

IBM Software Group

What's new for RPG in 7.1

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Agenda

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Overview of what's new for RPG since 6.1, through PTFs

Overview of what was new for RPG in 7.1



ILE RPG PTF enhancements for 6.1 and 7.1

- Several new XML-INTO options
- Performance option for date/time/timestamp
- Get warnings or exceptions for failed CCSID conversions

PTFs for 6.1 (RPG runtime and *CURRENT compiler): The latest supersedes to SI47610 and SI46495
PTFs for 7.1 (RPG runtime and *CURRENT/*PRV compilers): The latest supersedes to SI47646, SI45902, and SI46563



6.1 & 7.1 PTFs: New XML-INTO options:

The first set of PTFs introduced

datasubf

<emp type="reg" id="13573">John Smith</emp>

Without datasubf, XML-INTO could not get the "John Smith" data from this XML fragment

countprefix

- When an RPG array was used to capture repeated XML data, and the DIM was set to the maximum possible
- When an XML tag may or may not appear in a particular XML document

Without countprefix, allowmissing=yes was necessary. It allowed everything to be missing



6.1 & 7.1 PTFs: New XML-INTO options: datasubf option

<emp type="reg" id="13573">John Smith</emp>

- **Problem** : For XML-INTO, "emp" has to be an RPG data structure with subfields "type" and "id" to receive "reg" and "13573". But where does "John Smith" go?
 - D emp
 ds

 D type
 10a
 varying

 D id
 5p 0
- **Solution** : The datasubf option lets you tell XML-INTO the name for any subfields that are intended to receive text data for a data structure.



6.1 & 7.1 PTFs: New XML-INTO options: datasubf option

<emp type="reg" id="13573">John Smith</emp>

Add another subfield to receive the John Smith data.

D	emp	ds		
D	type		10a	varying
D	id		5p	0
D	val		25a	varying

Use the datasubf option to tell XML-INTO the name of the subfields to handle XML data for a data structure

xml-into emp %xml(xmldoc

: 'doc=file datasubf=val');

6.1 & 7.1 PTFs: New XML-INTO options: countprefix option

<dept>

<manager>John Smith</manager>

<emp>Mary Jones</emp>

<emp>Sam Thompson</emp>

</dept>

Problem : The "emp" RPG subfield must be an array big enough to hold the maximum number.

D dept ds D manager 25a varying D emp 25a varying DIM(20)

xml-into dept %xml(xmldoc

: 'doc=file allowmissing=yes');

Option allowmissing=yes is necessary if there are less than 20 in the XML document.



6.1 & 7.1 PTFs: New XML-INTO options: countprefix option

But option allowmissing=yes allows <u>everything</u> to be missing. There would be no error for the following XML document.

<dept>

</dept>

Solution : Option countprefix lets you add "counter" subfields to your RPG data structure. With countprefix, you can remove the allowmissing option and control exactly what you want to be optional.

countprefix gives the prefix for subfield names that are used as counters. With countprefix=n, the counter for "emp" is "nemp".



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6.1 & 7.1 PTFs: New XML-INTO options: countprefix option

```
<dept>
  <manager>John Smith</manager>
  <emp>Mary Jones</emp>
  <emp>Sam Thompson</emp>
</dept>
                      ds
  dept
D
                            25a
                                   varying
D
      manager
                                    varying DIM(20)
                            25a
D
      emp
      numEmp
                            10i 0
\square
      xml-into dept %xml(xmldoc
            : 'doc=file countprefix=num');
```

The "numEmp" subfield will receive the value 2. This makes it easy to know how many array elements to process.

IBM Rational software



6.1 & 7.1 PTFs: New XML-INTO options: countprefix option

You can use countprefix with non-arrays too, to allow the XML document to omit a particular element.

If some documents have a "secretary" tag, you can add a secretary subfield, and a numSecretary to make it optional in the XML document.

D	dept	ds		
D	manager		25a	varying
D	secretary		25a	varying
D	numSecretary		10i 0	



6.1 & 7.1 PTFs: New XML-INTO options: PTFs for 6.1 and 7.1

The second set of PTFs introduced

ns and nsprefix

<emp employee:type="regular" employee:id="13573">

Without the ns option, XML-INTO could not match names like "employee:type" and "employee:id" to RPG subfield names

case=convert

<Étudiant Pre-nom="Élise" Âge="12">

Without the case=convert option, XML-INTO could not match names Étudiant and Âge to RPG subfield names

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6.1 & 7.1 PTFs: New XML-INTO options: namespace option

<emp employee:type="regular" employee:id="13573">

<standard:name>John Smith</standard:name>

</emp>

Problem: This XML document uses "namespaces" to qualify the XML tag names. This causes a problem for XML-INTO because the name "employee:type" cannot match an RPG subfield name.

Solution: The ns (namespace) option

- **ns=remove:** remove the namespace part of the name for subfield matching. Matches with subfield "type".
- ns=merge: merge the namespace with the rest of the name using underscore. Matches with subfield "employee_type"

6.1 & 7.1 PTFs: New XML-INTO options: ns=remove

<emp employee:type="regular" id="13573">

<standard:name>John Smith</standard:name>

</emp>

The RPG code for ns=remove.

D	emp	DS	qualified
D	type	25A	
D	id	101	0
D	name	25A	

```
xml-into emp %xml('emp.xml' : 'ns=remove');
// emp.type = 'regular'
// emp.id = 13573
// emp.name = 'John Smith'
```

6.1 & 7.1 PTFs: New XML-INTO options: ns=merge

<emp employee:type="regular" id="13573">

<standard:name>John Smith</standard:name>

</emp>

The RPG code for ns=merge.

D	emp	DS		qualified
D	employee_type		25A	
D	id		10I O	
D	standard name		25A	

```
xml-into emp %xml('emp.xml' : 'ns=remove');
// emp.employee_type = 'regular'
// emp.id = 13573
// emp.standard_name = 'John Smith'
```



6.1 & 7.1 PTFs: New XML-INTO options: nsprefix

- **Problem:** If the namespace might be different in different XML documents, the ns=remove option must be used. But the RPG programmer may want to know what the namespace was.
- **Solution:** Define subfields to receive the namespace that was removed. nsprefix gives the prefix for the subfield names that will receive the namespace that was removed from the XML tag.

<emp>

<standard:type>manager</standard:type>

</emp>

D	emp	DS	qualified
D	type	25	A
D	ns_type	25	A

```
xml-into emp %xml('emp.xml' : 'ns=remove
nsprefix=ns_');
// emp.type = `manager`
// emp.type = 'standard'
```

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6.1 & 7.1 PTFs: New XML-INTO options: case=convert

New value for the case option lets you tell XML-INTO how to handle characters in the XML name that can't appear in RPG names

```
<Étudiant Pre-nom="Élise" Âge="12">
  <École>Collège Saint-Merri</École>
  </Étudiant>
```

With option case=convert, alphabetic characters like 'Â' are mapped to the matching A-Z (using the job's *LANGIDSHR table).

Other characters other than 0-9 and underscore are mapped to underscore.

Then, all underscores are merged to a single underscore.



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6.1 & 7.1 PTFs: New XML-INTO options: case=convert

- <**Étudiant Pre-nom**="Élise" Âge="12"> <**École**>Collège Saint-Merri</École> </Étudiant>
- Detudiant ds qualified Dage 3p 0 Dpre_nom 25a varying Decole 50a varying



Date, time, and timestamp (DTZ) operations can be costly because the value of a DTZ field is validated every time the field is used.

New H spec keyword

VALIDATE (*NODATETIME)

This keyword allows the RPG compiler to treat date, time, and timestamp data as though it were alphanumeric data when it is convenient for the compiler.



If this keyword is coded, the compiler may skip the validation step for some operations.

Warning:

This means that incorrect data will not always be detected, and may be propagated to other date, time, timestamp fields

Recommendation:

Only use this option in modules where you **never** have date, time, or timestamp errors.

Use the TEST operation to check a field before it is used. The TEST operation will always validate, independent of the VALIDATE keyword.



Question:

What is currently affected by this keyword?

Answer:

- Moving data between values with the same format and separator
 - Assignments (EVAL, MOVE etc)
 - Moving data between fields and I/O buffers on I and O specs
- Comparison between values with the same format and separate AND where the date is formatted as yyyy mm dd, or where the time is formatted as hh mm ss.



Question:

Might other operations and formats be affected by VALIDATE(*NODATETIME) in the future?

Answer:

Yes. By coding this keyword, you give the RPG compiler permission to skip the validation step for any date, time, timestamp operation.





Question:

Is the performance benefit significant?

Answer:

Yes, for a single operation.

But it is normally only noticeable if you have a significant proportion of date, time, timestamp operations compared to the number of I/O operations.





6.1 & 7.1 PTFs: Warnings or exceptions for CCSID conversions

Sometimes a CCSID conversion will result in a "substitution" character being placed in the result.

Unicode source data: **The Thai word for ``house'' is ``บ้**าน''.

The target is an alphanumeric variable with CCSID 37: The Thai word for "house" is "■■■".

CCSID 37 uses the "Latin" character set, and there are no matching characters for the Thai characters that are in the Unicode variable. Substitution characters are placed in the alphanumeric result.

The original Thai characters are all converted to the same substitution characters, so their value is lost.



6.1 & 7.1 PTFs: Warnings or exceptions for CCSID conversions

Non-error RPG status code 50 is set when the conversion has to use substitution characters.

You have to add code to check whether %status = 50

```
alphaText = unicodeText;
if %status() = 50;
```

... there was loss of data

Two problems:

It's too awkward to check for status code 50 after every statement with a CCSID conversion

It's not always easy to tell which statements have CCSID conversions



6.1 & 7.1 PTFs: Get an exception when substitution occurs

CCSIDCVT(*EXCP)

- Code new H spec keyword CCSIDCVT(*EXCP) to get an exception when a CCSID conversion results in a substitution character.
- New status code 00452
- You will need to add messages RNX0452 and RNQ0452 to you message file. The cover letter of the PTF for the RPG runtime has CLP code for adding the messages.



6.1 & 7.1 PTFs: Get an list of CCSID conversions

CCSIDCVT(*LIST)

- Code new H spec keyword CCSIDCVT(*LIST) to get a list of all the CCSID conversions in the module.
- For each conversion, it shows
- The source statements using that conversion
- Whether the conversion might result in substitution characters
- If you want both options, code CCSIDCVT(*EXCP:*LIST) or CCSIDCVT(*LIST:*EXCP)

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6.1 & 7.1 PTFs: Sample CCSIDCVT summary

	CCS	ID Conve	rsio	on s		
	From CCSID	To CCSID	Referer	nces		
RNF7361	834	*JOBRUN	15	25		
RNF7357	1200	*JOBRUN	27	921	1073	
	*JOBRUN	1200	28	12	321	426
			552	631		
RNF7359	835	834	41	302	302	
RNF7360	*JOBRUN	834	242	304	305	
* * * *	END OF	C C S I D C	ONVE	ERSI	ONS	* * * *

• RNF7357 Conversion from UCS-2 to Alpha might not convert all data.

- RNF7358 Conversion from UCS-2 to DBCS might not convert all data.
- RNF7359 Conversion from DBCS to DBCS might not convert all data.
- RNF7360 Conversion from Alpha to DBCS might not convert all data.
- RNF7361 Conversion from DBCS to Alpha might not convert all data.

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6.1 & 7.1 PTFs: How to use the CCSIDCVT summary

You can use this information for two purposes:

- You can improve performance: Reduce the number of conversions by changing the data types of some of your variables.
- You can improve the reliability of your program by eliminating some of the conversions that have the potential to result in substitution characters. For example, if you have conversion from UCS-2 to an alphanumeric variable, and that alphanumeric data is later converted back to UCS-2, you may be able to change the type of the alphanumeric variable to UCS-2, to avoid the potential data loss.



Overview of what's new for RPG since 7.1, through PTFs

Overview of what was new for RPG in 7.1



ILE RPG enhancements for 7.1

- Open Access: RPG Edition
- Enhancements for arrays
 - Sort and search a data structure array
 - Sort arrays either descending or ascending
- Enhancements for defining procedures
 - Optional prototypes
 - One string procedure to handle any string type
 - Fast return values
 - Soft-code parameter numbers
- Alias names in data structures
- Miscellaneous
 - Built-in function to scan and replace
 - Encrypted debug view
 - Teraspace storage model
 - SEU syntax checker frozen at the 6.1 level



7.1: Open Access: RPG Edition

- Open Access provides a way for RPG programmers to use the simple and well-understood RPG I/O model to access resources and devices that are not directly supported by RPG.
 - Web
 - Mobile phones
 - IFS files
 - Data queues
 - Etc etc etc

Instead of the system handling the I/O, instead, a "handler" program or procedure handles the I/O requests.



7.1: Open Access: the RPG coding

The RPG coding to use Open Access is simple. Just add the HANDLER keyword to the F spec.

FmyScreen CF E WORKSTN HANDLER('HDLR')

The parameter for the HANDLER keyword can be

A program

HANDLER('MYLIB/MYHANDLER')

HANDLER ('MYHANDLER')

A procedure in a service program

HANDLER('MYLIB/MYSRVPGM(myHandler)')

HANDLER('MYSRVPGM(myHandler)')

A character variable, with one of those values set at runtime

HANDLER (myField)



7.1: Open Access: the handler

What is more complex is the handler itself.

The handler must do all the work to perform the required I/O.

For a READ operation, the handler must get the data from the device or resource it is working with, and then transform the data into the form required by the RPG program.

For example, the handler might get the data like this:

item: Hammer cost: 200.51

It must transform the data into the Input Buffer subfield of the handler parameter, in the data types used by the RPG program

0002005100Hammer



7.1: Open Access: the handler

Handlers are not shipped as part of Open Access.

You have to write the handlers yourself, or more likely, purchase them. Here are some companies that provide Open Access handlers

Handlers for modernizing WORKSTN files

- ProfoundLogic
- Look Software
- ASNA Wings

Handlers for working with alternate databases

- RJS Software

If you want to try writing your own Open Access handler, the documentation for writing handlers is in the RPG Café, and in the 7.1 Info Center under the RPG part of the Programming topic.



Licensing change for Open Access: RPG Edition

You may have heard that Open Access is a separate product that you have to buy. That has changed.

On January 31, 2012, IBM announced

- Open Access is available as part of the RPG compiler
- No longer dependent on the 5733-OAR product
- The copy files in library QOAR become part of the WDS product
- See the RPG Café for full details on the PTFs for 6.1 or 7.1 <u>http://tinyurl.com/rpg-oar-ptfs</u>



RPG: Sort and search a data structure array

Sort a data structure array using one subfield as a key
// sort the info array by name
SORTA info(*).name;

// sort the info array by dueDate
SORTA info(*).dueDate;

Search a data structure array using one subfield as a key
// search for `Jack' in name
pos = %LOOKUP(`Jack' : info(*).name);

// search for today's date in dueDate
pos = %LOOKUP(%date() : info(*).dueDate);



RPG: Sort and search a data structure array

If you have a complex data structure with nested arrays

An array of family that has sub-arrays of child

family(x).child(y)

Then all except one of the arrays must have a "real" index.

- The part up to the (*) index indicates which array will be sorted.
- The part after the (*) index indicates the "key" for sorting.

Sort the child array in one of the family elements by the age of the children:

family(2).child(*).age

Sort the family array by the first child's age

family(*).child(1).age



RPG: Example of sorting a complex data structure array

name	numChild	child		
		name	age	
Smith	2	Sally	12	
		Jimmy	2	
Jones	3	Polly	9	
		Andy	5	
		Mary	11	



RPG: Example of sorting a complex data structure array

- * A type definition for a child
- D child_t ds qualified template
- D name 25a varying
- D age 5i 0
- * The family array. Each element has a child array.
- D family ds qualified dim(5)
- D name 25a varying
- D numChild 5i 0
- D child likeds(child_t) dim(10)

name	numChild	child		
		name	age	
Smith	2	Sally	12	
		Jimmy	2	
Jones	3	Polly	9	
		Andy	5	
		Mary	11	



RPG: Example of sorting a complex data structure array

endfor;

Sort	name	numChild	child	
			name	age
	Smith	2	Sally 12	12
			Jimmy	2
	Jones 3	3	Mary	11
			Polly	9
			Andy	5



RPG: Example of sorting a complex data structure array

// sort the family array by age of first child

SORTA family(*).child(1).age;

Sort family by child(1).age, ascending

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name	numChild	child	
		name	age
Jones	3	Mary	11
		Polly	9
		Andy	5
Smith	2	Sally	12
		Jimmy	2

RPG: Sort ascending or descending

Non-sequenced arrays can be sorted either ascending or descending.

D meetings S D DIM(100)
/free
 // sort descending, with the
 // most recent date first
 sorta(d) meetings;

(D) extender indicates a descending sort.

(A) Extender indicates ascending (default).



RPG: Optional prototypes

- If a program or procedure is not called by another RPG module, it is optional to specify the prototype.
- These are some of the programs and procedures that do not require an RPG prototype
 - An exit program, or the command-processing program for a command
 - A program or procedure that is never intended to be called from RPG
 - A procedure that is not exported from the module





RPG: Optional prototypes

Rules:

- 1. If an RPG procedure is called from another RPG module, it must have a prototype
- 2. All modules either calling the procedure and the module that defines the procedure must all use the same prototype (use a /COPY file)

The RPG compiler cannot enforce these rules

But they are simple to follow if you remember one of the purposes of a prototype:

The prototype ensures that the callers of a procedure pass the parameters according to the way the procedure expects them them to be passed.



RPG: Optional prototypes: Example

```
H main(hello)
```

```
P hello
                   b
 /free
   dsply ('Hello ' + getName());
 /end-free
P hello
                   e
                   b
P getName
D
                   pi
                                   10a
                                   10
D ans
                   S
 /free
   dsply ('What is your name?') '' ans;
   return ans;
 /end-free
P getname
                   e
```

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RPG: Implicit CCSID conversion for parameters

<u>Previous support</u> : implicit conversion between the different string types (alpha, unicode, dbcs) for assignment

<u>New support</u> : implicit conversion on parameter passing

- Enables writing a single procedure that can handle any string type.
- The procedure is written to have Unicode parameters and a Unicode return value, and the RPG compiler handles any necessary conversions.

```
// makeTitle() upper-cases and centers the parameter
alphaTitle = makeTitle(alphaValue : 50);
ucs2Title = makeTitle(ucs2Value : 50);
dbcsTitle = makeTitle(dbcsValue : 50);
```



RPG: Performance returning large values

If you have a lot of calls to procedures that return large values, performance can be noticeably poor

```
title = center(getDesc(id));
```

One possible solution is to change the procedures so they use a parameter instead of a return value

```
getDesc(tempDesc : id);
center(tempTitle : tempDesc);
title = tempTitle;
```

But that is awkward. The temp fields have to defined exactly the same as the parameters.



RPG: Performance returning large values

Solution: use the RTNPARM keyword.

The RPG compiler changes the return value to be an extra parameter.

- The speed of using a parameter with the convenience of using a return value
- Especially noticeable when the prototyped return value is a large varying length value

D D	center	pr	100)000a		varying rtnparm
D	text		50)000a		const varying
D	len			10i	0	value
D	title	S		100a		varying
/	free					
	title = centered	er ('Cha	pter 1'	: 60)	;	



RPG: Performance returning large values

RTNPARM is internal to RPG.

If you want to call a RTNPARM procedure from another language, you must define it in the other language as though it has an extra parameter, and no return value.

D	getDesc	pr 10	000a		rtnparm
D	id		9p	0	const

To call this from CL, add the "desc" parameter first:

dcl &id type(*dec) len(9 0)
dcl &desc type(*char) len(1000)

callprc getDesc parm(&desc &id)



RPG: Softcode the parameter number

The %PARMNUM built-in function returns a parameter's position in the parameter list.

D	myProc	pi	10A	OPDESC
D	company		25A	
D	city		25A	OPTIONS (*VARSIZE)

Problems solved by %PARMNUM:

Pass a parameter number to a Parameter-Information API

CEEDOD (2 : more parms); // hard to understand CEEDOD (%PARMNUM(city) : more parms); // better

- Check to see if the number of passed parameters is high enough for a particular parameter
 - if %parms >= 1; // hard to understand
 - if %parms >= %PARNUM(company);

// better



RPG: %PARMNUM is imperative with RTNPARM

When a procedure is defined with RTNPARM

- The return value is handled as an extra parameter under the covers
- The extra parameter is the first parameter
- PARMS and the parameter APIs use the true number
- The apparent parameter number is off by one

D	myProc	pi	10A	RTNPARM
	. RTNPARM	hidden parame	ter	
D	parm1		25A	
D	parm2		25A	

The 'parm2' parameter looks like the second parameter, but it is actually the third parameter.

%PARMNUM <u>must</u> be used with %PARMS or the CEE APIs that take parameter numbers.



RPG: Support for ALIAS names

Background

- Fields in externally described files can have a standard name up to 10 characters and an alternate (ALIAS) name up to 128 characters.
- RPG III only allowed 6 characters, so many databases have files with cryptic names like CUSNAM, CUSADR. The files often have alternate names such as CUSTOMER_NAME and CUSTOMER_ADDRESS, that can be used in SQL queries.
- RPG programmers would like to use the alternate names in their RPG programs.

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RPG: Support for ALIAS names in data structures

New ALIAS keyword for RPG

- When ALIAS is specified, RPG will use the alternate name instead of the 10-character standard name.
- Supported on D specs for any externally-described data structure.
- Supported on <u>some</u> F specs, and then used for LIKEREC data structures.
 - Supported for qualified files or local files in subprocedures.
 - Not supported for 99.99% of your files (unfortunately).

The subfields of the data structure will have the alternate names instead of the standard name.



RPG: Support for ALIAS names

A	R CUSTREC		
Α	CUSTNM	25A	ALIAS (CUSTOMER_NAME)
Α	CUSTAD	25A	ALIAS (CUSTOMER_ADDRESS)
A	ID	10P 0	
D	custDs	e ds	ALIAS
D			QUALIFIED EXTNAME(custFile)
/f	free		
	custDs.custc	omer_name =	'John Smith';
	custDs.custc	omer_address	= '123 Mockingbird Lane';
	custDs.id =	12345;	_



RPG: New built-in function %SCANRPL

The %SCANRPL built-in function replaces all occurrences a string with another string.

```
fileErr = 'File &1 not found. Please create &1.';
msg = %scanrpl ('&1' : filename : fileErr);
```

// msg = 'File MYFILE not found. Please create MYFILE.'

Problem solved by %SCANRPL:

Hand-written versions of scan-and-replace tend to be large, error prone, and difficult to maintain.



Other 7.1 enhancements

- A couple of enhancements that are not just for RPG
- Encrypted debug view
- Teraspace storage model



Encrypt the debug listing view (all ILE compilers)

The problem:

 You want to ship a debuggable version of your application to your customers, but you don't want them to be able to read your source code through the debug view

The solution:

 Encrypt the debug view so that the debug view is only visible if the person knows the encryption key.

==> CRTBNDRPG MYPGM DBGENCKEY(`my secret code')

Then either

==> STRDBG MYPGM DBGENCKEY(`my secret code')

Or

==> STRDBG MYPGM

and wait to be prompted for the encryption key



The problems:

- 16MB automatic storage limits with the single-level storage model, for a single procedure, and for all the procedures on the call stack
- RPG's %ALLOC and %REALLOC have a 16MB limit



The solution: use the teraspace storage model

- Much higher limits for automatic storage.
- Compile with STGMDL(*TERASPACE) to always use the teraspace storage model
- Can compile *CALLER and programs and service programs with STGMDL(*INHERIT) so they can be called from either single-level or teraspace programs



Challenges if you change to use the teraspace storage model

- Any one activation group can only use one storage model.
 - Either change every program and service program that uses an activation group to be STGMLD(*TERASPACE) or STGMDL(*INHERIT)

Or

- Split up the programs and service programs into two different activation groups, say MYACTGRP and MYACTGRPTS.
 - This requires careful analysis of overrides, commitment control, shared files etc



Larger RPG allocations can be used without completely changing to the teraspace storage model:

RPG's %ALLOC and %REALLOC can allocate teraspace with a much higher limit

Teraspace allocations are the default in the teraspace storage model

Specify H-spec ALLOC(*TERASPACE) to have teraspace allocations in any storage model







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