

**Responsive Systems**, a worldwide leader of DB2 performance tools, presents the solution to one of the industries most difficult problems - Determining the cause of sudden performance degradations to your DB2 for z/OS system and applications.

**DIFF** for DB2 is a workstation graphics-based product that utilizes Buffer Pool Tool® data as input for its analysis. **Buffer Pool Tool®** version 8.3 or higher, for DB2 z/OS, is a prerequisite for **DIFF**.

**The software provides** a workstation-based data store of performance data, and allows you to compare any two sets of stored performance data. The compared sets of data can be for a single DB2 subsystem, or an entire **Data Sharing Group**.

## A Problem

A common and difficult problem we face during the constant performance analysis process, is comparing two sets of performance data, and determining if the workloads are similar, or determining the impact and magnitude of differences. Individual subsystems themselves can be quite difficult, and the analysis becomes especially complex when looking at Sysplex environments with dynamic workload balancing. Today's dynamic and competitive business environments demand quick analysis, and the ability to correct performance problems before they impact corporate profitability.

## The Solution

**DIFF** easily finds and highlights **performance** and **workload changes** between two sets of performance data. It uses expert analytic processes find and show you performance changes and presents them with graphic interface that makes it easy to visualize differences such as:

- Performance and Workload shifts are shown at the overall Data Sharing Group, member subsystem, buffer pool, and object levels.
- Is your system using a new buffer pool, or a somewhat different set of buffer pools, or have the getpage intensity and type of access shifted across your pools?
- Is there a significant change of the access/usage of objects?
- Accessing objects that were not utilized in the earlier period?
- Which metrics are higher, and which are lower? Getpages, Updates, Write IO, Read IO, shared object usage across the GBPs?

**DIFF** easily highlights all of these issues, and much more.

## The Management Perspective

Management should be pro-active and support a continual tuning initiative. This makes it easier to react when users complain about performance problems, or critical business functions and jobs take too long. Determining the cause of the performance issue can be difficult. Has the workload grown, applications changed, new jobs come into the environment? When dealing with a Sysplex, the complexity of analysis can be overwhelming. Do you need a processor upgrade, or can system or application tuning help you avoid a processor upgrade expenditure? **DIFF** will show you the reasons for the changes in performance and resource consumption with a few clicks of the mouse. It helps your technical staff give you **the information you need**, quickly and easily.

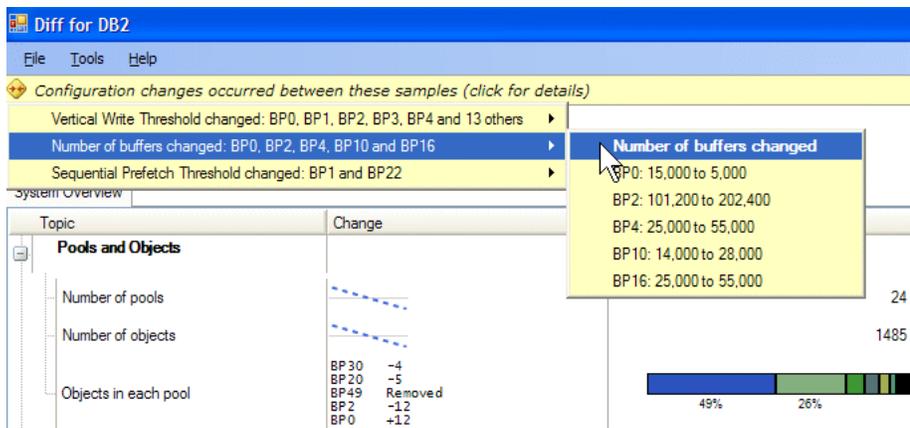
## The Technical Perspective

Performance has degraded, online response times have increased, batch jobs are taking longer, and you are having batch window issues. But everything was great last month! Of course, everyone says that “nothing has changed.” You have quickly ruled out true system changes such as applying APAR’s or PTF’s. There are a large number of possibilities: application changes, new applications, increased workload because of seasonal changes or new geographies, system configuration changes, and z/OS issues like system paging to DASD. It can take days to determine the causes of the performance shift, and this is for a single DB2 subsystem. Add in multiple members for a Sysplex environment, and your life is truly difficult. Are some pieces of your workload moving around and running on different members?

**DIFF** shows you the performance and workload changes, at the Sysplex Group, for each member, each pool, and every object in use. Of course, looking at any single member or subsystem is also easy with a few clicks of the mouse. Navigate through your entire performance world in a few minutes. Your management expects you to answer their questions quickly.



Starting screen shots show that the number of pools in use has changed, and fewer objects have been accessed for the second of the two compared performance periods. The first screen also indicates that the System Configuration has changed. The second screen shot quickly shows that buffer pool configuration parameters have changed.



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