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## Industry: Retail

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## Customer: Wakefern

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### A Leader in Food and Beverage Retailing

The best user applications exemplify a solid foundation grounded in top quality design, code and testing. All of these areas pose their own set of challenges. Wakefern Food Corporation is the largest retailer owned cooperative of supermarkets in the U.S. with store brands including ShopRite, Price Rite, and The Fresh Grocer.

Early on they realized that testing required having good test data. IBM's Db2, their main data store, is a complex and feature rich RDBMS. They found that the UBS Hainer solutions BCV4 and BCV5 supported their Test Data Management (TDM) needs and allowed them to take advantage of Db2's newest features and to add some much needed enhancements.

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### Cutting Edge Approach to Test Data Provisioning

The ability to clone a complete Db2 database for either PeopleSoft or in-house applications with BCV4 in less than a half a day is a major plus. Equally important is the ability to use Imagecopies or Master Copy to serve as a refreshing source for selected tables running on multiple testbeds or for test reruns.

It is often more efficient to customize subsets of a database for smaller testbeds for either different application groups or special purposes. Wakefern's pre-BCV5 approach was a traditional hands-on labor-intensive process of extracting and refreshing data. UNLOAD/LOAD were used extensively. There were always referential integrity issues to be dealt with to get usable test data. BCV5's intelligent automation reduced much of the workload and pressure from the technical staff, while eliminating the unavoidable keystroke errors. Having all the necessary jobs to extract and refresh Db2 tables at the click of a button was a significant productivity boost. Once the technical staff had setup the jobs that needed to be run they were able to allow users (development, maintenance and QA staff) to run these themselves. Oversight replaced the boring and repetitive task of creating, running and monitoring the TDM requests. What used to take days to accomplish was reduced to hours and often minutes, and required much less hardware and staff resources. Repairs and outdated data became part of the past.

Wakefern not only obtained the value offered by BCV4 and BCV5, it also gained access to an excellent response technical team. The best product is only as good as the technical support

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### Cutting Edge Approach to Test Data Provisioning (Continued)

behind it. As Wakefern integrated these products into their procedures they discovered new and more efficient paths to getting their work done. They leveraged the access to experienced vendor specialists to help them obtain the greatest benefit from the products.

The ability to create master copies (clones) on demand was a key to being able to maintain the test data fresh and up to date for the user community. Equally important is the ability to refresh only those tables that needed it. Having different application groups being able to reuse the same data over and over again has proven a real boom to quality testing both across groups and for QA integration testing.

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### User Comments

Nothing speaks better to the value of having well supported power tools that ease work than hearing it from the staff that support the data infrastructure:

“We didn’t really refresh the entire environment or did a so called boutique refresh for a few tables before getting the products. We had no way to really do it efficiently before. It was all a manual process. We basically used UNLOAD/LOAD to refresh tables and always had to deal with RI issues and do repairs.” Dale Frieriep, Project Manager – Database Administration

“BCV4 and BCV5 make it an effortless straightforward task to create clones as needed and to refresh selected tables from either a production FlashCopy or imagecopies.” Bob Filo, Db2 DBA

“For the main production environment (8 terabytes) and Peoplesoft (600 gigabytes) using imagecopies, the time required has dropped from usually two plus days to about half a day without all the problems we used to have with RI, catalog renames, repairs and index rebuilds. If we use VSAM sources the time is reduced even more.” Bob Filo, Db2 DBA

“The vendor support team is the creme de la creme or top notch. Not only do we receive timely responses to question, but they are on target and in a plain easy English to understand. That is truly refreshing.” Dale Frieriep, Project Manager – Database Administration

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## User Comments (Continued)

“The more you use the products the more they become like second nature. The rules, the warnings, the terminology they all make sense. An added benefit is that we have elevated our knowledge and understanding of our environment.” Bob Filo, Db2 DBA

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## The Bottom Line

By seamlessly integrating BCV4 and BCV5 into their TDM procedures, Wakefern has been able to provide the development, quality control and auditing teams with the quality test data needed to their jobs. Turn around times and required resources were minimized while the quality, consistency and integrity of the data was optimized. Most importantly experienced staff has been freed up to pay attention to other critical tasks.

“Intelligent automation, intuitive user interface, effective help screens, excellent data integrity, performance and reliability have made our life easier and more productive.” Bob Filo, Db2 DBA