

Proc case recommends techniques resulting in significant performance gains

Statistics Canada

Client since June 2003
Location: Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
Industry: Government



Client Overview

Statistics Canada produces statistics that help Canadians better understand their country — its population, resources, economy, society and culture.

In addition to conducting a Census every five years, there are about 350 active surveys on virtually all aspects of Canadian life.

Client Objectives

Statistics Canada's Corporate Database of Product and Services Group had performance problems with their CANSIM web-based application. CANSIM is a mission critical application that provides Canada's key socio-economic database. Updated daily, CANSIM provides access to a large range of the latest and most up-to-date statistics available in Canada.

Users complained of slow searches which would take longer than 1 minute.

Proc case Contribution

One of Statistics Canada's senior team members attended an Oracle tuning course taught by Proc case. After the course Statistics Canada contracted Proc case to review CANSIM application and suggest performance improvements.

Proc case spent 1 week studying the application and put together a comprehensive report which outlined numerous performance improvements. Improvements included data model optimization, database tuning, more efficient tools and techniques to extract and load data, multi-threading of appropriate processes, and SQL tuning. Proc case included example of SQL tuning which would reduce search times by from minutes to fraction of seconds.

Statistics Canada management was delighted with the report and committed to implement all the recommendations

Technology

Oracle 9i

Results

Proc case evaluation and recommendations made a huge impact on CANSIM's performance. The Proc case analysis report provided Statistics Canada with dozens of performance improvement techniques which were implemented over time by CANSIM development team and resulted in significant gains in the application.