all folders and reports within their authorized domains. With the "Run Time User Enablement" feature you will only need to purchase a single user license to cover all users who are authorized to all the same domains.

Normally this would imply that the users would all need to be able to see the same data. This isn't necessarily the case. There

are a few ways to authorize different users to see different data while running the same report. For example you might want individual sales reps to see only their own customers. This can be achieved using the GETUSER functionality within DB2 Web Query. It can also be achieved using SQL Views. For more information on the SQL Views technique, see **Gene Cobb's** white paper "Using SQL views and stored procedures with DB2 Web Query". This can be downloaded from www.ibm.com/partnerworld/wps/whitepaper/i5os/db2_sql/security.



A standard way to use this new licensing might be to have all users in Sales with similar report authorities using one user license. Marketing may require access to different reports and therefore they will need a separate user license. Finance might use yet another user license. You will still receive the default number of user licenses that match your processor tier with your initial order of DB2 Web Query. If you purchase option 4, the "Run Time User Enablement" feature, you will be able to use those user licenses as either report authors or as group users. This support is planned to be available March 21 for both V5R4 and V6R1. 

Jackie Jansen is a frequent speaker at System i Technical Conferences and User Group meetings. Contact her at jansen.jackie@gmail.com.