

SMFUTIL

Why Companies are Choosing SMFUTIL over IBM's IFASMFDP Dump Utility



It seems as though almost every program product available today places data to the SMF system. SMF data is very important and companies need a way to absolutely control the data, as well as recover from any sort of data loss or error. The availability of this data for post processing purposes is now more crucial than ever before.

In using your current method of handling SMF data, you may have encountered one or more of the following problems and/or inconveniences:

1. Long and resource intensive jobs that must process vast amounts of SMF data in order to access a relatively *small* amount of data they require.
2. Duplicated SMF data because of restarts of jobs that use DISP = MOD for copying SMF data to tape or disk datasets.
3. Out of sequence data because the SMF MANx datasets are dumped out of order.
4. Missing SMF data because an SMF MANx dataset gets dumped to an intermediate dataset that is accidentally discarded or overwritten without ever being copied to an archive tape.
5. Missing SMF data because all SMF datasets fill up and SMF shuts down until one is dumped and made available again.
6. Lost data due to an I/O error (*physical or logical*) on the only copy of an SMF archive tape.
7. Difficulty in locating required historical data due to proliferation of GDG datasets.

While more scenarios could be presented, the ones above cover most of the problems commonly encountered thus became the creation of SMFUTIL™.

SMFUTIL™ is an SMF data management system. Where SMF data movement is required, this product combines speed with extreme flexibility and versatility in the handling of SMF data. SMFUTIL™ operates as a *replacement* for the IBM IFASMFDP system utility in dumping and clearing SYS1.MANxx datasets and as an SMF data selection processor to retrieve SMF data from archive files to be used by another SMF data processing program (such as SAS from the SAS Institute, MICS from Legent Corp., or IBM's RMF). This data retrieval is based upon user supplied data selection and/or validation criteria. This selection is performed via control keywords that define the data requested and validation functions to be performed. In addition, concatenation of unlike input device types (i.e. disk and tape) is supported. This can greatly reduce the number of steps required to produce current vs. historical types of reports from SMF data where the current data resides in a disk based GDG and the historical data is on tape.

SMFUTIL™ is also designed to greatly enhance the availability and accessibility of SMF data while reducing the resources required in processing and for data storage. Tape stock required for archival of SMF data will be reduced by more than 25% over that used by IFASMFDP archiving directly to tape. No data compression or compaction is performed. All datasets produced by SMFUTIL™ are usable for direct input to any program requiring SMF data. SMFUTIL™ will produce clean archived master files that are cataloged as normal datasets.

SMFUTIL™ is *not required* as a 'front-end' processor each time any SMF data is to be accessed, although it can be efficiently used as one to reduce data volume input to an SMF application such as SAS when a large archive file is to be processed. Access to SMF data may be granted selectively based on site specified criteria by utilizing a security exit point built into SMFUTIL™. SMF data records selected may optionally be passed to one or more user defined exit modules for processing.

SMFUTIL™ supports the creation of multiple subsets with a single pass of the data thus reducing the total CPU and EXCP resources required to post process SMF data. Using a specific content subset of SMF data will substantially shorten the typical SMF processing program run time and resource requirements.

Using extensive error detection and correction techniques, SMFUTIL™ is able to process and recover SMF data from damaged or incomplete data sources. Also supported is an internal checkpoint restart feature designed to prevent duplicate data on MOD disposition output tapes. All output datasets produced completely by SMFUTIL™ will be free of logical data errors and free of invalid SMF records.

If you rely on having complete, valid and error free SMF data, or need the least cumbersome way of selecting specific SMF data, let SMFUTIL™ do the job for you. SMFUTIL™ can be easily justified in your environment by utilizing one or more of the following points:

1. Process the SMF dump file in 60% of normal processing time.
2. Salvage one SMF tape dataset with an I/O error.
3. Replace the manpower effort when SMF data is lost and has to be recovered.
4. Reduce the amount of tapes required for SMF archive by more than 25% over that used by IBM's IFASMFDP.
5. Substantially reduce the amount of resources used - both CPU and EXCP - to handle SMF data by eliminating many redundant data passes of SMF data in creating the archive files.
6. Eliminate the need to re-run a particular program due to duplicated data errors.
7. Prevent lost SMF data that is being fed into job accounting and/or billing packages.
8. Eliminate the manpower effort in having to scan the entire SMF file for specific SMF record requests.

SMFUTIL™ is a superior SMF data management and movement utility. Simply define the selection and validation criteria and let SMFUTIL™ do the rest! There are NO MODIFICATIONS and NO IPL required to install SMFUTIL™. Take advantage of our no obligation 30-day trial evaluation to see just how beneficial SMFUTIL will be for you.



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