

RSH-RSMFSEL

The perfect complement to RACF's SMF Unload ...

The RACF® SMF Unload utility converts raw SMF records into text or XML format for visual inspection or further processing with tools like REXX or DFSORT/ICETOOL. Unfortunately, SMF Unload lacks features that would enable a user to select only certain records for unloading. The user has no alternative but to unload all of the records in the entire SMF input file, and these input files often contain vast amounts of data, much of which may not be relevant to the user's specific information requirement. RSMFSEL solves this problem.

Select and unload only those SMF records you need ...

RSMFSEL selects only those records the user requires from the original raw SMF input file and copies them to a new file for subsequent SMF Unload processing. Selection criteria can, for example, be a specific USERID or certain resource profiles. This new file is likely to be significantly smaller than the source input file, so it will much more readily fit on DASD instead of having to be stored on tape. With a smaller input file, the SMF Unload utility will execute more quickly. The resulting unload file will also be smaller and is much more amenable to visual scanning since it will contain fewer records and only those of particular interest. Furthermore, the availability of a smaller, focused input file makes the use of a browser to view SMF Unload's XML output practical; whereas before, the output file would likely be far too large to reasonably download and open with a browser. Some third-party SMF reporting products share this same deficiency, and RSMFSEL can enhance their use as well, especially when the intent is to gather and analyze data collected for a specific user or set of resource profiles over an extended period.

Coupled with reporting tools ...

RSMFSEL has several companion software tools that further enhance its utility. Once the desired SMF z/OS resource access event records have been selected with RSMFSEL and converted to text with SMF unload, EXTRACT extracts data from key fields in these records and writes them to an output dataset in a tab delimited, standardized format suitable for downloading and importing into Excel. JXTRACT does the same from logon JOBINIT records as does UXTRACT for Unix events and AXTRACT for RACF administration commands. They all consolidate information for multiple occurrences of the same event so that, rather than writing a separate output record for each occurrence of the same event, they write one record per event along with a count of the number of times the event appears as well as a date range showing the earliest and latest dates the event occurred. Lastly, COMBINE merges the contents of multiple extract files. If records for the same event appear in more than one extract file, COMBINE combines them and writes a single event record with their combined access counts and event date ranges. COMBINE can even merge extract files with previously created COMBINE files and likewise merge multiple COMBINE files. COMBINE can optionally ignore certain fields such as SYSID to further consolidate event information.

Ideal for remediation projects involving SMF data analysis ...

For more information and a demonstration, contact:

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