SyncSort

Success Story: Presbyterian Health Plan

SyncSort Reduces Elapsed Time by 60% for Presbyterian Health Plan's Business Intelligence Application

Organizational Profile

- A division of Presbyterian Healthcare Services, New Mexico's largest locally-owned healthcare system
- Offers a statewide healthcare delivery system and 17 years' experience in managed care

Business Need

- Reduce elapsed time to process patient claims data and load into an Oracle database for a business intelligence application

Environment

- Windows NT 4.0
- Intel with 4 CPUs and 1.5 gigabytes of memory
- Oracle 8i

Benefits

- Cut processing time by 60%
- SyncSort reduced a five hour process to two hours
- SyncSort easily integrated into business intelligence application

"When I started looking for a better solution to accelerate this application, I turned to SyncSort because of its reputation"

Bruce Alexander
Data Warehousing Manager
Presbyterian Health Plan

The Challenge:
Providing quality healthcare to over 280,000 members is an impressive feat to begin with. Managing and analyzing all of the data that is generated from those members is another task altogether. But Presbyterian Health Plan (PHP) has found an innovative solution to do just that. PHP is operated as a division of Presbyterian Healthcare Services, New Mexico's largest locally owned healthcare system. It offers a statewide healthcare delivery system and 17 years' experience in managed care. PHP provides customers with a comprehensive provider network, a quality medical management program, commitment to customer service, and cost-effective, consumer-driven managed healthcare services. As part of their disease and population management program, the company needed to quickly process, analyze and classify over 35 million patient claim entries.

Bruce Alexander, Data Warehouse Manager at PHP, was using SQL and PL SQL to accomplish the data processing. He first unloaded seven gigabytes of raw patient claims data from an Oracle database in delimited format. Next, he sorted the data on the patient ID and service date. Additional processing was then performed in order to group the data by clinically relevant classifications. He then loaded the data into Oracle for subsequent analysis. For this project, PHP was using an Intel running Windows NT Server 4 with 4 CPUs and 1.5GB of memory. The database engine was Oracle 8i.

The process was taking over five hours and they ran into problems with their native tools. Alexander explained, "We have to extract approximately 36-37 million rows of medical claims data. It has to be sorted prior to input into another product called Symmetry Episodic Treatment Groups, which looks for medical episodes across all the data. And in order for that product to work, it requires the data to be in patient sequence. We started hitting some of the limitations of what we could do with the SQL tools, particularly where sorting was concerned."

The Solution:
Since Alexander previously worked with SyncSort on the mainframe, he decided to test the NT version to see if it would improve the performance of the application. "When I started looking for a better solution to accelerate this application, I turned to SyncSort because of its reputation," he stated.

The Benefits:
Alexander created an application to achieve the performance results he needed. Now the application begins with a simple text file extract from Oracle. The output of this script is read by SyncSort, which sorts the records in the proper patient and service date sequence prior to grouping and reloading back

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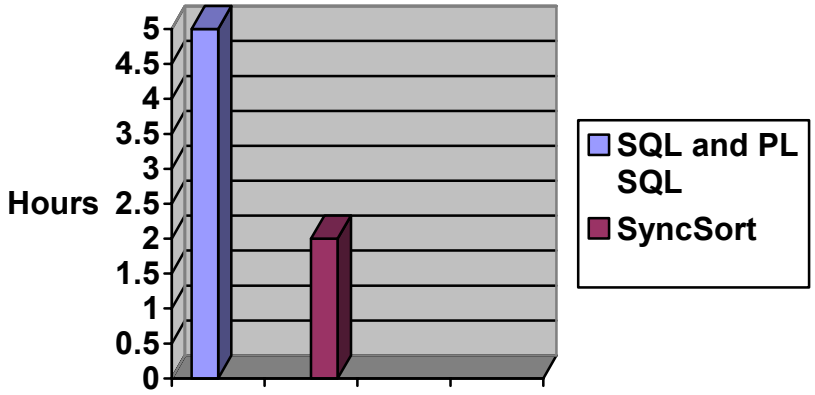
into the Oracle database. Using SyncSort, Alexander was able to cut the procedure down to two hours, slashing processing time by 60%. This allows the Medical Staff Affairs Group to spend more time doing the necessary analysis on the data and uncover information that can help PHP gain a better understanding of their members' needs.



SyncSort cuts the processing time for a business intelligence application by 60%.

About SyncSort
SyncSort is a high-performance application accelerator that improves the performance of multiple applications and reduces elapsed time for a broad range of applications. It speeds ETL transactions by up to 90% and facilitates data mining and click-stream processing. SyncSort merges, aggregates, cleanses, and converts data. Other features include filtering, pattern matching, and partitioning. SyncSort will save you time in operations like data warehousing, data mining, data marts, CRM, ERP, DSS, BI, Oracle Financials, and legacy migration. Using Visual SyncSort, SyncSort applications can be created through a Windows-like GUI. For more information or to arrange for a free trial, call Syncsort at (201)930-8200 or visit www.syncsort.com.