Eccox Application for Parallel Testing v1.8 Update (Eccox APT)

How can DevOps practices help you increase the speed of innovation and business agility on the mainframe?

On April 5, 2022, IBM announced the new z16 mainframe, highlighting two productive and relevant functions: in the security area, the "quantum-safe cryptography," and, in the AI/ML area, an on-chip accelerator. The reasons to continue on the mainframe platform remain firmly on the tripod: Resilience, Predictability, and Security. As previously announced, in the development area, on March/22, IBM emphasized code tests (unitary and integrated), allowing, from the second half of this year, to be carried out in the IBM Cloud. Eccox, with its Application for Parallel Testing (APT), allows an economy of scale on-premise and on-site for integrated tests inside containers inserted in the development, approval, or test partitions. In this way, we remain highly proactive within the mainframe environment. IBM's message is clear about future generations of platform z working on-site and "as a service." Whatever this firmly stated mainframe future, Eccox is poised to make your test environment the most integrated, lowest TTM and economy of scale. It is also worth noting that there is no need for outstanding skills in the mainframe area to work with APT using its Web cockpit.

MAINFRAME ENVIRONMENT CHALLENGES

Migrating or replacing mainframe systems remains a significant challenge. Therefore, companies are looking for hybrid transformation strategies.

> "Mainframe integration is a practical approach to helping you accelerate digital innovation, developing what works to stay ahead of your competitors and connect with the digital world around you," said Nicole Ritchie, Head of Product Marketing. from Software AG Mainframe Integration Solutions.

Investments in mainframe technology also helped alleviate staff shortages. The fact is, it is challenging to recruit engineers who understand legacy technologies. But using Eccox APT technology, customers are finding success in delivering applications quickly and through test automation mats. In particular, most technicians, developers, testers, and managers are using Eccox APT without knowing the Mainframe platform.

The Eccox APT solution offers numerous benefits and support for companies looking to implement a DevOps Pipeline in Mainframe environments, aiming to accelerate the delivery of their products with more agility and obtain better quality in the tests of their applications.

To minimize problems arising from conflicts during the execution of tests, especially when the databases are under constant maintenance, companies appeal to the serialization of tests due to the lack of technology in the management of the test environment. However, it impacts project delivery speed and generates backlogs and many dependencies between the teams involved until reaching the test, costing time and money, not to mention speed, to obtain a return on a product launched on the market.

Eccox APT automates infrastructure preparation processes for tests, enables the reprocessing of a given test, and enables the creation and execution of isolated scenarios through the containerization of applications for testing, managing containers (Test Tracks) using DB2®, VSAM, and Sequential bases, both in Batch and online (CICS® or IMS/DC®), and MQ® Queues on the IBM z mainframe platform.

In addition, the Eccox APT novelties released this year 2022 now allow users to build their hybrid application containers that use data through DB2® bases, facilitating testing and reducing to **zero** conflict in test validation.

The choice of system components to be isolated allows the user to obtain their exclusive Test containers, with cloned components and test masses that meet their specific needs, documenting and transforming the tests into assets, being able to rerun them at any time, with reduced cost. In addition, all test plans and cases are stored in the repository and available for audits and queries or a live model for testing new systems or programs.

NEW ECCOX APT FEATURE:

ECCOX APT® EDGE APPLICATIONS FOR DDF
Isolates access to DB2 via ODBC/JDBC.

Through Applications on a distributed platform executed in an environment that supports DRDA accessing DB2® Data by command with Static SQL on the Mainframe Platform, via DDF – Distributed Data Facility, Eccox APT® allows access to cloned and isolated DB2® Databases instead of the original DB2® Databases.

New in this Eccox APT update:
- ❖ During the cloning phase of the LOAD, DBRM, or PSB objects, when they reside on another LPAR, they will be copied into libraries residing on a shared disk between the LPARs.
- ❖ Complete elimination of an inactive container from the container registry, with the possibility of recovery, similar to the Windows® recycle bin.
- ❖ *DB2 Layout Modifier Framework* feature improvement: the DCL generation of the altered clone table uses the same parameters as the DCL generation of the original table.
- ❖ *DB2 Layout Modifier Framework* feature improvement: layout changes, in addition to the SQL ALTER TABLE command, now accept the SQL DROP TABLE and SQL CREATE TABLE commands.
- ❖ When generating the clone name of a CICS transaction, the product checks that the generated name does not already exist, avoiding conflicts with other components. Better performance and less user interaction.

- ❖ If a transaction receives the message, whether under CICS, IMS or in XML or JSON protocols, the new functionality allows identifying executions to be isolated from the contents of tags selected for the transaction.
- ❖ If a container contains components with a cloning error, a new button allows that container to use only the active components.
- ❖ During the editing and cloning of a JCL, the product also starts editing static SYSIN files that contain IDCAMS commands, changing original names for their clones.
- ❖ A table that does not have access by application programs can be included in the container, and it will be cloned. Useful in a case where the table is used only at the beginning of the job to be unloaded into files using a utility and, at the end of the job, the new content is loaded into the table again using a utility.
- ❖ The product, during its events, starts to record these events in a log, allowing solutions for accounting and generation of usage indicators, construction of graphs, and management reports.

CONTACT

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ABOUT ECCOX

With 30 years of experience in the global software market, Eccox delivers results for clients in the financial market, industry, government, data centers, among others. Its portfolio of solutions and services allows you to reduce the consumption of MIPS/MSUs and increase the availability of IT resources. In line with global trends, Eccox effectively seeks continuous improvement of processes, quality and operational efficiency for its customers.