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Db2 Row and Column (RCAC) Access Control Essentials

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Db2 LUW

BIO: Philip K. Gunning is seasoned database and security expert with over 31 years of experience in Information Technology. Phil has authored 2 books on IBM's Db2 database and co-authored an IBM Redbook on Db2. He has also written expert knowledge based DB2 software for leading technical companies. Phil has consulted in the Defense Industry, SecDef, Army and USMC and Fortune 500 companies. Phil has consulted throughout North America, Europe and Asia. He has presented at DB2 International User Group conferences around the world and at IBM Technical conferences. Phil is an IBM Champion for Analytics and participates in Db2 early user trials and evaluations. Phil's specialties are Performance and Tuning, Data Security, High Availability Disaster Recovery, SQL tuning, Db2 upgrades, DB2 Architectures and Capacity planning. Phil resides in Sinking Spring, Pa and is an avid Bass and trout fisherman, and loves taking his four grandchildren on outdoor adventures.

Agenda

- Legal requirements and mandates
- **Threat Environment (constantly evolving)**
- **Legacy Security**
- LBAC
- Discretionary Access Controls
- Mandatory Access Controls
- Need for RCAC
- Working Examples

Legal Requirements and Mandates

- **US Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)**
 - Doctors only authorized to view medical records of their own patients but not records of other patients
- **Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS)**
 - Access to cardholder data such as card number must be restricted by business need-to-know
- **European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** 
 - Enforcement starts May 2018

Legal Requirements and Mandates

- Privacy and data protection mandates
- Regulations and standards stipulate that an individual is allowed access only to the subset of that information that is needed to perform their job function

Threat Environment

- Attack Surface
- Constantly Evolving
- Requires continuing and evolving countermeasures
- Can't use "old way of doing business" when it comes to database security and security in general
- SECADM takes on an even more important role
- **Defense in Depth** is **REQUIRED** hence this presentation on RCAC!

Legacy Security

- Database Views
 - Can get complicated for many users
 - Require ongoing database administration and tuning
- Application-based security
 - Application filtering logic and maintenance required or application specific configuration logic and tables required

Label Based Access Control -- LBAC

- Security Labels and security policy objects map security requirements into security tables
- Database “Security” Administrator creates security label objects for users to access protected tables
 - Grants security labels and exemptions to users
 - Alters tables to add security label column and associates a security policy with the table
- Rarely suitable for commercial customers as it requires data to be classified and has setoff fixed security rules

Row and Column Access Control -- RCAC

- RCAC satisfies legal and regulatory requirements by controlling access at the row and column levels
- Prior to RCAC, Views on tables and application logic were the primary means used to limit access to data
 - Views required significant database administration overhead such as design, tuning for performance, review of access requirements and multiple iterations for many users and groups
- Robust data privacy for supporting **multi-tenancy**
- RCAC is just another tool in your arsenal to use to protect data!

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Notes: Multi-tenancy is a critical requirement for most provider-based Cloud solutions. DB2 with RCAC is especially well-suited for this.

RCAC

- Additional layer of data security introduced in Db2 V10
- **Included with all editions of Db2 except Express-C**
- Complementary to table level authorization
- Allows access only to subset of data useful for job task
- Controls access to a table at the row, column or both
- Two sets of rules
 - Permissions for rows
 - Masks for columns

RCAC

- Provides column masking (LBAC does not)
 - Transparent to the client application
 - Pushes security from application to database
- Performance advantages over application implemented security
- Robust data privacy for supporting multi-users and multi-tenancy
- Very easy to use for compliance

How Does RCAC Work?

- The table-privileges security model is applied first to determine whether the user is allowed access to the table
- If allowed, row permissions are applied to determine specific rows
- Column masks are then applied to determine whether the user sees the actual or masked value in the column

How Does RCAC Work?

- For example, when Dr. Jones queries the patients table, he sees only rows that represent patients under his care
- A column mask defined on the phone # column ensures that Dr. Smith sees only phone numbers for patients that have shared their phone # with him
- For other patients the phone # would be set to NULL or masked out according to the column mask definition

Benefits of RCAC

- Key advantage is that no database user is inherently exempted from RCAC rules
- Even users with DATAACCESS authority have no access
- RCAC by default can only be managed by the user designated as the Database Security Administrator (SECADM)

Restricting RCAC administration to SECADM is a huge step forward. Prior to SECADM Database Administrators with SYSADM could change and view anything.....Unfortunately, I think you will find that this is still the case in many companies.

Row and Column Access Control (RCAC)

- RCAC was first introduced in Db2 in version 10 in 2012
- **Transparent to applications and no application changes needed**
- Enhanced in latest Db2 version 11.1.2.2
- Included in all editions of Db2
- Discretionary access control

SECADM

- SECADM is Db2 Security Administrator group created at Database Creation
 - Required in order to create RCAC
 - Separate from DBADM
 - Separates security functions from Database Administrators
 - Creates and assigns ROLES to GROUPS
 - GRANTS access to ROLES

So, a little review. SECADM is the Security Administrator first created in Db2 9.7 to enable Db2 to tighten up security and limit power of SYSADM.

Row and Column Access Control (RCAC)

- RCAC is used to control access to rows and columns based on rules defined on the rows and columns
- Supports ROLES and uses them to restrict the access based on RCAC

RCAC – How it Works

- Table-privilege security model is applied first to determine if user allowed to access table
- If allowed, row permissions are applied next to determine specific rows the user has access to
- Column masks are then applied to determine whether the user sees the actual or masked value in the column

RCAC

- Examples that follow use the Db2 **SAMPLE** database
- Sample examples supplied as part of the **SAMPLES** folder with all Db2 installs

Scenario: Health Care

- In our scenario we will use patients, doctors, pharmacists, administrators and accountants to show how you can use RCAC to either allow or limit access to these ROLES
- Tables used are: Patients, Patientchoice, and Acct_history

Scenario: Create Permission

- **Patients**
 - Can only access their own data
- **Physicians***
 - Can only access their own patients' data
- **Membership officers, Accounting, Drug Researchers**
 - Can access all data
- **Nobody** else sees any data

As you can see the Physicians entry has an asterisk. The reason for this is that in the real world with say, a practice of General Practitioners might need to be able to see patient data that is assigned to the practice since many times a patient has to see a different doctor if theirs is on vacation. But that could be easily handled by expanding the group.

Create PERMISSION Syntax

- To create a permission governing access to rows
 - CREATE the permission with access rule defined by search condition
 - Choose to enforce for all DML or simply SELECT
 - ENABLE or DISABLE the permission
 - If enabled this access rule will be implemented when row access control is ACTIVATED for the affected table
- ALTER the table to activate ROW access control

```
CREATE PERMISSION p_name ON table/view FOR ROWS
WHERE search condition ENFORCED FOR ALL ACCESS {disable/enable};
ALTER TABLE/VIEW table/view ACTIVATE ROW ACCESS CONTROL;
```

WHERE clause

ACTIVATE the row
access control

Determines if permission
will be ENABLED when
access control is
ACTIVATED for table

Create Permission

-- ROLE PATIENT is allowed to access his or her own row;
-- ROLE PCP is allowed to access his or her patients rows;
-- ROLE MEMBERSHIP, ACCOUNTING, and DRUG_RESEARCH are;
-- allowed to access all rows.;

```
CREATE PERMISSION ADMINISTRATOR.ROW_ACCESS ON ADMINISTRATOR.PATIENT
FOR ROWS WHERE (VERIFY_ROLE_FOR_USER(SESSION_USER,'PATIENT') = 1
AND
ADMINISTRATOR.PATIENT.USERID = SESSION_USER) OR
(VERIFY_ROLE_FOR_USER(SESSION_USER,'PCP') = 1
AND
ADMINISTRATOR.PATIENT.PCP_ID = SESSION_USER) OR
(VERIFY_ROLE_FOR_USER(SESSION_USER,'MEMBERSHIP') = 1 OR
VERIFY_ROLE_FOR_USER(SESSION_USER,'ACCOUNTING') = 1 OR
VERIFY_ROLE_FOR_USER(SESSION_USER, 'DRUG_RESEARCH') = 1)
ENFORCED FOR ALL ACCESS
ENABLE@
```

--Altering the table to activate the row access control feature.;

```
ALTER TABLE ADMINISTRATOR.PATIENT ACTIVATE ROW ACCESS CONTROL@
```

```
-----
-- Creating row permission based on user role and the rows which they should have access.
-----
DB20000I The UPDATE COMMAND OPTIONS command completed successfully.
CREATE PERMISSION ADMINISTRATOR.ROW_ACCESS ON ADMINISTRATOR.PATIENT FOR ROWS WHERE
(VERIFY_ROLE_FOR_USER(SESSION_USER,'PATIENT') = 1 AND ADMINISTRATOR.PATIENT.USERID =
SESSION_USER) OR (VERIFY_ROLE_FOR_USER(SESSION_USER,'PCP') = 1 AND ADMINISTRATOR.PATIENT.PCP_ID =
SESSION_USER) OR (VERIFY_ROLE_FOR_USER(SESSION_USER,'MEMBERSHIP') = 1 OR VERIFY_ROLE_FOR_USER
(SESSION_USER,'ACCOUNTING') = 1 OR VERIFY_ROLE_FOR_USER(SESSION_USER, 'DRUG_RESEARCH') = 1)
ENFORCED FOR ALL ACCESS ENABLE
DB20000I The SQL command completed successfully.
ALTER TABLE ADMINISTRATOR.PATIENT ACTIVATE ROW ACCESS CONTROL
DB20000I The SQL command completed successfully.
```

As we can see in this slide permissions have been created for patients, primary care physicians, membership, accounting and drug researchers. After the permissions have been created, the table must be altered to **activate the row access control**.

Scenario: Update Table with Permissions

As Dr. Lee -- UPDATE ADMINISTRATOR.PATIENT
SET PHARMACY = 'codeine' WHERE NAME = 'Bob'

```
CONNECT TO sample USER lee USING
Database Connection Information
Database server      = DB2/NT64 11.1.0
SQL authorization ID = LEE
Local database alias = SAMPLE

UPDATE ADMINISTRATOR.PATIENT SET PHARMACY = 'codeine' WHERE NAME = 'Bob'
DB20000I The SQL command completed successfully.
```

However, when Dr. Lee tries to update the pharmacy code for patient Dug, the update fails as Dug is not a patient of Dr. Lee.

UPDATE ADMINISTRATOR.PATIENT SET
PHARMACY = 'codeine'
WHERE NAME = 'Dug'

```
C:\Program Files\IBM\SQLLIB_01\BIN>db2 "UPDATE ADMINISTRATOR.PATIENT SET PHARMAC
Y = 'codeine' WHERE NAME = 'Dug'"
SQL0100W No row was found for FETCH, UPDATE or DELETE; or the result of a
query is an empty table.  SQLSTATE=02000
```

Dr. Lee is able to update the PHARMACY to codeine for patient Bob as Bob is a patient of Dr. Lee. However, when Dr. Lee tries to update the PHARMACY for Dug, the UPDATE fails as Dug is not a patient of Dr. Lee. The row permission we created previously for the PCP role prevents the update from occurring.

Also important to note is that if you cannot view a row, you cannot update it either.

Scenario: Select from table as patient

- Only one row is returned for Bob, he cannot see data of other patients:

```
C:\Program Files\IBM\SQLLIB_01\BIN>db2 connect to sample user bob
Enter current password for bob:
Database Connection Information
Database server          = DB2/NT64 11.1.0
SQL authorization ID    = BOB
Local database alias    = SAMPLE
C:\Program Files\IBM\SQLLIB_01\BIN>db2 "select * from administrator.patient" | more
```

Even a Select count(*) run by Bob only returns a count of 1 row

```
C:\Program Files\IBM\SQLLIB_01\BIN>db2 "select count(*) from administrator.patient" | more
1
-----
1
1 record(s) selected.
```


Scenario: Select from Table as Database Administrator – NO Rows Returned

```
C:\Program Files\IBM\SQLLIB_01\BIN>db2 connect to sample user peter
Enter current password for peter:
```

Database Connection Information

```
Database server      = DB2/NT64 11.1.0
SQL authorization ID = PETER
Local database alias = SAMPLE
```

- C:\Program Files\IBM\SQLLIB_01\BIN>db2 "select * from administrator.patient"

```
0 record(s) selected.
```

Database Administrators cannot see any data. True separation of duties is achieved. How many of you have seen a Database Administrators authorization limited in this way? Probably not many until a few years ago. I know in the past as a DBA I had access to everything....

Scenario: Create Column Mask

- This scenario has the following permissions attached:
- Account balance column
 - Accounting can see the balance
 - Everyone else sees 0.00
- SSN number column
 - Patients and Membership can see full SSN number
 - Everyone else sees 'XXX XXX ' + last three digits of SSN

Create COLUMN MASK Syntax

- To create a mask for a column
 - CREATE the mask with visibility of column value determined by case expression
 - ENABLE or DISABLE the mask
 - If enabled this access rule will be implemented when column access control is ACTIVATED for the affected table
 - ALTER the table to activate column mask access control

```
CREATE MASK m_name on t_name FOR COLUMN c_name RETURN  
case-expression {disable/enable}  
  
ALTER TABLE/VIEW table/view ACTIVATE COLUMN ACCESS CONTROL;
```

Result of case expression
is returned in substitute of
column value

Determines if mask will be
enabled when access control
is ACTIVATED for table

ACTIVATE column
access control

Create Column Mask

- Three steps to create a mask for a column
 - Create the mask with visibility of column value determined by CASE expression
 - Enable or Disable the permission, determining if this access rule will be implemented when column access control is enabled for the affected table
 - Alter the table to Activate row access control

```
>>CREATE--                  --MASK--mask-name--ON--table-name----->  
'-OR REPLACE-'
```

```
>--                  --                  -->  
|.-AS-          |  
'-          --correlation-name-'
```

```
>--FOR COLUMN--column-name--RETURN--case-expression
```

Scenario: Create Column Mask

```
1. CREATE MASK ADMINISTRATOR.ACCT_BALANCE_MASK ON ADMINISTRATOR.PATIENT FOR
COLUMN ACCT_BALANCE RETURN
    CASE WHEN VERIFY_ROLE_FOR_USER(SESSION_USER,'ACCOUNTING') = 1
        THEN ACCT_BALANCE
        ELSE 0.00
    END
ENABLE@

2. CREATE MASK ADMINISTRATOR.SSN_MASK ON ADMINISTRATOR.PATIENT FOR
COLUMN SSN RETURN
    CASE WHEN
        VERIFY_ROLE_FOR_USER(SESSION_USER,'PATIENT') = 1 OR
        VERIFY_ROLE_FOR_USER(SESSION_USER,'MEMBERSHIP') = 1
        THEN SSN
        ELSE CHAR('XXX-XX-' || SUBSTR(SSN,8,4))
    END
ENABLE@
```

CONNECT TO sample USER alex USING

-- Creating column mask based on user role and the columns which they have access

DB20000I The UPDATE COMMAND OPTIONS command completed successfully.

```
CREATE MASK ADMINISTRATOR.ACCT_BALANCE_MASK ON ADMINISTRATOR.PATIENT FOR COLUMN
ACCT_BALANCE RETURN CASE WHEN VERIFY_ROLE_FOR_USER(SESSION_USER,'ACCOUNTING') =
1 THEN ACCT_BALANCE ELSE 0.00 END ENABLE
```

DB20000I The SQL command completed successfully.

```
CREATE MASK ADMINISTRATOR.SSN_MASK ON ADMINISTRATOR.PATIENT FOR COLUMN SSN RETUR
N CASE WHEN VERIFY_ROLE_FOR_USER(SESSION_USER,'PATIENT') = 1 OR VERIFY_ROLE_FOR_
USER(SESSION_USER,'PCP') = 1 OR VERIFY_ROLE_FOR_USER(SESSION_USER,'MEMBERSHIP')
= 1 OR VERIFY_ROLE_FOR_USER(SESSION_USER,'ACCOUNTING') = 1 THEN SSN ELSE CHAR('X
XX-XX-' || SUBSTR(SSN,8,4)) END ENABLE
```

DB20000I The SQL command completed successfully.

```
ALTER TABLE ADMINISTRATOR.PATIENT ACTIVATE COLUMN ACCESS CONTROL
```

DB20000I The SQL command completed successfully.

Scenario: Select from Table with Mask

- Query the table as Dr. Lee
 - Balance of 0.00 due to column mask

	SSN	USERID	NAME	ADDRESS	PHARMACY	ACCT_BALANCE	PCP_ID
1	XXX-XX-1234	MAX	Max	First Strt	hypertension	0.00	LEE
2	XXX-XX-9856	SAM	Sam	Big Strt	High blood pressure	0.00	LEE
3	XXX-XX-6789	BOB	Bob	123 Some St.	codeine	0.00	LEE

- Column Access Control
 - Doctors cannot see account balances
 - Doctors cannot see SSN numbers
- Row Access control
 - Doctors can only see the rows of their own patients

Scenario: Select from Table with Mask

- A drug researcher, Jane queries the patient table:

	LOGGED_USER	SSN	USERID	NAME	ADDRESS	PHARMACY	ACCT_BALANCE	PCP_ID
1	JANE	XXX-XX-9856	SAM	Sam	Big Strt	High blood pressure	0	LEE
2	JANE	XXX-XX-9812	MIKE	Mike	Long Strt	diabetics	0	james
3	JANE	XXX-XX-6789	BOB	Bob	123 Some St.	codeine	0	LEE
4	JANE	XXX-XX-1454	DUG	Dug	Good Strt	codeine	0	james
5	JANE	XXX-XX-1234	MAX	Max	First Strt	hypertension	0	LEE

- Column Access Control
 - Drug researchers cannot see account balances
 - Drug researchers cannot see SSN numbers
- Row Access Control
 - Drug researchers can see all rows

Scenario: Select from Table with Mask

- Patients can only see their own data

	LOGGED_USER	SSN	USERID	NAME	ADDRESS	PHARMACY	ACCT_BALANCE	PCP_ID
1	BOB	123-45-6789	BOB	Bob	123 Some St.	codeine	0	LEE

- Column Access Control
 - Patients cannot see account balances
 - Patients can see SSN numbers
- Row Access Control
 - Patients can only see their own data

Scenario: Select from Table with Mask

- Accountants can see all rows

	LOGGED_USER	SSN	USERID	NAME	ADDRESS	PHARMACY	ACCT_BALANCE	PCP_ID
1	JOHN	XXX-XX-1234	MAX	Max	First Strt	hypertension	89.7	LEE
2	JOHN	XXX-XX-9812	MIKE	Mike	Long Strt	diabetics	8.3	james
3	JOHN	XXX-XX-9856	SAM	Sam	Big Strt	High blood pressure	0	LEE
4	JOHN	XXX-XX-1454	DUG	Dug	Good Strt	codeine	0	james
5	JOHN	XXX-XX-6789	BOB	Bob	123 Some St	codeine	9	LEE

- Accountants can see account balances
- Accountants cannot see SSN numbers
- Row Access Control
 - Accountants can see all rows

Using views with RCAC - Protected

- Views can be created on RCAC-protected tables
 - When querying the view, data is returned based on the **RCAC rules defined on the base table**

Using Views with RCAC-Protected Tables

```
CREATE VIEW ADMINISTRATOR.PATIENT_INFO_VIEW AS
SELECT P.SSN, P.NAME,C.CHOICE FROM ADMINISTRATOR.PATIENT P, ADMINISTRATOR.PATIENTCHOICE C
WHERE P.SSN = C.SSN AND
      C.CHOICE = 'drug-research' AND
      C.VALUE = 'opt-in'
```

As Dr. Lee, SELECT * FROM ADMINISTRATOR.PATIENT_INFO_VIEW;

	SSN	NAME	CHOICE
1	XXX-XX-9856	Sam	drug-research
2	XXX-XX-6789	Bob	drug-research

```
C:\Program Files\IBM\SQLLIB_01\BIN>db2 -td@ -vf view.txt
```

```
CONNECT TO sample USER peter USING
```

```
Database Connection Information
```

```
Database server      = DB2/NT64 11.1.0
```

```
SQL authorization ID = PETER
```

```
Local database alias = SAMPLE
```

```
UPDATE COMMAND OPTIONS USING v OFF
```

```
DB20000I The UPDATE COMMAND OPTIONS command completed successfully
```

```
-- Creating view on RCAC protected table.
```

```
DB20000I The UPDATE COMMAND OPTIONS command completed successfully.
```

```
CREATE VIEW ADMINISTRATOR.PATIENT_INFO_VIEW AS SELECT P.SSN, P.NAME,C.CHOICE FROM
ADMINISTRATOR.PATIENT P, ADMINISTRATOR.PATIENTCHOICE C WHERE P.SSN = C.SSN AND
C.CHOICE = 'drug-research' AND C.VALUE = 'opt-in'
```

```
DB20000I The SQL command completed successfully.
```

```
GRANT SELECT ON ADMINISTRATOR.PATIENT_INFO_VIEW TO USER alex
```

```
DB20000I The SQL command completed successfully.
```

```
GRANT SELECT ON ADMINISTRATOR.PATIENT_INFO_VIEW TO USER lee
```

DB20000I The SQL command completed successfully.

GRANT SELECT ON ADMINISTRATOR.PATIENT_INFO_VIEW TO USER bob

DB20000I The SQL command completed successfully.

GRANT SELECT ON ADMINISTRATOR.PATIENT_INFO_VIEW TO USER jane

DB20000I The SQL command completed successfully.

SQL Packages

- Tables defined with RCAC have implications on any SQL package or cached dynamic SQL sections
- RCAC incorporated by the SQL Compiler into SQL sections for query execution
- These sections must remain in sync with RCAC at all times
- To this end, changes against a table with RCAC defined will **INVALIDATE** an SQL package or cached dynamic SQL sections that depend on that table

SQL Statement Behavior

- **SELECT** statements against a table with RCAC activated will only return data with the RCAC applied to the results
 - The SQL optimizer uses the RCAC rules to create a filter to the table before any user specified operations such as predicates, grouping or ordering are processed
- When using **INSERT**, **UPDATE** and **DELETE** statements the rules specified for all RCAC permissions defined on the table determine whether the row can be **INSERTED**, **UPDATED** or **DELETED**
- To be **INSERTED**, **UPDATED** or **DELETED** the row must be conformant row
- You cannot **INSERT**, **UPDATE** or **DELETE** a row that you cannot **SELECT**
- The **UPDATED** row must conform to the enabled row permissions
- **MERGE** processing operates similarly to **INSERT** and **UPDATE** statements

Using UDFs and Triggers with RCAC-protected Tables

- User-defined functions (UDFs) could possibly cause data leakage of RCAC defined columns
- To prevent data leakage, UDFs must be defined as **SECURED** when referenced from within row and column access control definitions
- UDFs by default are evaluated last after any row permissions defined on that table are evaluated
- Since evaluating the UDF last can affect performance, the SECADM or a delegate can declare the function as **SECURE** if they trust the UDF

Using UDFs and Triggers with RCAC-protected Tables

- Triggers pose similar problems as UDFs where data leakage could occur to trigger transition variables and transition tables
- In order to create a Trigger that goes against a table with row or column access controls activated it must be defined by a SECADM as **SECURE**

Restrictions and Considerations

- You cannot create a mask on a column which
 - Is an XML object
 - Is a LOB column or a distinct type column that is based on a LOB
 - Is a column referenced in an expression that defines a generated column
- UDFs and TRIGGERS must be created or altered with the **SECURE** keyword
 - Compromise between security vs. integrity

Restrictions and Considerations

- Automatic Data Movement
- Row permissions are automatically activated on these target tables
 - MQT, History Tables for Temporal tables, and detached table partitions for range-partitioned tables
- **db2look** can extract row permission definitions in order to mimic elsewhere

Performance Considerations

- EXPLAIN facility will show optimized access path with RCAC included
 - NORCAC explain mode to hide RCAC explain information
- Some implementations may benefit from RCAC others may suffer a performance impact
- Each scenario has to be reviewed via EXPLAIN and Monitoring done to determine if there is an impact and what that impact is
 - MON_GET table function monitoring
 - Event Monitors (application trace)
- Alternatively review impact of placing access control under application control and associated infrastructure to support it
 - REORG
 - BACKUP
 - Database Administration costs
- YMMV

Data Movement Considerations

- Automatic activation of row-level access control for a subject table happens in these situations:
 - Creation of an MQT that is based on one or more tables for which row-level or column-level access control is activated
 - Creation of a staging table for an MQT that is based on one or more tables for which row-level or column-level access control is activated
 - The activation of row-level or column-level access control on a base table that is used in the definition of an MQT
 - The creation of a history table for a temporal table for which row-level or column-level access control is activated
 - The activation of row-level or column-level access control on a temporal table for which a history table exists
 - The detaching of a partition from a partitioned table for which row-level or column-level access control is activated

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In some situations, data can be moved automatically by the database from one table to another as a result of a database operation. For example a refresh of an MQT moves data from the base tables to that MQT. When a staging table is defined for an MQT, data from the base tables can also be moved to that staging table. When row-level or column-level access control is activated for a base table, it is important to ensure that the sensitive data in that base table does not suddenly lose that protection when it is automatically moved to another table. To this end, the database automatically activates row-level access control on the subject table. This automatic activation ensures that direct access to the subject table sees no rows until either a user with database SECADM authority explicitly creates row permissions that allow access or deactivates the row-level access control on the subject table.

Db2 Utility Considerations

- The db2look utility can be used to extract row permission and column mask definitions in order to mimic them in another database
- db2look can be used to extract the DDL for row permissions for subject tables and dependent objects
- Run REORG, REORGCHK and RUNSTAT utilities on tables with RCAC definitions just as you would for a non-RCAC table

Db2 Utility Considerations

- Row permissions and column masks are not applied for non-SQL utilities: LOAD, REORG, RUNSTATS
- Row permissions and column masks are applied for utilities that use SQL such as EXPORT

Summary

- SECADM is the sole manager for security policy
- Two sets of rules
 - Row access is restricted via permissions
 - Column access is restricted via masks
- Allows access to only subset of data necessary for job function
- Same output regardless of access method
 - Data Studio, views, applications, etc

Summary

- Data-centric and transparent to client application
- Ideal for commercial applications, function-specific access control, and use in compliance
- Use EXPLAIN for any performance implications!
- RCAC is another important tool in your arsenal to protect data!

References

- Data security best practices, IBM Developer Works, Walid Rjaibi, CISSP, IBM STSM. April 2012
- [DB2 10.1, Row and Column Access Control, Georg Baklarz, PhD, IBM Toronto Lab, August 2013](#)
- [DB2 11.1 Row and Column Access Control, IBM Knowledge Center](#)
- [DB2 Database Security Guide, IBM Knowledge Center](#)

Thank You!



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