# eventACTION and ussACTION
# Release Notes – Version 8.08

## Database Lock Dataset

### ATTENTION: Migration action required!

Each individual eventACTION database must have its own LOCK dataset associated with it. Up to now this dataset has been allocated to occupy a single track of space. However, as of 8.08, it is necessary to expand this dataset to five tracks for each database. Follow the intructions in the eventACTION CNTL library member COPYLOCK to undergo this very short process. The process involves the following steps:

1. Use the Database Summary panel (accessed by G;Z in the eventACTION ISPF application) to verify the databases being used in your installation.

2. Stop eventACTION on all systems that share the same database.

3. Edit the COPYLOCK JCL to point to the current lock dataset named prefix.DBLOCK and the new dataset named prefix.DBLOCKN and run the copy job; the job runs in a very short time.

4. After the successful completion of the job, rename the current prefix.DBLOCK to prefix.DBLOCKO

5. Rename the new prefix.DBLOCKN to prefix.DBLOCK.

6. Repeat steps 3, 4, and 5 for each database under the started task, if more than the MAIN database is used.

7. Restart eventACTION.

Note that if the DBLOCK dataset for the main database is not allocated at five tracks, then the following message will be issued and the task will end:

```
MZC9999I *** LOCK DATASET IS 1 TRACKS. IT MUST BE AT LEAST 5 TRACKS ***
```

Note that if there is a need to revert to an eventACTION release previous to 8.08, the lock dataset can remain at five tracks. Also, the program that initializes the DBLOCK data set is unchanged, so expansion to five tracks can be done in advance of upgrading to 8.08.

## Changed Defaults for Startup Parameters

### ATTENTION: Migration action required!

This item was actually a change in 8.07, but many sites overlooked it in the documentation, so we are repeating it here.

The defaults for some startup options were changed in eventACTION 8.07. For the RTDS, PXC and PET and components, you must now explicitly specify that they should be started. For the HEALTHCHECK and MAINTASK_CHECK components, you must now explicitly specify if they should not be started. Please see the Customizing Startup Options topic in the eventACTION Planning and Installation Guide for details.

## ussACTION Operating Mode

As of 8.08, the officially recommended operating mode for ussACTION is USSX. This mode uses IBM-provided exit points to track and control USS events. The ussACTION operating mode is set via the USSSTART specification in the MZCPRMxx parmlib member used when starting MZCA.

Refer to the 'eventACTION Planning and Installation Guide' for details on configuring the MZCPRMxx parmlib member.

Refer to 'ussACTION Syscall Exits' for the system setup required to use USSX.

# USS pre_syscall_exit / post_syscall_exit support (USSX)

The USS PRE_SYSCALL exit became GA in 8.07. The POST_SYSCALL exit was introduced in 8.07 as a Beta. Unfortunately, due to a lack of Beta feedback on the POST_SYSCALL exit, it remains in Beta for 8.08.

We strongly recommend that ussACTION users test the POST_SYSCALL exit on their sandbox or test systems. Users may want to continue to just use the PRE_SYSCALL exit on their production systems. The POST_SYSCALL exit sees the results of the syscall after processing by all other ISV PRE_SYSCALL exits as well as the IBM syscall itself, and thus can record successful and unsuccessful syscalls differently. When POST_SYSCALL is active, a backup is only taken after the IBM syscall has successfully made a change, eliminating spurious backups for unsuccessful changes.

To use this exit point, add the following statement to the MZCPRMxx member in addition to USSSTART=USSX:

```
USS_POST_SYSCALL=YES
```

For detailed installation steps please refer to the document 'ussACTION Syscall exits' which is included with the 8.08 distribution.

# Change Manager Facility

The primary purpose of this facility is to transmit change requests destined for remote changeplexes. Transmission is indicated when a list of CPXes (changeplexes) is supplied with a change request. Up to now, this has been supported using VTAM via the MZLULU task. As of 8.08, TCP/IP can now be used to send change requests to remote changeplexes; the new change manager task running under eventACTION's main address space will perform this function. Under the Change Manager, the transmission process can use either VTAM or TCP/IP or a combination of both to allow for migration of sites to using TCP/IP.

To use this new facility, add the following statement to the MZCPRMxx member:

```
CHANGEMGR=YES        /* The default is NO */
```

Alternatively, the Change Manager can be started and stopped via the operator command

```
F MZCA,CHANGEMGR,<START/STOP>
```

## New Global Change Request Parameter

In order to indicate which communication access method is to be used for sending and receiving change requests across multiple changeplexes, an option has been added to the Global Change Request Parameters (option G; option CR from the Primary Selection panel). The new parameter is:

```
Communication method for cross-CPX change requests => TCP
```

The default for this option is TCP to indicate that method be used for change request-related communication with all changeplexes.

Alternatively, specify VTAM to use that access method for all changeplexes. The CPX definitions under the CPX option on the Primary Selection panel will be used for either VTAM or TCP/IP; as such, all changeplexes in use must be defined there in the appropriate list.

## Migration to TCP/IP use when currently using VTAM

If you are currently using VTAM for sending and receiving change requests, you may not want to migrate every changeplex to using TCP/IP at once so you can also specify MIX for this parameter to indicate that some sites will use VTAM and some will use TCP/IP.

When using a MIXed configuration of changeplexes, meaning the local database is to send out change requests to remote CPXes using both VTAM and TCP/IP, you must define a CPX configuration to indicate which CPX is accessed with which access method. To set up this configuration, use the command CPX from the Change Request Parameters panel. You can simply add CPX names and descriptions in the usual table definition manner of eventACTION, also indicating which CPX is the local one (the CPX name for the database you are on).

If desired, there is also an IMPORT <TCP/VTAM> to select names from the current CPX-wide list (option CPX from Primary Selection panel). Using the IMPORT command will add a second column to display the appropriate list from which you can select one or more names. When you use PF3 or END, the selected CPX names and their descriptions will be added to the mixed list their access method type and you will return to having only one list displayed. You can then repeat this process for the other access method if needed. All CPX names defined in this configuration table must also exist within the appropriate CPX definition list which is where the physical connection information is maintained.

## Changeplex Transmission Control Mechanism

Whenever a change request that is defined to be sent to another CPX is created or updated, a record is added to the database queue. Because every system in a changeplex already knows about each and every change request on that database, only one system in the changeplex needs to perform the physical transmission of a change request to one or more remote sites. A mechanism exists whereby one system can be in control of performing the transmissions so that multiple systems in a CPX will not trip over each other.

In the Global Host Records definitions (option G; option H), a new column has been added on the List of Hosts panel; this option is CRQ Mgmt Control. If it doesn't matter to you which system sends out change requests, you can specify ALLOW for each system; in this case, the first system to start up the Change Manager will establish control and only when that Change Manager stops will one on another system in the changeplex take over.

If you prefer one system within the CPX to allows perform the transmission when it is up and running, then specify PRIMARY for this option; only one host in the changeplex may be defined as PRIMARY.

If there is a system that you never want to perform the transmission then you can specify NONE.

This control mechanism will ensure that only one system is transmitting change requests at any point in time and that this control of the transmission queue will be automatically undertaken the systems go up and down. On the List of Change Requests panel, the command MGR (or CHGM) can be used to display the status of the transmission control as well as other informational aspects for investigation as the need may arise.

1. Transmission Queue to show all the change requests queued to be sent to remote changeplexes.

2. Activity Log where each individual transmission to a destination/remote CPX is recorded with its success status and error information if encountered. More information is available when using TCP/IP rather than VTAM.

There are help panels available for all the new options and paramters related to the Change Manager.

Please also note the reminder that even if you want to continue using only VTAM for sending change requests to remote changeplexes, that you are requred to use the Change Manager as of 8.08 in conjunction with MZLULU. The processing of the Transmit Queue has been removed from MZLULU, however MZLULU still performs the receiving functionality for remote access.

## Change Request Batch Interface

The utility MZCBICR1 used to create and update change requests under batch now supports the CPX input parameter. Multiple CPX=changeplex input cards are permitted, for example:

```
CPX=PRODNY
CPX=PRODCAL
```

# Cross-system Compare

## Compare Utility (z/OS MVS and z/OS USS)

When a remote CPX is specified on the compare panel, the password or password phrase will be retrieved from the user's access list as defined via the eventACTION definitions under the CPX facility accessible from the Primary Selection panel. If no definition is found there for the current user, then a panel will be presented to enter both the userid for access to the remote site and its associated password or password phrase. On this same pop-up panel, there is an option to save this access information to the database so that the next time it is required, it can be retrieved directly from the eventACTION database. If the information is not saved to the database, then the user will be prompted for it each time access is required to a remote CPX.

## Compare Utility (z/OS MVS only)

While the ussCompare only uses TCP/IP for cross-system compares, the regular Compare can use either VTAM or TCP/IP. When any compare is being initiated, either online or via batch, the overall List of Changeplexes (CPX List) will be checked to see which access method should be the default. If TCP/IP CPXes are defined then TCP/IP will be set as the default but if only VTAM CPXes are defined then VTAM will be the default. If neither set of CPX definitions exist, then the default will be set as TCP/IP but, of course, no cross-system access will be possible.

If CPX definitions exist for both VTAM and TCP/IP access, there is an option one can specify to indicate which access method is preferred for remote access. In the online utility, the command RCOMM <TCP/VTAM> can be used to set the access method for this and all future compares using the same userid since it is an ISPF profile variable. In batch mode, the parameter RCOMM=<TCP/VTAM> can be used also but it must be specified on every run if the default is not desired. Messages have been added to the MZCPRINT file under batch to indicate the access method in use.

# USS Reference Tracking Projects   **** BETA ****

USS Reference Tracking Project (ussRTP) allows you to define a project to track references to defined files in defined directories and sub-directories. ussRTP supports multiple projects where each project has its own defined directories and files. Files will be tracked if they are referenced from any one of the defined directories in a project. Directory names and file names can be masked with one exception, the directory name cannot have a mask in the first position.

Referenced data is recorded onto secondary databases. The data collected is summarized by Project id, file name, SMF, Directory name, Userid, Jobname, Job Type, and Program Name. Optionally all references can be recorded (detail). The main database cannot be defined for ussRTP recorded data.

The Project definition contains options (i.e. start date, end date, maximum number of references per day and recording time range). The detail recording is per Project id, File Name, SMF and Directory name.

Directory definitions contain options related to what is to be tracked (i.e. any reference or only executed files) and if sub-directories should be tracked. Projects can only be defined by Global Administrators. If a user is not a Global Administrator the displayed definitions will be non-modifiable and commands NEW, INSERT and SAVE will not be available.

Full instructions for enabling this feature, defining projects and viewing the results are provided in the ussAction Administration & User Guide.

**Note:** This feature is currently under Beta test and is subject to further change. Please notify Action Software International if you wish to test this feature, and provide feedback regarding the results of your testing.

## Password phrases

As of 8.08, all eventACTION and ussACTION components that can accept passwords now support password phrases.

If using any of these components in a mixed release environment where some systems are at 8.08 or higher and other systems are at a release level lower than 8.08, a toleration fix is required on 8.07 before maintenance level 8.07.23 and 8.06 before maintenance level 8.06.35. To request the fix, please contact support, referencing issue 0003341. Please note that password phrase support has not been ported back to 8.07 or 8.06, so accessing systems running those releases will need to use passwords, not password phrases.

## Change Request Approvals via Batch Interface

A new option has been added to the Global Change Request Options (option G; Option CR) to have the batch interface check the OID-level option "Creator is allowed to approve own change request" when an approval is being done.  The default for this new global option is NO, to not check the OID-level options, for compatability with all earlier releases of eventACTION.

## Info/Management Interface

Effective with Version 8.08, the eventACTION Info/Management Interface is withdrawn from support. We are not aware of any customers using either Info/Management itself or the eventACTION interface to it.

# About Action Software International

Action Software International is a division of Mazda Computer Corporation.

Located in Toronto, Canada, Mazda Computer Corporation has been producing superior systems and network management software since 1980. The Company's products are widely deployed within Global 2000 companies, as well as numerous government and institutional sites.

Mazda Computer Corporation's mission is to provide easy to use high performance systems management solutions to the IBM z/OS system user community, based on highly functional products and exceptional customer service.

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