

Spotlight® on Sybase ASE

Visual Root-Cause Diagnostics and Resolution For Sybase

For a busy database administrator, using manual methods to diagnose and resolve every component affecting database performance is nearly impossible. However, without a clear view of I/O and user activity, the DBA learns of performance problems only after bottlenecks form. Spotlight® empowers DBAs by providing every detail needed to quickly identify and eliminate bottlenecks in their Sybase environment.

The Visual Root-Cause Diagnostic Solution

Spotlight, a Windows®-based diagnostics tool for Sybase ASE, features patent-pending technology that displays real-time activity of all database components in a single interface. By displaying the actual processing architecture of Sybase, Spotlight helps you pinpoint the source of problems as they occur and rapidly resolve them. Graphical flows illustrate the rate at which data is moving between database components.

Automatic Problem Detection for Instant Resolution

With Spotlight, DBAs can drill down to details and locate in-depth information about the source of a problem before end users are impacted. And because the run-time nature of each Sybase Adaptive Server is unique, Spotlight offers a unique calibration process that automatically sets a baseline of normal activity for each server. This allows Spotlight to automatically set the speed of the internal flows and other activity indicators and send a visual or audible alert when a threshold is met.

In addition, DBAs can view the most active user sessions, SQL statements, locks, waits and database activity from an overview screen to pinpoint and alleviate problem areas as they occur.

Real-time Display of Database Activity

Spotlight has the unique ability to graphically display Sybase components in real time. The main screen displays components like memory, disk storage and SQL processes. Pulses between these components represent the relative data transfer rate and level of activity.

BENEFITS

- Observe actual database and operating system activity in real time through a unique visual representation of process flows within Sybase
- Monitor all critical components on one screen
- Automatically calibrates alert levels for each Adaptive Server
- Speed time to resolution with proactive identification and root-cause diagnosis of problems
- History Browser allows users to review snapshots of past performance
- Integration with Spotlight on Unix and Spotlight on Windows to monitor the physical server that runs Sybase ASE
- Monitor multiple Sybase Adaptive Servers simultaneously
- Explore database activity:
 - Most active sessions
 - Inefficient SQL, locks and waits
 - Disk I/O
 - Database memory usage
 - Data cache utilization
 - Procedure cache utilization



Detailed Session-tracking Capabilities

The top sessions and session details screens allow DBAs to quickly determine the users who are consuming the most resources. Multiple panels show session details about every aspect of user activity, such as SQL statements, SQL I/O, locks, and waits over time.

System Component Details for Rapid Resolution

Problem Users

One of the most common causes of database performance issues are users consuming an inordinate amount of resources. Long-held locks can block other users from their work. Spotlight alerts you when this occurs and identifies which users are using too much CPU, memory or I/O and which users are being blocked, often before complaints begin.

History Browser

The History Browser component of Spotlight on Sybase ASE allows DBAs to review snapshots of past performance. This pinpoints where and when a problem occurred, helping to prevent it from re-occurring.

Host Monitoring

Integrates with Spotlight on Unix and Spotlight on Windows to monitor the physical server that runs Sybase ASE. Spotlight on Sybase ASE drilldowns can launch Spotlight on Unix or Spotlight on Windows, as needed.

Memory Analysis

Spotlight monitors and measures procedure cache, data cache, meta-data cache, and user and executable memory to give an overview of how your memory is allocated.

CPU Utilization

In addition to monitoring CPU utilization, Spotlight provides detailed graphical information on the amount of time spent on system and user related tasks by the Sybase ASE Engine.

Services Not Running

Spotlight alerts you when critical services are not running. For example, when the Sybase Backup Server isn't running, critical jobs such as backups will not be executed.

About Quest Software, Inc.

Now more than ever, organizations need to work smart and improve efficiency. Quest Software creates and supports smart systems management products—helping our customers solve everyday IT challenges faster and easier. Visit www.quest.com for more information.

Other Quest Solutions for Sybase

- Quest Central for Sybase is an integrated suite that combines diagnostics (Spotlight on Sybase ASE) with SQL Tuning to help DBAs manage complex environments and simplify daily tasks.
- Foglight® provides unattended, 24x7 database monitoring and offers thresholds for event notification, historical reporting and proactive fix-it scripts. Integrate with Spotlight on Sybase ASE for problem diagnosis.
- Benchmark Factory for Databases is a performance and scalability testing solution that tests the limits of your database – before you go live with application, platform or software changes

System Requirements

- PC client with Windows 2000, 2003, 2008, XP, 7 and Vista
- Sybase ASE 11.9.2 or later



5 Polaris Way, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 | PHONE 800.306.9329 | WEB www.quest.com | E-MAIL sales@quest.com

If you are located outside North America, you can find your local office information on our Web site.

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