

Considerations on migration from ADABAS D to MaxDB
by Jürgen Höhe, Infolytics AG, Cologne
November 2004

Correlation between ADABAS D and MaxDB

The databases ADABAS D and MaxDB have common roots, which makes a migration fairly easy.

The ADABAS D database was originally developed by a subsidiary of the Nixdorf AG. After the merger of Siemens and Nixdorf to SNI, the group of developers moved to Software AG (SAG).

In 1997, the developmental group split and one part went to SAP AG (SAP).

The part staying at SAG continued working on ADABAS D, whereas the team at SAP renamed their version SAP DB.

Since 1997, SAP worked constantly on new versions of the database. In 2003, SAP started a cooperation with MySQL AB. With this partnership, the database was rebranded MaxDB™ by MySQL. Today SAP still has the main responsibility in developing MaxDB, but based on market and community signals MySQL AB contributes to and influences the development. Both organizations work closely together for driving MaxDB's success in the market.

In 2003, SAG stopped developing the ADABAS D database. The maintenance is continued and today carried out from Eastern Europe.

Migration Considerations

In principle, migration from ADABAS D to MaxDB is fairly easy. In most cases only the data have to be transferred from one database to the other. Data definitions (DDL), data manipulation (DML) statements and interfaces like ODBC are upward compatible. Therefore, most applications will run smoothly after the migration of data.

The load tools of ADABAS D and MaxDB are not completely compatible. However, an existing schema can be extracted from ADABAS D and then be loaded to MaxDB with only some systematic changes. The tables have to be unloaded either in a compressed (CSV) or a formatted ASCII format and then loaded using MaxDB Loader commands.

Example

Infolytics AG, a close MySQL AB Partner, migrated a medium sized application with 100 dialogs and 100 tables in one afternoon. A script containing the data model (DDL) and the data extract commands was available but could also have been generated by the MaxDB Loader. The following steps were executed:

All tables were extracted from the ADABAS D database and stored in ASCII files.

The DDL statements were executed without the referential integrity declarations using Visual Studio.

The tables were loaded into MaxDB using the slightly modified ADABAS D load

scripts.

The referential integrity statements were executed. If the FOREIGN KEY relationship declarations are executed at the end, the sequence of tables is irrelevant when they are loaded. The tables were consistent when they were unloaded.

The application was tested. It was found that no modifications were required.

Additional MaxDB Features

A lot has changed in MaxDB since the product development moved to SAP AG and was separated from ADABAS D. This had no impact on the upward compatibility. Among others, there are the following new features:

- SQL extensions
- Stored procedure language extensions
- Performance improvements
- Tools for SQL development and database administration on Microsoft Windows
- Web tools for SQL development and database administration
- Command line interpreters for loading, administrative, and SQL functions
- Script interfaces for loading, administrative, and SQL functions for Perl, Python, and PHP
- Stand-by and hot stand-by mechanisms for high availability
- Performance analysis tools
- Native interfaces implemented for Perl and PHP
- Installation Manager

Assistance for migrating from ADABAS D to MaxDB

If you wish additional information on MaxDB and/or need assistance in migrating your ADABAS D application or solution to MaxDB, feel free to [contact us](#) or your [local MySQL representative](#).