JCC LogMiner Loader implementation at the Dutch Railway Company

From pilot to mission-critical



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- Replication in the past
- Pilot
- 1-1 replication
- 14-1 replication
- 14-1-1 replication
- 14-1-2 replication
- Mission-critical
- Replication in the future



Replication in the past



VKL

Traffic Control System Characteristics

- OpenVMS + Oracle Rdb
- 13 single-node systems
- 13 databases
- 95% National timetable data
- 5% Local configuration data
- High-frequency small updates
- 13-13 replication
- Custom made with DMQ





PRL

Process Control System Characteristics

- OpenVMS + Oracle Rdb
- 13 single-node systems
- 13 databases
- 90% Regional timetable data
- 5% Inter-regional timetable data
- 5% Local configuration data
- High-frequency small updates
- 1-13-13-1 replication (via VKL)
- Custom made with DMQ





Problems

- Inflexible interface layout
- Hand made Communication Servers for each interface
- Incompatible DMQ/BMQ versions
- Complex handshake and keep-alive mechanism
- Inconsistency between databases
- Very expensive custom made interfaces
- Overwhelming number of interfaces



Some Logical Interfaces

- VKLPRL



Pilot





• Test replication from 2 PRL databases to 1 standalone database



Problems & Solutions

- AIJ not enabled
 - Enable AIJ
- Downtime for each (13) source database
 - Start implementing replication with (single) VKL-database
- No DECNet available
 - Use TCPIP to access RDB\$REMOTE
- Bad performance
 - Tuning of TCPIP buffers
- Conservative user organization against enabling of AIJ
 - Proof, with performance tests, the low impact of AIJ
- No time to test everything
 - Test the rest in production because of low impact



Lessons learned

- No real replication related problems were found
- Hardly noticeable performance impact by AIJ (can be tuned)
- JCC LML had no performance impact at all
- Biggest problem is convincing the user organization of low impact
- Replication with JCC LML is straight forward
- JCC LML comes with scripts for some standard configurations
- Scripts and configuration files are well documented
- Generated configuration files are easy to adjust
- Support by JCC is superb



1-1 replication



Goal

- Replicate production VKL-database 1-1 to VIEW-database
- Convince user organization with stable and low-impact replication







Problems & Solutions

- No formal acceptance for the enabling of AIJ and JCC LML
 - Extend the Pilot to a special production site "Luisterpost"
- Unsupported OpenVMS and Oracle Rdb versions
 - JCC tested and now supports LML on our OpenVMS (7.1-1) and Oracle Rdb (7.0.6.5) versions
- No changes allowed other than enabling AIJ and JCC LML
 - No need to change anything else than enabling AIJ and JCC LML
- 1 obscure 2-pass delete-insert-update transaction was found
 - Small change of index in target database solved the problem
- Bad performance during catch-up after long downtime
 - Tuning of TCPIP buffers and JCC LML Commit Interval



Lessons learned

- No real replication related problems were found
- Biggest problem is convincing the user organization of low impact
- Transactions remain atomic but internal order may be different
- High performance replication under all conditions
- Support by JCC is superb



14-1 replication



Goal

- Add replication of 13 PRL-databases to the VIEW-database
- Convince user organization with stable and low-impact replication







Problems & Solutions

- Still no formal acceptance for the enabling of AIJ and JCC LML
 - Extend the Pilot to first PRL production site "Amersfoort"
- Minimal downtime allowed on each PRL-system (7x24)
 - Create and test scripting for enabling AIJ
 - Combine with planned application upgrades
- Combining with planned application upgrades takes 12 months
 - Start with most interesting sites for follow-up plans



Lessons learned

- No real replication related problems were found
- Biggest problem was convincing the user organization



14-1-1 replication



Goal

- Create VKL and PRL look-alike applications
- Publish them (read-only) on the intranet











Problems & Solutions

- Replication VKL/PRL -> VIEW is not part of the application but application should show movement of trains
 - Let JCC LML send database updates to the application
- User wants to see replication status in the application
 - Use JCC LML's heartbeat mechanism and replicate this to the application
- Communication with other (non-Rdb) sources is done with BMQ
 - Send JCC LML XML-output to JBMQ-gateway



Lessons learned

- JCC LML is very versatile and can be used in many areas
- JCC LML solutions were cheap and quick to implement



14-1-2 replication



Goal

• Create an interface to the first (paying) user





OVR



The Yellow Factory





Railway stations



DRIS Amsterdam Tunneldisplays Amsterdam Centraal

IDRIS Almelo Gecombineerde bus/trein informatie



Trains







Travelers









Problems & Solutions

- TIF is using Oracle "classic" in stead of Oracle Rdb database
 - JCC LML supports Oracle 9i (among others)
- Shareable image ident mismatch due to early Oracle 9.2 version
 - JCC recompiled JCC LML with Oracle 9.2.0.4
- TIF needs data from all VKL and PRL systems
 - Speed up the JCC LML implementation on the PRL systems
- TIF will be Mission Critical and demands high availability
 - Make replication from VKL/PRL via VIEW high available



Lessons learned

- JCC LML comes with scripts for Rdb>Oracle replication setup
- Support by JCC is superb



Mission-critical



Goal

- Make replication of Mission Critical data possible
- Make replication high available



Problems & Solutions

- Replication from one single VKL node is not high available
 Implement VKL system on an OpenVMS cluster
- Replication from 13 single PRL nodes is not high available
 - Implement PRL systems on OpenVMS clusters
- Replication to/from one single VIEW node is not high available
 Implement VIEW system on an OpenVMS cluster
- Implementing OpenVMS clusters will take at least 12 months
 Start with VKL and VIEW systems



Lessons learned

- To be patient
- Implementing replication is very easy, with small amount of effort
- Most of the work is done in other areas



Replication in the future



Goal

• There's no clear goal for future forms of replication, only idea's



Problems & Idea's

- Inflexible, complex, handmade, DMQ/BMQ-based interfaces
 - JCC LML-based replication interfaces could replace them
- Inconsistency between databases
 - Hardly seen with JCC LML
 - Might be corrected by using the Data Pump mechanism
- Overwhelming number of interfaces
 - Number of logical interfaces is reduced by TIF
 - Number of physical interfaces could be reduced by enriching VIEW database with data from other sources



Problems & Idea's (continued)

- Management Information Systems are loaded with old data
 JCC LML could provide "near real-time" data
- VIEW applications are read-only
 - Could JCC LML do something here?
- Do you have any idea's?



Questions?



For more information

- www.oracle.com/rdb
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