

## **Database Platform Migration How Ambeo Can Help**

One of the most difficult steps when planning a database platform migration is determining how do you collect the information you need to streamline the migration process? Will you simply port the existing database structures to the new platform or do you plan to redesign the database to fit the use? Either way, Ambeo solutions provide many benefits to help you meet your deadlines and ease the collection of critical usage data about your existing database. The basis of any historical trending analysis is a sufficient foundation of historical information. So the sooner you start collecting existing database usage data, the better your historical trending analysis will be.

### **How other companies have benefited from Usage Tracker during a database platform migration**

Due to two mergers in the last 2 years, a large banking institution needed to integrate several companies' data into a single database platform. They utilized the Ambeo Usage Tracker to identify and clean up unused data and setup indexing based on new user behaviors. They also had a project to implement a CDC strategy and used Ambeo to identify usage patterns to segment the tables with actively used data.

Another customer needed to consolidate information from disparate decision support environments into a single enterprise wide data warehouse. They used Usage Tracker to understand the usage of tables and columns in their existing environments to assure that only useful data is being utilized in the new enterprise data warehouse. They are also used the Ambeo solution to help fine-tune their CRM application.

An international insurance company migrated their Sybase data warehouse to an IBM UDB platform. They used Ambeo to identify usage patterns to assist in defining indexing and partitioning schemes, understand current usage and track user behavior. Usage Tracker was transitioned from the old database platform to the new database platform to continue the performance tuning process, manage user behavior and assist in the education of the users to the new environment (i.e. identifying users that should be, but have not been, utilizing pre-defined aggregates or summarization).

### **How can Ambeo be used to monitor/track usage of an existing database platform to collect information that will assist in the conversion process?**

Usage Tracker Reports can be used to:

- provide system trend analysis
- identify who is using the database
- Identify unused data
- identify power users
- identify potential user training requirements
- address existing application inefficiencies or problem users
- identify applications that are accessing the database
- determine potential application retirement candidates
- identify tables/columns that are candidates for archiving and/or removal
- determine which users are running the long running queries.
- isolate long running queries that potentially have a system impact.
- build summary tables for long running queries that query all detail.
- determine the reason for duplicate queries
- suggest additional or more appropriate tables for access to increase performance
- determine where to place indexes or establish views
- validate and prioritize the data warehouse business rules

- validate or establish local data marts to improve data warehouse performance
- Identify data and users for data marts/cubes
- map out present and future partitions on the disk
- determine whether a near real-time storage strategy is appropriate
- develop aggregation schemas, build summary tables
- ensure aggregates are not being built on dormant/unused tables
- indicate need to normalize or denormalize
- evaluate backup and recovery strategy
- help determine need for data marts/cubes
- assist in capacity planning or resources allocation
- understand hour-by-hour workload on the system
- identify low, average or peak load times
- balance the workload throughout the day by identifying low activity times.
- determine when updates should occur
- identify future bottlenecks to be addressed

**After conversion to the new database platform (in addition to the above benefits), Usage Tracker can be used for ongoing usage management of the database environment to:**

- provide a more complete picture of activity in the database or data warehouse when a user experiences a problem.
- enhance the structural integrity of the database or data warehouse
- help fine-tune performance issues
- manage query volumes
- understand application usage by user ID
- understand user usage patterns and frequency
- ensure aggregates are not being built on dormant/unused tables
- verify that tables have been updated from a user's prospective
- verify frequency and appropriateness of updates
- determine response time of the database environment
- identify threshold limits for SLA or known performance issues
- identify potential bottlenecks
- report on security concerns and verify that roles that have been granted are still appropriate
- provide a mechanism to research the reason for delays in the query start time
- report the health of the data environment
- provide management level reporting on usage and performance in the data environment

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Since 1997, Ambeo's solutions have provided innovative monitoring, data access, performance management and data usage tracking to Fortune 1000 companies with some of the largest database environments in the world. Ambeo's True Zero Overhead™ solutions provide information about how users actually interact with data that would otherwise be largely unavailable or difficult and costly to obtain. By using this information, IT management gains the visibility and understanding of data usage required to proactively manage data environments, maximize database investments, assure data privacy, improve performance and ensure end user satisfaction. [www.ambeo.com](http://www.ambeo.com)