

*April 2001*

**Issue 5**

# NEWS

## What's the Latest?

The current release of Change Action is 6.03. The following section describes some of the highlights, changes, and enhancements included in Change Action releases 5.10 through 6.03 (released December 2000).

For a complete list of all of new features and enhancements included in the current Change Action release 6.03, contact Action Software and ask for the "What's New in Change Action?" summary document.

### Release 5.10 Highlights

The following features and enhancements were included in Change Action release 5.10.

- > Change request template support has been included to allow users to create unique skeletons for change requests based on pre-defined options or change request information.
- > A new "T" primary command has been added for the user to access the new "List of Change Request Templates" panel.
- > Baseline change information can be included in a change request template, with detailed information, such as the proposed date/time of a planned change, being entered when a new change request is created from an existing template.

Optionally, change request templates can also be created with a pre-defined approval status.

- > For tracking and control options, OID options settings can now be propagated to one or more other Owner/Resource IDs using a new PROP primary command in Change Action.

This provides the administrator with the ability to modify or add tracking and control options to multiple OIDs quickly and easily.

- > The third beta version of SVCUPDTE tracking is included.

This version of SVCUPDTE tracking now supports:

- SVC table changes made without the use of SVCUPDTE;
- ESR SVC table changes;
- SVC table changes made before Change Action has been initialized.

### Release 6.00 Highlights

Some of the major new features included in release 6.00 follow.

- > General availability of the SVC update tracking feature.
- > DFSMSHsm function level tracking and control.
- > Beta version of TestAction.
- > Changes were also made to the change request processing options to optionally suppress messages generated by change requests.

Also, users can now directly enter datasets for Reference Tracking, as well as Reference Tracking by Members, directly from a change request. Users can simply enter either the RT or RTM primary command on the DS panel.

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## **Release 6.01 Highlights**

Some of the key features included in this release of Change Action follow.

- > Change Action now tracks changes even when the Change Action started task has been stopped. Please note that Panvalet, ROSCOE, or Librarian users must install the new version of the Change Action exits for these products to take advantage of this functionality.
- > The beta release of Change Action's "Command Tracking and Control" component is included, which allows administrators to implement control options on commands issued from operator consoles, TSO, batch, or started tasks.
- > Program Execution Tracking support has been updated to include support for tracking the execution of JES2 Procs, TSO Clists, and REXX Execs.
- > Enhancements to the Compare Utility have been made to the batch volume compare options to allow the user to define INCLude and EXCLude control cards.
- > All job definitions for reports, batch jobs, ELI jobs and LULU now include support for Change Action "Selection Templates".

## **Release 6.02 Highlights**

The following functions and feature were included in Change Action release 6.02.

- > Change Request options are now provided to allow the administrator to define if:
  - multiple changes per change request are allowed;
  - if dataset names can be masked;
  - and specifying if the REINIT command can be used.
- > New subtypes for external logging have been added, including *Subtype OA* for updates to dataset options at a dataset level, and *Subtype OB* for updates to dataset options at a member level.
- > The RACF interface for the "Command Tracking and Control" component has been improved to allow the definition of which users can update a specific entry for a command definition, and which users can add, modify, or delete entries in the Change Action command definition table.

- > Change Action messaging for *change request approval* messages and *changes made to datasets* messages can now be sent via email instead of the standard TSO SEND command.

## **Release 6.03 Highlights**

Change Action version 6.03 is the current and most recent release of the product. It includes all of the new features and enhancements provided in releases 5.10 through 6.02.

The major new feature and enhancements included in release 6.03 are:

- > ISPF edit can be used to modify the implementation instructions (II) and manual backout instructions (IB) for a change request.
  - > In the Reference Tracking and Reference Tracking by Member options, a new option has been included to limit the amount of data that will be recorded in the Change Action database.
  - > A new batch utility has been provided to allow users to copy and/or clear datasets created by the External Logging task.
- For more detailed information about this release, or any prior Change Action release, contact your Action Software International representative.

## **Program Execution Tracking**

Change Action's Program Execution Tracking (PET) facility can be used to determine which modules and programs are being executed, along with statistical counts of how many times the module *is* actually executed.

PET tracking is performed on modules that are executed using the ATTACH service of OS/390, JES2 Procs, TSO Clists, and REXX Execs.

Program execution counts are provided by module name and tracking interval.

The PET component of Change Action is also dynamically integrated with the Reference Tracking by Member (RTM) component.

This allows authorized users (such as a Global or OID Administrators) to enter the selected entry directly onto the RTM component for more detailed tracking by Change Action.

With Change Action's *Program Execution Tracking, Reference Tracking, and Reference Tracking by Member* features, detailed

information regarding what is used, how often it is used, and where it is executed from can be easily determined.

## Command Tracking and Control

Do you have a need to monitor, track, or control operator commands that are being issued? Change Action's Command Tracking and Control component can provide control and logging of operator commands that are issued via:

- operator terminals;
- TSO;
- batch jobs or started tasks.

Using Command Tracking, the task of searching SYLOGS to try and determine which commands were entered, when, and by whom, becomes a thing of the past.

Change Action's Command Tracking logs all defined commands, and provides an easy to use interface to filter command information stored in the Change Action database, process queue, free queue, or external records dataset, all using standard product masking functions.

```

C/Act 6.02 ---Cmd. Tracking & Control : LOG ----- Row 1 of 128
COMMAND =>                                     SCROLL => CSR
                                                00.208 00/07/26 15:09
Input (specify DS or DB or PQ or FQ) ==> DB
DSN ==> MZ.RE.EXTLOG3                               Num. Of DB Blocks = 10

Line          Job/Cons          Program          Rej/
Cmd  Command  Orig Name  Userid  SMFid Name  Date/Time  Warn
*   *       *   *   *   *   *   *   *   *   *   *
-----
MODIFY  BAT   MZ2CCT  MZ05   CSCT  IEBCV0CX  20000726/14:37 OK
DISPLAY TSO   MZ02   MZ02   CSCT  IEBCV0CX  20000726/14:34 OK
MODIFY  BAT   MZ2CCT  MZ02   CSCT  IEBCV0CX  20000726/11:24 OK
  
```

Figure 1 - Command Tracking and Control LOG Display

Using Change Action's masking features, searches for entered commands can be easily found and filtered by:

- command name;
- origin or command source;
- job or console names, or
- SMFid.

Full details of command information can be displayed by scrolling the screen RIGHT to view the parameters entered.

Definition of entries into the Command Tracking and Control component can only be performed by users with sufficient Change Action Administrator authority, as well as optional RACF authority.

Command names, types, operands, origin, and action, (including notification of defined userids) can all be included as part of the command control definition.

For more detailed information regarding the Command Tracking and Control component of Change Action, refer to the Change Action Administration Guide version 6.03.

## TestAction™ 6.03

TestAction™ Version 6.03 is a highly sophisticated systems management and testing tool. With TestAction™, users can override or redirect the name of a load module, JCL procedure, TSO Clist, or REXX Exec to another source at the time of execution.

With TestAction™, processes for unit testing, integration testing, systems testing, or regression testing of key critical systems or components can be performed without the requirement of making major changes or overrides.

By minimizing changes that have to be made to system environmental components (*such as JCL, object libraries, PROCLIBS, load libraries, dataset concatenations, etc.*) simply to support the testing and verification processes, site and system managers can benefit from knowing that only what needed to be overridden and tested was actually done.

Full logging of all entries in TestAction™ is performed, with only defined and authorized users having access to define or modify the TestAction™ rules.

Within TestAction™, users can define rules to specify and override or redirect specific or selected:

- object names;
- library names;
- volume ids;
- concatenation sequences;
- effective start date and time;
- rule expiry date and time;
- detailed logging and tracking options;
- operating mode (*active, simulated, or suspended*);
- and, rule owner and contact information.

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Additionally, User Group name definitions can be provided to define the specific userids within a user group which will be the only ones impacted or redirected to the TestAction™ rule.

This very powerful feature allows testing groups or staff to be the only ones impacted, authorized, or processed by the new rule definition.

For example, in a case where an pseudo-production trial run or systems test needs to be performed, a new testing rule, based on a program override or program redirect, with a single defined userid in a User Group can run the selected or specific test, with minimal impact to the other components, or other test system users.

Users creating the TestAction™ rules can also specify the host SMFids for where the rule is to be activated. This allows rules to be specifically identified for execution on a test system or test environments only.

TestAction™ is available as a separate component from Action Software International. For more detailed information regarding TestAction™ and its functions and features, please contact your Action Software International representative.

### Check Your MAXCAD Settings!

There is an option in PARMLIB called MAXCAD which refers to the maximum number of common dataspace allowed on an MVS system.

This is usually not specified by the users, and defaults to a value of 25. Under normal circumstances, this is generally considered enough.

However, on an IMS/DB2 system, it is possible that you may run out of common data spaces which are configured for your system.

With Change Action release 6.03, Change Action now requires 3 data spaces to be allocated. If there are none available when Change Action starts up, Change Action itself will not come up and will require an IPL to change the "MAXCAD=" value in PARMLIB.

We recommend changing the setting for MAXCAD to 50 as soon as possible, so that the next time your system is IPL'd, the new value for the data space setting will take effect. This way you can avoid any possible impact to your

system. Also, this problem can carry over to other MVS products or systems, as data space allocation is handled on a "first-come, first-served" basis.

### Change Action for USS Beta Available!

Change Action for USS is a separately chargeable product available for beta release in June 2001.

Change Action for USS will track changes to Hierarchical File System (HFS) files under the OS/390 USS (UNIX System Services) system.

The product will look very similar to Change Action for MVS except that dataset and member will be replaced by path and file name.

The first phase of this product release will record changed data, statistics, and allow compare, reporting, and restoration of HFS format files.

The next phase will concentrate on the controls and reference tracking functionality of managing and controlling HFS files in an OS/390 USS systems environment.

If you would like to participate in the beta test for Change Action for USS, contact your Action Software International representative.

### Contact Information

If you require more detailed information about Change Action, TestAction, or Change Action for USS, we can be reached at:

**Action Software International**  
**20 Valleywood Drive, Suite 107**  
**Markham, Ontario**  
**Canada, L3R 6G1**

**Phone: (905) 470-7113**

**Fax: (905) 470-6507**

**E-Mail: [Change@ActionSoftware.com](mailto:Change@ActionSoftware.com)**

**Web Site: [www.ActionSoftware.com](http://www.ActionSoftware.com)**

**In Europe, contact Action Software GmbH at:  
+41 41 754 5088**

Address correspondence to: The Editor at Change Action News.

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