

What's the Latest?

The current release of Change Action is 5.09. The following sections describe some of the highlights of changes and enhancements included in Change Action release 5.08 (released June 1998) and release 5.09 (released November 1998).

For a complete list of new features and enhancements in Change Action release 5.08 or 5.09, contact Action Software and ask for the "What's new in Change Action?" summary document.

Release 5.08 Highlights

The following features and enhancements were included in Change Action release 5.08.

SVCUPDTE tracking (BETA)

This new feature will allow you to track all changes made to the system SVC table using the SVCUPDTE facility.

This option will help you to understand the dynamic changes made to a system that includes a large number of products from multiple vendors.

To see this information, display the Datasets Changed panel (option D) and select dataset name .SVC-UPDATE for a member list.

Each member name contains an SVC number. Select a member to see every stat record. A stat record is created every time the SVC table is updated using SVCUPDTE.

Use line command B (browse) to see the details of a particular SVC update. Old and new values of the SVC table entry are displayed. This will show if the original characteristics of the SVC were retained or not.

The Beta version of this feature requires Change Action to be active to record SVC updates. Start Change Action as early as possible in your IPL sequence to record as many hooks as possible.

DFSMSshm function level tracking/control (BETA)

This new feature improves the ability to track and control changes made using the DFSMSshm HDELETE and HRECOVER commands.

Changes will be associated with the user issuing the commands instead of the DFSMSshm started task.

Change Notification (BETA)

A new option has been added, at the OID Level only, to send a message to users in a specified User Group whenever a dataset under a specified OID is changed (*see Tips & Techniques on page 4*).

A maximum of one message per dataset per hour is sent, regardless of the number of changes to the dataset. Use the line command DES on the List of OIDs panel and scroll right until you see the panel for this option.

Reference Tracking By Members

The batch job name is now being reported. When you have selected a member to see the references, scroll right to see the jobname instead of the userid.

When displaying older references tracked before Version 5.08, the jobname field will be blank.

Since references for every unique userid/jobname are kept, you will possibly see multiple lines for the same userid.

This change has been made at the request of users who use a job scheduler (e.g., CA-7) to submit jobs which have a common userid but different jobnames.

In this case reporting the jobname is more useful than the userid.

Change Requests

The following new change request options have been added at the OID level.

Use line command DES from the List of OIDs panel and scroll right to access these new options.

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- Place change request in browse mode when selected (default=YES). In Change Action 5.07 the change request was always placed in browse mode when selected. The new option allows you to choose the default behavior.
- Clear date window (SUMM panel) when reinitializing change request (line command REI on List of Change Requests panel). The default is YES.

Datasets Changed

The \$ENVIRONMENT entry has been renamed to .ENVIRONMENT for future enhancements (all dataset names beginning with "." will be internal).

This rename will be done automatically the first time Change Action Version 5.08 is started. Any \$ENVIRONMENT dataset option will also be changed to *. Please make sure the .* dataset option is defined and set to at least 10 backups/stats since this information will be required for any debugging.

Any older releases sharing this database will continue to write to \$ENVIRONMENT, but they will eventually get merged into the .ENVIRONMENT entry when the Daily job runs under V5.08 or above.

If a backup is done by the Daily job because the dataset was allocated or it was too big, the stat is updated with the backup information so that the original time of change is not lost.

These stats will show as *PENDING in the Members Changed panel until the backup has been taken.

MZCB clist

This CLIST has been modified to support sequential datasets as well as PDS format datasets. More error messages are provided if the backup is not successful.

DAILY job

The Daily job (Offline and Merge steps) has been modified to allow for proper cleanup of datasets on an abend. Please note that:

DISP=(,CATLG,DELETE) ,FREE=CLOSE must be used on the MZCTAPE DD.

Program Execution Tracking (PET)

A new function has been added that tracks the number of times programs are executed. This information is kept on the Change Action database and can be displayed at any time.

NOTE: Tracking is done on modules that are executed via the ATTACH SVC.

This identifies the application that is being executed without the overhead of tracking every subroutine that it calls.

Release 5.09 Highlights

Release 5.09 is the current production release of Change Action. The following is a summary of the new features and enhancements.

Change requests

At the time of a change to a dataset which requires a Change Request, messages may be issued to the user (*change request not made*, etc.).

Now an extra message line has been added to show which "Dataset Options" have been used. The message shows dataset name, volser and member name (if member overrides apply).

User Panel & Fields in Change Requests

This new feature allows users to define unlimited User Fields to be used under Change Requests.

You can develop your panel(s) to display the User Fields from a Change Request or display the User Fields in a generic table format for providing data from a Change Request. The data provided in the User Fields is stored with the Change Request.

NOTE: This feature is currently under Beta test and is subject to further change.

Reference tracking at dataset level

This new feature reports references at the dataset level (sequential, partitioned, etc.). *NOTE: This feature is currently under Beta test and is subject to further change.*

Change distribution

Now you have an option of adding DDNAME=LULUXMIT in Change Distribution task XPMAIN.

The dataset/member names of all successful or unsuccessful transmissions will be recorded in LULUXMIT.

SVCUPDTE tracking

A second Beta version of this new feature is now available. The Beta 2 version of this feature will track all SVC updates, even if the Change Action started task is not active.

The information collected about the SVC updates is recorded in the Change Action database when the Change Action started task is started.

Reports

A new report for Reference Tracking by Member is added to the list of available reports in the reporting subsystem. This report outputs the reference information for members defined in Reference Tracking by Members.

Another report, User Reference List, is added as another report type to the existing list of Reference Tracking reports.

Also, a new parameter option, "Since Last Periodic Job" is now available when defining the selection criteria for Reference Tracking Reports.

Security

If Change Action does not have UPDATE access to its log, lock, and database files, it will issue a message and shut down. Previously, it would come up in read-only mode, which is somewhat ineffective.

Come visit us at SHARE in San Francisco

Please feel free to drop by and visit us at the SHARE Technology Exchange in San Francisco on February 22 through 24. While there, get an online and live demonstration of the latest Change Action product features, and a preview of what is up and coming. Hope to see you there.

Minimum Supported Software Level

To ensure compatibility with IBM supported software versions, and to take advantage of new features and functions of various MVS operating system releases, ISPF program product releases, and Tivoli (Info/Management) releases, the following paragraphs indicate the minimum release levels for Change Action product support and compatibility.

MVS Level

Change Action requires an MVS release level of either MVS/ESA 4.1 or higher, or OS/390 V1R1 or higher.

ISPF Level

Change Action requires an ISPF release level of 4.02.0 or higher.

Info/Management

For IBM's Info/Management product, or Tivoli TME 10 Info/Management (or Tivoli Service Desk), requires a minimum level of IBM Info/Management 6.1.0 or TME 10 version 1.1.

If you are using any releases of software which are older than the versions listed above, please contact Action Software for assistance.

Version Management Survey

Is your site an active user of Change Action's Version/Release Management facility?

Action Software International is reviewing user requirements and utilization of the Version/Release Management facility (Change Action Primary Selection Panel Option "V").

We would like to determine:

- Who actively uses Version Management?
- What portion of our customer base uses the Version Management option?
- If changes to the Version Management facility are required?
- If this feature can be withdrawn from Change Action.

So, if you are an active user of this feature, please let us know by phone, fax, or e-mail.

www.ActionSoftware.com

Finally our web site is up and online. Feel free to visit us at www.ActionSoftware.com for current product information and details.

In the near future we will be expanding our web site to include "customer only" pages and sections.

Information sections for customers that we are looking at including are:

- Current patch and zap information for online information about known problems and fixes;
- Previous editions of Change Action News newsletters;
- Inter-Action Change Action Users Exchange forum for user suggested Change Action product change or enhancement requests;
- Information on current releases, BETA releases, and upcoming new features;
- Online screen layouts for new Change Action options for customer preview;
- Online and downloadable Powerpoint format presentations.

Our long term objective is to put a new Internet Browser based version of the Change Action guides online for our customers, along with a CD based distributed copy.

If you have any ideas or suggestions as to what you, our customer, want to see included in our web pages, let us know.

We hope to use www.ActionSoftware.com as a forum for informing all our customers about the latest product features.

Y2K – Are you tracking all the changes?

As most major data processing installations are in the final lap of Year 2000 preparation, verification, and testing, are you using the power of Change Action to track and control changes to either your production systems or Y2K testing environments?

For data centers that have dedicated Y2K test environments, and are also still processing day to day operational and business changes on production machines, the process for Year 2000 "clean management" can become very difficult, cumbersome, and labor intensive.

By using Change Action's powerful change tracking options on your test and production environments, you will be able to determine right up to the second as to exactly what was changed.

If a more stringent level of control is required, including change requests, approvals and authorizations take advantage of Change Action's change request functions to ensure that *any* and *all* changes to either systems environments are thoroughly documented and detailed.

Also, Automated Change Distribution can be used to ensure that any changes made to production systems are automatically transmitted to development and testing sites, or vice versa.

As well, with Change Action's powerful dataset name and member names masking options, definition of resources to the tracking and control options is effortless.

Take advantage of Change Action's many features, and let it help you more effectively manage your Year 2000 and production system environments.

Tips & Techniques

Change Action release 5.08 introduced a new feature that sends a message to user-defined userids whenever certain datasets are changed or modified.

The message can be sent to the defined userids for each dataset changed per hour, or one message per dataset and unique userid combination that made the change during an hour.

The feature can be very useful where changes made to key, critical, or shared datasets need to be quickly and dynamically communicated to other team or group members.

A Change Action Global or OID Administrator (for their own OIDs) can activate this feature for each defined OID.

Use the following procedure to use this feature:

1. Create a Change Action User Group, and define the userids of the users that should receive the notification messages whenever the datasets are changed or modified;
2. Use option OID from the Primary Selection Panel for the list of defined OIDs;
3. For the selected OID, use the line command DES to enter notification user group name;

4. Scroll RIGHT until you see the panel for sending messages (see Figure 1);
5. Specify YES in the "Send message when dataset changed" field;
6. Provide the newly created User Group name (as created in step 1, or other previously existing User Group name) that should be sent messages whenever the datasets are changed;
7. Optionally, specify YES in the "Send messages for every unique user who changes" field. If you specify NO, then the message will be sent whenever a dataset is changed by the first user only during the hour period.

The message sent to the userids in the User Group will include the DSName/Volser and userid, along with the SMFid of the system on which the dataset was changed.

```
C/Act 5.09 ---Options to be used at OID Level only(2/2)-----
COMMAND =>
                                     99.035 99/02/04 17:41
OWNER/RESOURCE ID= SYSMVS

Dataset Options
=> YES      Send message when dataset changed.
=> MVSSUPP  User Group for sending "Dataset Changed" message.
=> NO      Send message for every unique user who changes

Hit LEFT or RIGHT Key for more options
```

Figure 1 Messaging Option Parameters

Contact Information

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