

The **Power** Conference For Informix Professionals

# Who am I?

- A german Informix fan
- Working with Informix products since 1989, since 1996 as an independent consultant. No I'm not that old, I was actually 22 during my first contact with Informix technology
- Wrote several articles for IT magazines about Informix technology, but you might need to learn german to read them <sup>©</sup>:
  - http://www.herber-consulting.de/drupal/?q=fachartikel
- Owner of the website:
  - http://www.informix-zone.com





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#### Lock types

- Lock granularities
- Database logging modes
- Isolation levels
- Dynamic lock allocation in IDS
- Lock wait time
- Deadlocks
- Analyzing lock conflicts
- IDS Utilities and locking
- IDS 11: Optimistic concurrency your new friend



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# Lock types I

- Share lock
  - Share locks can be placed on objects that do not have an exclusive lock already placed on them. More than one share lock can be placed on the same object at the same time
- Update lock
  - Update locks are created by cursors that have the 'for update' extension specified and can only be placed on a row that does not already have an exclusive or update lock on it. The update lock will be converted to an exclusive lock as soon as the update is actually performed

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# Lock types II

- Exclusive lock
  - Exclusive locks can only be placed on rows that do not have any other kind of lock on it. Once an exclusive lock is placed on a row, no other locks can be placed on the same row anymore
- Intent lock
  - Intent locks are automatically set by IDS. If a row in a table is updated, an exclusive lock is placed on the row and an intentexclusive lock is placed on the table. This ensures that no other session could place a share or exclusive lock on the table itself as long as an individual table row is exclusively locked



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	Lock type	es III atibility mat	rix				
	Current lock is:	Place share lock ?	Place update lock ?	Place exclusive lock ?			
	None	Yes	Yes	Yes			
	Share lock	Yes	Yes	No			
	Update lock	Yes	No	No			
1	Exclusive lock	No	No	No			
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### Lock granularities I

- Database locks
  - Share lock
    - As soon as you open a database, a share lock will be placed on it. This ensures that no other session could place an exclusive lock on the database or drop the database

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- database stores\_demo;
- Exclusive lock
  - An exclusive lock must be explicitely set on a database. Utilities like *dbexport* will also place an exclusive lock on
    - the database
      - database stores\_demo exclusive;
  - No other session could open an exclusively locked database and read or write data in that database



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# Lock granularities II

- Table locks
  - Share lock
    - A share lock can be **explicitly** placed on a table. Utilities like onunload or oncheck might also place a share lock on a table
      - begin work; lock table customer in share mode;
    - Other sessions can read data from the table but cannot change any data
  - Exclusive lock
    - An exclusive lock can be **explicitly** set on a table or might be implicitly set by statements like *alter table:* 
      - begin work; lock table customer in exclusive mode;



 Only sessions with an isolation level of *dirty read* are able to **read** data from an exclusively locked table but are **not** allowed to **change** data. All other sessions are **not** allowed to **read** or **write** data in this table

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# Lock granularities III

- Page/Row lock
  - If the table is configured for lock mode page, IDS will lock a whole page instead of an individual row. The same is true for index pages.
  - If you have a small rowsize or/and a large pagesize, many rows might be affected by a single page lock
  - The default table lock mode could be set in the onconfig file or as environment variable:
    - onconfig: DEF\_TABLE\_LOCKMODE <row|page>
    - Environment: export IFX\_TABLE\_LOCKMODE=<row|page>
  - If DEF\_TABLE\_LOCKMODE is not set and the environment variable IFX\_TABLE\_LOCKMODE is also not set and the CREATE TABLE statement does not declare the lock-mode, IDS will choose lockmode page as the default



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1 1	Ock granularities IV For OLTP systems lock mode row is in most case Determining the current lock mode of a table:	es the best solution
	<ol> <li>oncheck -pt <db>:<tabname></tabname></db></li> <li>dbschema -d <db> -t <tabname> -ss</tabname></db></li> <li>select locklevel from systables where tabname = "<tabname>";</tabname></li> </ol>	
-	Changing all tables in a database to lock mode r	ow:
•	output to alter_table.sql without headings select "alter table ""    trim(owner)    ""."    trim(tabname, from 'informix'.systables where tabid > 99 and tabtype = 'T' and locklevel = 'P';	)    " lock mode(row);"
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se logging	modes I	
Create statement	Default isolation level	Switch DB loggging mode ?
create database stores_demo;	Dirty read (the <b>only</b> <b>one</b> available)	Yes
create database stores_demo with buffered log;	Committed read	Yes
create database stores_demo with log;	Committed read	Yes
create database stores_demo with log mode ansi;	Repeatable read	No
	Se logging Create statement create database stores_demo; create database stores_demo with buffered log; create database stores_demo with log; create database stores_demo with log mode ansi;	Selogging modes ICreate statementDefault isolation levelcreate database stores_demo;Dirty read (the only one available)create database stores_demo with buffered log;Committed readcreate database stores_demo with log;Committed readcreate database stores_demo with log;Repeatable read





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# Database logging modes IV

What logging mode changes are supported and do they require a backup ?

Initial state	No Logging	Buffered logging	Unbuffered Logging	Mode ANSI
No Logging		OK+Backup	OK+Backup	OK+Backup
Buffered Logging	OK		OK	OK
Unbuffered Logging	ОК	OK		ОК
Mode ANSI	Invalid	Invalid	Invalid	law.
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	Isolation levels I								
	Informix SQL	ANSI SQL	Remarks						
	Dirty read set isolation to dirty read [retain update locks]	Read uncommitted set transaction isolation level read uncommitted	No locks are placed during reading data and no locks from other sessions will block this reader (Exception: retain update locks)						
	<b>Committed read</b> set isolation to committed read [retain update locks]	<b>Read committed</b> set transaction isolation level read committed	Checks for locks being held by other sessions, but does not place a lock itself (Exception: retain update locks)						
	<b>Cursor stability</b> set isolation to cursor stability [retain update locks]	Not available	A share or update lock is placed on the current fetched row. It will be promoted to an exclusive lock if the update is actually performed.						
WHEN.	Repeatable read set isolation to repeatable read	Serializable (and Repeatable read) set transaction isolation level serializable	A share lock is placed on every row read to make sure that this query returns the same result set if it is being re-executed in the same transaction						
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Isolatior	Isolation levels II							
Isolation level	Dirty reads possible ?	Nonrepeatable reads possible ?	Phantom reads possible ?					
<b>Dirty read</b> (ANSI: Read uncommitted)	Yes	Yes	Yes					
Committed read (ANSI: Read Committed)	No	Yes	Yes					
Cursor Stability (ANSI: Not supported)	No	Yes	Yes					
Repeatable Read (ANSI: Serializable)	No	No	No					

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### Isolation levels III

- Differences between the Informix 'set isolation to...' and the ANSI 'set transaction isolation...' statements:
  - Informix does not support an ANSI 'repeatable read' isolation level. The Informix 'repeatable read' isolation level equals to ANSI 'serializable'
  - Informix implementation is session based. Once set, the isolation level is used until a new 'set isolation to...' statement is executed or until the end of the session
  - ANSI implementation is transaction based. Once set, it is only active for the current transaction and will be automatically reset to the default as soon as the transaction ends
  - Informix implementation allows to switch between different isolation levels inside a transaction



ANSI implementation does **not** allow to switch between isolation levels in the **same** transaction





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# Dynamic lock allocation III

- Currently all sessions are affected if a single session exhausts the lock table
  - every session that wants to allocate an additional lock receives a "lock table overflow" error and does – depending on the application code – probably perform a rollback
  - no new sessions can connect to any database in the IDS server because a share lock on the database could not be acquired anymore
  - the database server is virtually frozen, no new transactions (exception: dirty read access) are possible until the rollback of the causing application is finished
- An IDS feature request has been formulated in order to allow the DBA to **limit** the max. number of locks a **single session** is allowed to allocate. Hopefully we will see it in the next IDS release





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## Deadlocks I

- A deadlock occurs if two sessions hold a lock and each session wants to acquire a lock that the other sessions already owns
- A deadlock is automatically solved by IDS
  - before granting a new lock, IDS scans the internal lock table and delivers ISAM error code 143 to one of the involved sessions if it detects a possible deadlock situation
- Deadlock statistics can be found in the following sysmaster tables:
  - sysprofile (Total number of deadlocks detected, see 'onstat -p')
  - syssesprof (Number of deadlocks per individual session))
  - sysptprof (Number of deadlocks per individual table))



# 2008 IIUG Informix Conference Deadlocks II Analyzing deadlocks:

- Add command **onstat -g ses 0** to \$INFORMIXDIR/etc/evidence.sh

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- Activate trap mode: onmode -I 143
- Wait for a deadlock situation
- Deactivate trape mode: onmode -I
- Analyze af-File generated by IDS
- onconfig parameter DEADLOCK\_TIMEOUT
  - will only be used in **distributed** transactions
  - Specifies the upper limit of seconds that the local IDS instance will wait to acquire a lock on a **remote** IDS instance before assuming that a deadlock has occurred
  - ISAM error code –154 (deadlock timeout expired) will be delivered to the application if the time limit will be exceeded



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Analyzing lock conflicts III	
1. onstat -u   egrep "^address L-"	
address flags sessid user tty wait tout nwrites	locks nreads
<b>448136d0 L</b> PR 36 eherber 11 <b>440fe25c</b> -1	1 11 0
2. onstat -k   egrep "^address 440fe25c"	
address wtlist owner lklist type tblsnum rowi	d key#/bsiz
440fe25c 448136d0 <b>44812b40</b> 440fe13c HDR+X 1002c1 10c	0
<pre>3. onstat -u   egrep "^address 44812b40" address flags sessid user tty wait tout nwrites 44812b40 Y-BP 34 informix 6 45baf840 0</pre>	locks nreads 3 28 0
4. onstat -g sql 34	
Sess SQL Current Iso Lock SQL	ISAM F.E.
Id Stmt type Database Lvl Mode ERR	ERR Vers Explain
34 - Stores_demo CR Not Walt U	0 9.24 UII
update customer set fname = "eric" where customer num =	112

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A	Analyzing lock conflicts IV								
-	Interesting columns in 'onstat –k' output								
onst a 1. 4 2. 4	at -k: Address wtlist 440fde9c 0 440fdefc 0 440fe13c 0	<b>owner</b> 44810e58 448119e8 44812b40	<b>lklist</b> 0 0 440fe0d	type HDR+S S c HDR+IX	<b>tblsnum</b> <b>100002</b> 100002 <b>1002c1</b>	rowid 20b 20b 0	<b>key#/bsiz</b> 0 0 0		
<ul> <li>This is a share lock (HDR+S) on a database (tblsnum=100002). You can identify the database using the rowid:         <ul> <li>select rowid, hex(rowid), name from sysmaster:sysdatabases where hex(rowid) like upper("%20b%");</li> </ul> </li> <li>This is an intent-exclusive (HDR+IX) on a table (rowid=0). You can identit the table using the tblsnum:         <ul> <li>oncheck -pt 0x01002c1</li> </ul> </li> </ul>							). You can uses where u can identify		

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Analyzing lock conflicts V							
ons	stat -k: address wtlist	owner	lklist type	tblsnum	rowid	key#/bsiz	
з.	440fe25c 448136d0	44812b40	440fel3c HDR+U	1002c1	10c	0	
4.	440fe49c 0	44813c98	440fe3dc HDR+X	1002c3	0	0	
	440fe61c 0	44812578	440fe01c HDR+IX	1002cf	0	0	
5.	440fe67c 0	44812578	440fe61c HDR+S	1002cf	100	0	
6.	440fe6dc 0	44812578	440fe67c HDR+X	1002d0	135	K- 1	
<ul> <li>This is an update lock (HDR+U) on an individual row (rowid=10c). You can identify the table using the tblsnum and the row thru the hexadecimal rowid</li> <li>This is an exclusive (HDR+X) on a table (rowid=0)</li> <li>This is a share (HDR+S) lock on a page (rowid=100). If the rowid is ending with double zeros, it is a page lock</li> <li>This is an exclusive lock on an individual index item belonging to the first table (for the table with the table with table wi</li></ul>							
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	Analyzing lock conflicts VII									
	Out WA:	tput f IT S LKOBJ	rom lo ID :P	ckwt: ID	PROCNAME	USERNAME :	LKTYPI	E DATABA	SE: TABLENAME	
	0 1	N	400:	-1	(remote)	eherber1 2	K	rome	:status	row
	1 1	Ň	300:	3140	batchp3	dbuser		rome	:status	
	0 -	-	500:	-1	(remote)	eherber1	٢	rome	:customer_order	row
	1 1	Ň	400:	-1	(remote)	eherber1		rome	:customer_order	
2	<ul> <li>Session 300 is waiting for session 400 to release the exclusive lock on table status. But there is a second pair of locks. Session 400 is waiting for session 500 which holds a lock on table customer_order.</li> <li>This is a typical escalating lock situation, because session 400 is holding a lock another session is waiting for, but session 400 is also waiting for a lock to be released. Analyze what session 500 is doing by executing 'onstat -g ses 500'</li> </ul>									
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Utilities and	d lockin	gl
Utility	Type of lock	Remarks
dbexport/dbimport	exclusive	Not configurable, dbexport/dbimport will always place an <b>exclusive</b> lock on the database
onunload	share	Places a <b>share</b> lock on the table that is being processed. If onunload is run against a database, every table will be locked in share mode
load/unload	none	No lock will be placed on the table. User must explicitely lock table if desired
dbload	none/exclusive	If switch <b>-k</b> is used, an <b>exclusive</b> lock will be placed on the table during the load. If switch <b>-r</b> is used, only individual row locks will be set (default).
oncheck -cd/-cD	share	A share lock is placed on the table/fragment that is checked for consistency
oncheck -ci/-cI	none/share	If table is configured for <b>row</b> locking, <b>no</b> lock will be placed on it during the check. If table uses <b>page</b> locking or switch – <b>x</b> is used, a <b>share</b> lock will be placed on the table during the check

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# Utilities and locking II

Utility	Type of lock	Remarks
oncheck -pt	none	No lock will be placed on table
oncheck -pT	share	<b>Share</b> lock will be placed on table. This command can take some time on big tables with many indexes
onpladm (deluxe mode)	none	<b>No</b> lock will be placed on table during load/unload in deluxe mode
onpladm (express mode)	none/exclusive	Loading in express mode will place an exclusive lock on the table. Unloading in express mode will not place a lock on the table









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# IDS 11: Optimistic concurrency II

- Three ways to enable optimistic concurrency:
  - 1. set isolation to committed read last committed;
  - onconfig parameter: USELASTCOMMITTED [dirty read|committed read|all|none]
  - set environment 'USELASTCOMMITTED' [dirty read|committed read|all|none];
- USELASTCOMMITTED settings:
  - dirty read: IDS will automatically add the 'last committed' option if dirty read is active
  - committed read: IDS will automatically add the 'last committed' option if committed read is active
  - all: IDS will automatically add the 'last committed' option for dirty read and committed read



 none: IDS will not change the normal dirty read or committed read behaviour (default)



