

Database Design / Analysis and Design of Programming Methodologies

Programming isn't normally considered a Database Administration function (to a purist) but, in the case of the Progress environment, the method or style of programming can, under certain circumstances, have a major impact on the performance of the database. Part of good DBA practice is to oversee the type of coding style that is going to be installed into the production system (before it is installed). Sometimes this is referred to as 'Code Review' and may be performed by a senior experienced Progress programmer.

As a secondary part of this function, under the constraints of government regulation (e.g. "SOX" aka. Sarbanes-Oxley), a structured method and software package for tracking software installations, and versions of software, is required. This is a necessary part of meeting auditor requirements as well as a good management practice for a DBA.

Garrison Systems has an in-house written application that can be custom modified for your IT department, with a little programming effort, to track application programming changes and versions installed. It is known as AXIS. Other well known commercial packages include packages like Round Table, UNIX sandbox, etc.

As mentioned above, today, this type of work is highly regulated through SOX and it carries with it overly severe punishments that can be inflicted by the federal government. Non-compliance with SOX can actually cause a drop in the company's stock price, if it is openly reported at the stock analyst's meeting.

Notes:

- This work is considered fulltime (as much as 24x7x365) yet can be performed remote (if the network allows outside access) or onsite.
- As always, if the customer can provide current business policies, access to in-house SOX management, etc it will be appreciated. Typically there are company standards already existing about the corporate policy of installing software changes, reporting change, etc. – especially in a large corporation.