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Assure Db2 Data Monitor

Complete control over the visibility of confidential IBM i data

Regulations like PCI DSS and HIPAA have long suggested the benefits of tracking access to confidential data. More recently, regulations like GDPR have begun to require it, and new regulations are likely to follow that lead.

It's imperative that your organization monitor and control the list of people allowed to access your most sensitive databases, and exactly what data they can read. Hoping that unauthorized users are not viewing corporate financial data, executive compensation, medical data and customer lists is not enough. You need tools to prevent accidental data disclosure and intentional breaches of confidentiality.

Assure Db2 Data Monitor, a feature of Assure Security and part of its Assure Compliance Monitoring feature bundle, is an innovative solution that gives you complete control over the visibility of confidential IBM i data. It monitors and alerts you to users who have viewed sensitive records in Db2 databases, as well as how and when the data was viewed. It even blocks records from view by unauthorized users.

With Assure Db2 Data Monitor, you can monitor the security of your most valuable corporate data while meeting the most stringent regulatory requirements for data confidentiality.

Benefits

- Monitors and controls the access of all users, even administrators, to highly sensitive information

- Prevents theft and accidental exposure of confidential data

- Meets the most stringent regulatory requirements for monitoring access to critical information

- Satisfies auditors by logging views of confidential data

How It Works

Assure Db2 Data Monitor goes beyond the normal auditing of IBM i database changes to offer total read access control for sensitive data at the record level, without requiring application changes.

Administrators configure Assure Db2 Data Monitor to identify:

- The owner(s) of the file who can see all records

- The field or fields that identify a record as containing sensitive data

- A field or fields that uniquely identify each record

For example, in the diagram below, a database of financial transactions with trading partners might specify that the partner's company ID field defines the sensitivity of each record, and that transfer IDs uniquely identify each record.

The Assure Db2 Data Monitor administrator then configures rules that define who can access records in the file. A variety of criteria are available to define the context in which users can view records, such as IP address, day of week, time of day, program stack and more. Without configuring user access, only the owners can see the records.

In our example, the administrator has configured criteria that allow a user to only see financial transfer records for a specific company ID.

When a user views confidential data, Assure Db2 Data Monitor logs the access in a journal entry, and can alert on the read access. The logged information identifies the file and record that was read, the user that read it, the program they were using, and more.

Key Features

Control of Db2 data visibility

- Confidential records are identified by the content of a specified field(s)

- Users can only view the confidential records they are configured to see

- Even administrative users can be blocked from viewing sensitive records

- The file's owners always have full visibility

Configurable read access criteria

- Powerful criteria allow you to fine tune read access

- Extensive criteria are available, including IP address, job information, day of week, time of day, program stack and more

- Simulation mode allows for testing configurations without impact to daily operations

Logging and alerts on read access

- Views of confidential data rows are logged

- The information logged identifies the file and record that was read, the user who read it and more

- Alerts are sent via popup, email or your specific program

Requires IBM i OS version 7.2 or greater

Before Assure Db2 Data Monitor, the user could see all the financial data in the file for all companies in the database

After Assure Db2 Data Monitor, the user only sees the financial transaction information for company 405, the only company they are authorized to see