



z/OS Operational Issues addressed by eventACTION

eventACTION is a comprehensive event tracking product that can help you pro-actively manage your z/OS environment with real time capture of any change, reference, or execution to any system level data.

eventACTION includes the following.

Change Tracker automatically and transparently tracks and records all changes to defined data sets down to a member level, regardless of what program was used to make the changes.

Change Manager is used to control changes, according to criteria specified by you; ensures that any changes are logged / documented in a change request, and optionally, approved.

Unlike other change management products, eventACTION does not require the use of specific tools to make changes. It works transparently regardless of the tools used, so that all changes made are tracked, providing a comprehensive picture.

Command Manager allows an installation to track and/or control operator commands; provides capabilities similar to Change Tracker / Manager for operator commands. Since an operator command can implement a change, this is an important control point.

Reference Tracker allows an installation to track all references to defined data sets and PDS members; and can be used for library cleanup, program usage measurement and product execution control.

With its numerous other features (such as a unique side-by-side compare utility, automatic batch job scheduling, extensive reporting functions, and flexible backup/recovery options) eventACTION is a self-contained and fully integrated management solution to provide dynamic change tracking, control, and distribution for single or multiple site MVS systems.

Some operational examples.

Compliance for z/OS: With Change Tracking and Control you can track changes in the z/OS systems area, prevent unauthorised or uncontrolled changes from being made in the systems area, and satisfy your auditors that all changes have been recorded. Only eventACTION's unique tracking and management capabilities allow your organisation to be certain that all changes were tracked and that no unauthorised changes bypassed your Change Management System/Controls. With the data collected and the Reporting facility you will have a secure and complete audit trail. Changes to the datasets in the dynamic in-storage z/OS system lists, ie APF, LINK, LPA and PARM list can be automatically tracked and controlled.

Asset Management: By defining major load modules, JCL procedures or TSO clists to the Reference Tracking by Member facility, eventACTION will track each access to these members telling you who accessed it and how many times, from which system, out of which library. Such information will keep you abreast of the usage of old, new, or test versions of products. By also defining the main product load modules to Product Execution Control, you can ensure that products are run where they are licensed to be run; if not, you can warn the user, terminate the execution of the product, or simply send a message to an administrator via email.

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Command Manager: Operator commands can be defined to the Command Tracking and Control facility to track who is issuing certain commands, when are they being issued and from where such as TSO, Batch, or operator console. The tracking information is stored in the database so that incidents can be more easily investigated. Commands may also be controlled so that they may only be issued from a console or through Batch or TSO; as well, they can be defined as RACF resources so that a user would need the proper authority to issue a specific command. This facility is particularly useful for managing the use of the 'SET' command.

Batch Job Scheduling: Users may schedule batch jobs of any type, not just eventACTION-related jobs, to be run on a periodic basis or a one-time basis. This facility can be used by support groups to run non-production batch jobs in an easy-to-use manner without the rigorous controls of a production application environment. For example, technical support staff can use this facility for scheduling SMP/E, system cloning or building, or storage analysis jobs overnight and emailing them the output.

Compare Utility: The Compare Utility has a unique side-by-side display facility for pointing out differences between files. It can be used online to compare members of libraries or eventACTION backups of members. It can compare all or a subset of the members of two different libraries to indicate which members are the same or different. This utility can be used to investigate problems, to see how something was last changed, or to see how one system library may differ from another. In batch mode, entire volumes may be compared or sets of datasets via the catalog.

Library Cleanup: Reference Tracking of datasets at a member level allows you to see what members within a library have not been referenced for a period of time; it may now be safe to delete these members from a library.

Cross-site Communication: The LULU component of eventACTION allows communication between two eventACTION databases or changeplexes but is not limited to only local site access. For instance, you can compare the contents of a system resident volume in one city to a volume in another city. You can define change requests for another site through this facility as well.

At the end of the day eventACTION provides:

- System controls to assist in z/OS compliance
- Complete / secure audit trail
- Basis for software asset management
- Assure Software providers that their products only run on licensed systems
- Powerful compare facility
- Reporting for all data thru online, batch, email, scheduled
- Investigate 'incidents' realtime (changes, program usage, operations)
- Repository for z/OS system data
- Interfaces to your current processes & procedures

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