DB2SPI

SMART Plug-In for managing IBM's DB2 Universal Database with HP OpenView Operations

Version A.02.08 / B.02.08

Release Notes

What is new with A.02.08 / B.02.08?

Version 02.08 of the DB2SPI has been expanded to support new OVO/Unix 8.0 release and some new platforms while providing the same functionality as with A.02.05 / B.02.05. Key differences are:

- Support of HTTPS agents on the platforms provided with OVO/Unix 8.0.

- Template name spaces can be used now.

- Predefined graphs are available with OVPM.

- A number of defects have been fixed.

The version numbering identifies the functionality level, and as this is "02.08" for both the OVO/Unix and OVO/Windows platforms, we have the same functionality for them.

Note that HTTPS Agents are not provided with OVO/Windows 7.x today.

OVO Platform Requirements

DB2SPI A.02.08 (as well as B.02.08) require either HTTPS agents or the latest DCE agents (Version 7.22 at least) to operate.

If you are operating older versions of OVO agents or even VPO 6.x, you cannot upgrade to this version. We will provide bugfixes and functionality patches for A.02.05 for some time to allow customers to upgrade at a later time to those recent versions.

Functionality Extensions

Metrics Processing: Thresholds and Graphs

Template Name Spaces

Metric collectors can now be operated with variable monitor template names.

Like other DBSPIs, a prefix can be defined for the metric monitors to achieve forwarding of collected values to a different set of OVO templates.

The user only needs to define those OVO monitor templates and create a new schedule template, which starts db2s_dbmon.pl –t <prefix> <metric_list> to take advantage of it.

OVPM Predefined Graphs

A new icon shows up in the "DB2 Tools" application groups named "Predef.OVPM".

This tool acts similar to the "Predef.Graph". It does not use PerfView for the visualization, but OVPM.

It is required to have OVPM installed on the OVO management server.

Bugfixes

Besides some minor typos the following corrections have been made:

[814]   DB2 8.1.4 / 8.1.5 introduced new duplicate keys in snapshot

[822]   nightly maintenance re-start of ATOP server not required any more

[882]   "Free Tablespace" report may divide by zero depending on data

[898]   Tablespace OV Reporter reports mixed data from different databases

[910]   Drilldown datastore grew faster than needed

[912]   OVPM was only able to show data for the first database

[975]   DB2 management tools may abort unexpectedly when selecting nothing

Limitations

We still have only restricted support of ESE / EEE editions of DB2.

Platforms and Internals

Supported Platforms

The platform matrix for the management servers and managed nodes (DB2 servers) has been updated / extended and is provided as a separate document.

Languages Used by the DB2SPI

Perl and more

All primary processing scripts are written in Perl. This makes it necessary to have Perl available on the managed nodes as a prerequisite. The minimum version is Perl 5.6.0, as provided with the OVO 7.x agent and later.

Other requirements

On the management stations CGI (OVO/Unix) and ASP (OVO/Windows) scripts are used to execute the UDM editor, which is web-based.

Manual Changes

The DB2SPI User's Guide has been extended to cover the new or improved areas.

In the appendix we provide the list of processes monitored, and the report templates that are available for OV Reporter.

Other information like the definition of the metrics and of the filtered log file entries can be found in the DB2SPI Reference Guide.

Upgrade A.02.05 to A.02.08 (OVO/Unix)

What is replaced?

The software bundle must be renewed.

We have replaced all configuration data (templates, applications, instrumentation scripts and configuration files). If you should have made changes to existing configuration data, they must be viewed carefully before the upgrade is made:

- Application calls have changed for the Windows managed nodes due to the new user ($AGENT_USER) supported on HTTPS agents.

- Most templates are left unchanged, with the following exceptions:

    - All Schedule templates executing on Windows managed nodes are using the new $AGENT_USER, as the former "HP ITO Account" is not available on HTTPS agents.

What can be preserved?

All configurations that have been made on the managed node ("Config Setup") can be preserved with this upgrade.

Even your metric data that have been stored on Unix managed nodes are preserved and data storage can be continued.

If you have made changes to templates, you should back them up before doing the upgrade. Details have been described above.

Note, that your copies of schedule templates for Windows managed nodes need also to be changed to use the $AGENT_USER rather than the "HP ITO Account".

Upgrade Steps

Prepare Prerequisites

There are no special, preparatory steps required.

Save your old Configuration Data

In the OVO Administrator GUI do the following:

- Make a configuration backup using "Node Bank > Server > Download Configuration" and save the "Templates" that you had modified

Remove older Versions of DB2SPI and ATOP

Use swremove from the command line or GUI to

- Remove DB2SPI and DB2SPI-Doc

Install DB2SPI A.02.08

Install the new package as described in the DB2SPI A.02.08 User's Guide

Reapply changes made to templates via the OVO admin GUI or upload those saved formerly with opccfgupld(1m).

Deploy new Instrumentation and Templates

From the OVO admin GUI, simply distribute "commands", "monitors" and "templates" to the managed DB2 nodes.

Usage Hints

There are no special usage hints with A.02.08 / B.02.08.

Possible Adaptation Needs

Monitoring Log Files

Depending on each customer's usage profile it might be necessary to adapt suppression times in the conditions for logfile templates.

Also, the file size monitors have rather low limits defined (200 kB). It may be desired to increase this size in customer systems.

Metric Threshold Adaptations

The metric thresholds applied in the DB2SPI are based on information found in IBM documentation. In your environment, other values may seem advisable.

Monitoring Processes

The process numbers we are expecting for the various platforms, versions and DB2 editions are based on our experience and IBM documentation.

If you should feel they are inappropriate in your environment, please get in touch with spi-support@nice.de, so we can try to help.

Known Bugs and Problems

The following problems are known to us at the time of delivery of the DB2SPI A.02.08.

- **$AGENT_USER unknown on Windows DCE nodes (ID: none)**

  Symptom:

  Running any application or schedule template fails on Windows managed nodes with DCE agent.

  Reason:

  There is a problem in the OVO DCE agent dealing with the new $AGENT_USER.

  Workaround:

  You may upgrade your managed node to use the OVO HTTPS agent supplied with OVO/Unix 8.0.

  A DCE agent patch will be available from HP in a few weeks, please check the HP support pages.

- **db2s_make_svctree.pl fails if all databases of an instance are excluded (ID: 521)**

  Symptom:

  The service tree does not get updated in all databases of a monitored instance are excluded from monitoring.

  Reason:

  The script executing on the management server does not receive information that there is "no database".

  Workaround:

  None.

- **Instruction Texts missing (ID: 526)**

  Symptom:

  For some events shown in the message browser there are no instruction texts available

  Reason:

  Due to limited resources in the developer team we have not been able to close all gaps until release.

  Workaround:

  None. We are working on an update.

- **Some application output (OVO application window, not ATOP) comes late (ID: 637)**

  Symptom:

For some applications started the output is transferred to the management station very late so the user might feel that the process hangs.

Reason:

Unknown. There is any synchronization problem with the transfer of the output which needs to be identified. This is based in the OVO platform.

Workaround:

Be patient. As we learned, the tools act fine, only their output is affected.

- **Instruction text window opened only after long delay (ID: 661)**

Symptom:

Requesting "Instructions …" from the OVO/Unix message browser takes quite long sometimes.

Reason:

With a highly loaded OVO management server the processing of the instructions repository (an XML file on the management server) takes pretty long.

Workaround:

Be patient. We are looking for performance improvements with the next release by splitting up this information in various files.

- **Diagnostic log files are not monitored (ID: 878)**

Symptom:

The db2s_diag.pl creates error messages in db2spi.log about missing diagnostic log file information.

Reason:

In some environments, the DATABASE MANAGER CONFIGURATION does not provide information about the path for the diagnostic (or administrative) log files and no error is shown during "Config Setup".

Workaround:

Enter these names manually into the …/conf/db2s_diagfiles.cfg and …/conf/db2s_admfiles.cfg. For each instance managed, the FQDN of the respective files must be given.