



Query/400 Modernization Services

The DB2 for i Center of Excellence team (part of IBM Rochester Lab Services) consists of a group of highly trained, senior level consultants with over 150 years of combined experience in helping AS/400, iSeries, System i and now IBM i on Power Systems clients with database related consulting services.

In working with clients over the years, we have encountered many situations where the number of Query/400 definitions has grown almost exponentially, resulting in hundreds, if not thousands, of Query/400 definitions stored on the system. Generally very little is known about those definitions, such as which ones are critical, redundant, heavily used or never used. And while Query/400 was and continues to be a popular reporting tool, it's fairly limited functionality has meant that there is a burden on IT staff to support information requests because they are the only subject matter experts that understand the database details required to build a report. So end users are left with a dependency on IT to obtain information, and even then it is often delivered in formats that require even more massaging in spreadsheets to get it into a state that is ready for analysis. One other drawback of the Query/400 reporting environment is its inability to take advantage of the latest DB2 for i query optimization technologies, which can significantly improve performance and offers more options for analyzing and improving poor running queries.

In order to help clients gain the benefits of a more modernized query tool, the IBM Lab Services team has put together a three day on-site "Query/400 Modernization" offering that consists of:

- **DISCOVERY**

This step leverages some in-house tools that the Lab Services team has in their tool bag to gather information about your Query/400 environment, such as number of queries, usage statistics, and information gleaned out of the many query/400 definitions stored on your system.

- **ANALYSIS**

This step takes the data collected in the discovery step and is used to analyze the current environment that feeds into a recommended road map to modernization. Such information about most often accessed tables, join conditions, and frequency of execution can be ascertained.

- **PROTOTYPING**

DB2 Web Query is a very popular IBM i (i5/OS) report writing product with extensions into Business Intelligence applications such as dashboards, On Line Analytical Processing (OLAP), and automated report distribution. Using DB2 Web Query, the IBM consultant will generate a modernized set of reports based upon an agreed to set of Query/400 reports. The IBM consultant will also provide some skills transfer of how the prototype was built leveraging meta data and reporting functions such as OLAP or parameterized reports. Note that this step will require the client to have installed DB2 Web Query (trial code is available).

- **Report Deliverable**

IBM will deliver a report based on the gathering and analysis of the Query/400 reporting environment and provide recommendations and next steps for modernization.

The DB2 for i Center of Excellence Lab Services team looks forward to working with you on building a strategy to modernize your Query/400 environment. For more information, send an e-mail to QU2@us.ibm.com !

