

## **eventACTION and ussACTION Release Notes – Version 8.02**

### **z/OS System List Management (formerly Dynamic Dataset Definition Facility)**

This is the facility that automatically defines the datasets listed in the APF, LINK, and LPA lists and parmlib concatenation to the Change Tracking and Control facility of eventACTION.

This facility has been enhanced and is now called the z/OS System List Management facility. It is accessed via the SLM option on the Global Options menu panel. The old Dynamic Dataset Definition Facility that was accessed via the Global Automatic Scheduling Parameters has been removed from that panel.

The new facility continues to have the ability to automatically define resources from z/OS system lists to eventACTION, but with more flexibility. In addition, the new facility has the ability to send out a notification that a change to a system list has been detected. Also, support for the z/OS system symbols list has been added for notification of a change to the list (but not for automatic options definitions, since the symbols are tracked as a set rather than individually).

### **Highlights of New Features in z/OS System List Management**

Each supported system list now has its own individual set of options and rules, divided between notification options and automatic definition rules.

The automatic definition rules now allow you to specify any OID as owner of the dataset definitions for change tracking and control. These dataset definitions can also have their unique set of Dataset Options, overriding those of the OID. Also, further qualifying rules may be defined so that dataset names can be defined under various OIDs such that all the datasets of a single system list no longer need to be defined to just one single OID.

Notification messages when a change to one of the supported lists is detected is a brand new feature. Notifications are of two types:

1. Simple TSO-style message indicating at what time a change was detected for a certain list; this message can be sent to a usergroup and the messages can be sent as emails if the userid options are defined to receive such emails.
2. Detailed email messages indicating at what time a change was detected for a certain list plus information to document the actual changes within the list. The details of the list content changes are generated by using the eventACTION compare utility to compare the most recent two backup copies for the affected z/OS system list. The backup copies are stored with the information recorded under the pseudo-dataset .ENVIRONMENT found in the Datasets Changed facility.

### **System Symbol Tracking**

SLM adds support for tracking z/OS system symbols and their values. Symbol changes made using the IBM-supported operator command (new in z/OS 2.1):

```
SETLOAD nn, IEASYM
```

are tracked immediately as they occur. Changes made using other methods such as the deprecated SYMUPDTE utility are detected on a scheduled basis, by default every 3 minutes. An smfid-SYM entry is created in the .ENVIRONMENT pseudo-dataset to show the time of the change and the contents of the symbol table at that time. SLM provides notification support for changes to the system symbol list.

## Considerations

Please refer to the Administration Guide and HELP panels for additional information on the use of this new z/OS System List Management facility. If you have been using the Dynamic Dataset Definition Facility then all the dataset names defined automatically by DDDF will remain unaffected, and the OIDs .APF, .LINK, .LPA and .PARM will continue to be used the default OIDs for their respective lists.

**It is strongly recommended** that all your systems in the ChangePlex, i.e., all systems sharing the same database (typically a sysplex), be running eventACTION 8.02 or higher before any alterations are made under the new SLM facility pertaining to the automatic definition of datasets to change tracking and control. The change notification options may be activated at any time since this is a new process; please review the dataset options for .\* under option O (Datasets Defined) to be sure that backup copies are retained on the database and kept for a long enough period of time to reflect your typical change cycles.

## ussACTION System Symbol Substitution

ussACTION directory definitions for change tracking and control can now contain z/OS system symbols in the directory names. These symbols are substituted when the definitions are loaded to create resolved name entries. Symbol substitutions are re-driven whenever a symbol table change is detected (see System Symbol Tracker above for details).

## ussACTION Directory Definitions

The LD line command has been expanded to limit the level searching. Use line command nLD, where n is a number from 2 to 8, to limit the number of directory levels being searched.

## ussACTION Reference Tracking by Directory

On the Directory definitions panel, the SHow line command will display the full directory name on multiple lines below the current entry.

The Select/Reference display will always display up to three references. The Shift Right primary command has been removed. The file name will be displayed on a line by itself so that more of the file name can be shown. The Show line command will now display the full file name on multiple lines below the current entry.

Note: The SHow line command will not do anything if the full directory name or file name are already displayed.

## Access Control for eventACTION ISPF Application

Some sites wish to control which users may access eventACTION. eventACTION now supports controlling access to its ISPF application using the system's security product (RACF, TSS, ACF2, etc.).

To activate this control, define resource MZCA.USER in the FACILITY class, and give access to this resource to the users who should be able to use eventACTION. Give UPDATE access to allow the users normal access, or READ access to give them read-only access to eventACTION.

Notes:

1. If the MZCA.USER resource is not defined to the security system, any user can access eventACTION in update mode.
2. If your site has defined the \$MZCA resource class (not recommended for sites that have not already done so), then MZCA.USER must be defined under \$MZCA instead of FACILITY.



## Special Considerations for CA Top Secret and CA ACF2 Users

Because CA Top Secret and CA ACF2 disallow access to resources that have not been defined to security, access checks for resource MZCA.USER will return a "no access" indication if resource MZCA.USER has not been defined. As a result, **sites that use CA Top Secret or CA ACF2 must define resource MZCA.USER.** Otherwise, no users will be able to use the eventACTION ISPF application. If you do not want to restrict access to the eventACTION ISPF application, then define resource MZCA.USER as described above, and give the resource a universal access of UPDATE.

## Backup Authorization

Backups can only be initiated by a Global Administrator, OID Administrator, or someone with UPDATE access to the specified dataset. This restriction includes the MZCBKUPS program.

## Restore Authorization

Users who only have READ access to the eventACTION database can now issue a RESTore command against a backup to restore to an existing dataset without getting a database access violation. Users must still have UPDATE access to the target dataset for the restore.

## Pre-loading Backup Data

Issuing the BKP line command in the Dataset Options panel against an entry which has a mask will create a new table consisting of all matching real datasets. You can then issue BKP line commands on any entry or entries, or enter DO BKP on the primary command to instruct the Daily job to take a backup of all the datasets.

## Member Changes

If there is not enough memory to display all the table entries, a message is produced and the tables are freed to avoid S878 abends. If you encounter this message, then use masking to reduce the amount of data presented.

## Database Percentage Level Warnings

Each database can now have its own warning utilization level where a message or email will be issued.

## MZCXSTAT

This program will also show the percentage of each database in use.

## Info/Management Interface - Default Changed

The eventACTION Info/Management interface task will no longer be started by default, since most sites do not use the Info/Management product. Sites that do use Info/Management interface now need to explicitly indicate that they want the Info/Management interface task to be started. To activate the interface, add the following line to the MZCPRMxx parmlib member used to start eventACTION:

```
INFOMAN=YES
```

## Withdrawal of "old" RTM

The RTM component of eventACTION was fully rewritten over ten years ago to provide better performance. The "new" RTM became the default for new installations in 2005. A conversion process was provided to migrate users of the old RTM to the new RTM. We have recently discovered that some sites are still using the old RTM, or have both versions running at the same time.

eventACTION 8.02 is the last release that will contain the old RTM. eventACTION will issue alerts if usage of the old RTM is detected.

Any users still using the old RTM should upgrade to the new RTM as soon as possible. Please contact Action Software Technical Support if your site needs to perform this conversion.

## HEALTHCHECK

New health checks have been added, as described below.

### USS# dependency check

A number of ussACTION features such as ussRTF, ussPXC and USS\_PROT\_SFCDR are only available if ussACTION is started with USS#. Healthcheck alert messages will be issued if an attempt is made to start any of these features when ussACTION is not started with USS#.

## RTM conversion status check

A healthcheck alert message will be issued if:

- The “old” RTM has not been converted to the “new” RTM; or
- The “old” RTM has not been deleted after converting to the “new” RTM.

## MAINTASK\_CHECK

Additional checks have been added, as described below.

Various eventACTION components (RT, RTM, RTDS, PET) and ussACTION components (ussRTF, ussRT) perform database updates on regular intervals by internal scheduled functions.

MAINTASK\_CHECK will now issue alert messages if the corresponding schedule function for each of the above mentioned components is detected to have encountered one of the following error conditions:

- the schedule function has been suspended;
- the schedule function ended in error during the last “SUBMIT”; or
- the schedule function was not processed during the last monitor interval.

## Command Tracking and Control

A single definition of CMD=\* with no operands will result in the tracking of all commands. In previous releases, at least one other specific command must be defined in order for CMD=\* to take effect.

## Change Requests and Associated Reporting

The change request external product id fields on the change request panels have been increased to a maximum of sixteen characters. The internal changes to support this larger size were made in eventACTION 7.11; at that time the product externals allowed a maximum of ten characters. Subsequently, the reports that display this same information have been changed to show the full sixteen characters. For most reports, there is no effect on other fields; however the Default and Scan formats of the Datasets Changed Summary report have required a noticeable alteration to accommodate the larger external product id.

Both of these report formats display the change request id such that if there is an external id, it is reported but if not, then the internal change request id is reported. Therefore, the default format has extended the change request id field and removed the Backup Size column; all fields have been shifted accordingly. The Scan format, when showing the external id will still show the external product name and external product record id providing that the id is ten characters or less; otherwise it will only show the sixteen characters of the external product record id without the external product name.

## New Sample Data Sets for ELI

With Version 8.02, five new data sets have been added to the eventACTION distribution, containing samples for the External Language Interface (ELI) feature:

- prefix.ELI.SAMPLIB – sample REXX execs for various ELI functions;
- prefix.ELI.CLIST – sample REXX data area maps;
- prefix.ELI.COB – sample COBOL data area maps;
- prefix.ELI.MAC – sample Assembler data area maps; and
- prefix.ELI.SAS – sample SAS data area maps.

These samples provide a head start for anyone wishing to make use of ELI.

## About Action Software International

Action Software International is a division of Mazda Computer Corporation.

Located in Toronto, Canada, Mazda Computer Corporation has been producing superior systems and network management software since 1980. The Company's products are widely deployed within Global 2000 companies, as well as numerous government and institutional sites.

Mazda Computer Corporation's mission is to provide easy to use high performance systems management solutions to the IBM z/OS system user community, based on highly functional products and exceptional customer service.

Visit [www.actionsoftware.com](http://www.actionsoftware.com) for more information.

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

Tel: (905) 470-7113  
Fax: (905) 470-6507  
[www.actionsoftware.com](http://www.actionsoftware.com)

Copyright © 2015 Mazda Computer Corporation. All rights reserved. Action Software International is a division of Mazda Computer Corporation. All trademarks, trade names, service marks and logos referenced herein belong to their respective companies. This document is for your informational purposes only. Mazda Computer Corporation assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the information. To the extent permitted by applicable law, Mazda Computer Corporation provides this document "as is" without warranty of any kind, including, without limitation, any implied warranties of merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose, or non-infringement. In no event will Mazda Computer Corporation be liable for any loss or damage, direct or indirect, from the use of this document, including, without limitation, lost profits, business interruption, goodwill or lost data, even if Mazda Computer Corporation is expressly advised in advance of the possibility of such damage.