

DAL: Query Tools and Performance

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TOPIC -----

Does the query tool being used have any impact on response time for a DAL query? We're experimenting with accessing a VTAM server over 3270 data stream using SNA•ps. I'm assuming the results from DataPrism, Clear Access, and GQL would be about the same.

Can I adjust performance any place other than the host or the access method?

DISCUSSION -----

As far as DAL overhead goes, it's the same for the query tools since they all call the same DAL APIS. However, different tools can vary in performance because certain techniques can increase efficiency. For example, asynchronous processing allows you to continue working without waiting for each operation to finish. How efficiently the tools handle results from the query can also affect performance.

It is hoped that commercial vendors of query tools follow Apple guidelines to optimize their tools. Users who develop their own DAL applications using a programming language should have someone with host DBMS expertise provide input during development. Ideally, you should write the application to take advantage of any specific efficiency methods provided by the host DBMS. Choosing the proper Select mode, and taking advantage of the Host Procedures, can improve performance. Refer to the DAL Language Application Developer Guide, available from APDA, for information on these topics.

Tuning DAL and your host DBMS can increase performance of a system, but the amount increased depends on the host DBMS.

The major response time decrease factor would be the network protocol used. 3270 datastreams are much slower than APPC (LU6.2) protocols. If the SNA•ps APPC functionality could be used instead, a noticeable decrease in response time would occur.

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