



## A P P L I C A T I O N   B A C K U P   C E N T E R

# ADVANTAGES OFFERED BY APPLICATION BACKUP CENTER (ABC)

### Overview

The Application Backup Center (ABC) allows the installation to easily and effectively implement IBM's Aggregate Backup and Recovery Support (ABARS) methodology. Using ABARS, backups can be based upon the individual requirements of each application, providing significant advantages over traditional data center backup techniques.

The Application Backup Center simplifies the most difficult tasks associated with ABARS implementation and makes the use of ABARS practical.

### Policy-Based Assignment of Aggregates.

ABC receives control whenever data sets are created, extended or opened, and invokes Aggregate Selection Rules to assign the data set to one or more SMS aggregate groups based upon installation-defined policies for backup. The assignment of data set to aggregates is centrally controlled by the storage administrator, without the need to depend upon time-consuming and error-prone manual analysis. Utilities are also provided to scan SMF data, JCL libraries and VTOCs, and use the Aggregate Selection Rules to assign data sets to the SMS aggregate groups.

### ABACKUP Log Management.

The ABARS activity logs are crucial in recovering data from aggregate backups, particularly at a disaster recovery site. ABC automates the management of aggregate backup output, automatically compressing and copying the activity logs and instruction data sets into a log repository. With ABC, the complete

### ABC FEATURES

#### VOLUME-ORIENTED RECOVERY FUNCTIONS

- Automated generation of FDRABR/DFSMSshm volume backup/restore JCL
- Automated generation of ICKDSF volume INIT control statements

#### APPLICATION ANALYSIS FUNCTIONS

- Customizable reports on datasets and applications
- Report on datasets belonging to multiple applications
- Obtain dataset information from JCL/SMF
- Support for job scheduling statements in JCL
- Support for jobs created through dynamic JCL
- Obtain dataset information from VTOC analysis
- JCL analysis does not require job submission

#### CRITICAL DATASET IDENTIFICATION FUNCTIONS

- Flexible ACS-like selection language to define applications
- Administrator can dynamically create or change selection criteria
- Masking capability for datasets with dates in name
- Identify datasets allocated but never opened
- Identify datasets belonging to concatenations
- Over 300 variables available to control selection criteria

#### AGGREGATE BACKUP FUNCTIONS

- Automatically generate aggregate selection datasets
- Existing selection criteria can coexist with ABC selection
- Automated split of aggregates based on size (logical aggregates)
- Logical aggregates can use existing selection datasets and DSN masking

#### LOG MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS

- Aggregate activity logs automatically captured without intervention
- Complete activity log (not a subset) kept in log repository
- No limit on number of activity logs in repository
- No limit on number of datasets or backup/recovery errors recorded
- Interface to Quick-Ref, for easy identification of backup/recovery messages
- Activity log repository may be maintained on/transferred to PC
- ISPF interface allows log browse, analysis and ARECOVER commands
- GUI application allows continuous access to activity logs

#### AGGREGATE RECOVERY FUNCTIONS

- Generate ARECOVER jobs from backup activity logs
- Unlimited number of ARECOVER logs tracked
- Individual dataset recovery from aggregate backups, including DSN masking
- Allow ARECOVER even if tape management catalog is out of sync
- GUI-based tape inventory system eliminates manual racking/logging of tapes
- Missing tapes/unrecoverable aggregates identified via tape inventory

#### LOAD BALANCING FUNCTIONS

- Automatically break up large aggregates
- Divide aggregate by number of data sets
- Divide aggregate by size of data sets

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activity log for any backup is always immediately available, eliminating confusion and saving valuable time during a disaster. ABARS provides few facilities for tracking the completion of ABACKUPS or their associated backup tapes. With the log management ISPF and Windows GUI-based applications, storage administrators can instantly determine the status of any aggregate backup, generate a summary report, list the backed up data sets, obtain tape pull-lists, view instruction data sets, and generate recovery JCL to restore entire aggregates or individual data sets.

### Load Balancing

If multiple output aggregate names are specified on the ABC aggregate generation job, the product will perform load balancing. Load balancing allows multiple ABACKUP commands to be performed simultaneously to improve backup throughput. If you have a large application to backup and a tight backup window, load balancing can optimize the backup time. ABC can load balance an aggregate using the space information on the selected disk data sets, or split the aggregate based on the number of include cards used in the aggregate.

### The Disaster Recovery PC

In a real disaster, your organization may only have the available off-site tapes and a set of recovery procedures. The tape inventory (ABC/TI) and log man-

agement (ABC/LM) applications are 32-bit Windows PC programs designed for the recovery site to assist in the recovery process. The disaster site is the ultimate test of your disaster recovery procedures. Having a PC loaded with current log repositories is a great insurance policy. Not only do you have an off-line copy of all the logs required for recovery, you also have an application that can run outside the host environment. Personnel can be viewing instruction data sets on flights to the recovery site, and building recovery jobs long before the host system is available.

ABC/TI is a PC based tape inventory and management system designed specifically for the disaster site. This application uses bar code readers to scan and map the tape library.

The product also contains many tape management features oriented for a disaster recovery site. While ABC/TI would never be used as a tape management system in a production environment, DTS recommends configuring and experimenting with the system before you get to the recovery site.

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