Zenator Systems – Best Practices
Series previously known as *Technical Guidance Notes*
Scope Locking

Introduction

A problem was detected that the *Reports Plus* transfer and *Allocator* can clash with each other when they are run in the same database.

As a solution, Falcon Group recommends running the processes in separate databases.

Operating Procedure

At off-peak times, say 04:00 and 13:00 each day, do this.

1. Copy the Production database to the (New) ProductionReporting database.
2. Run *Reports Plus* transfer in ProductionReporting database. (The *Zenator* data source needs to be changed to point to ProductionReporting, but once only)
3. Run *Reports Plus* with ProductionReporting database once transfer is complete. (This is a permanent change)
4. Run *Zenator Check*, *Allocator* and *Launch* as normal with Production database.

Scope Locking

Helping users to control the *Reports Plus* transfer is an important issue we are pleased to address. The explanation below is to help the user understand how the process works.

Here follows a brief summary of our guidance. Contact FGL at support@globalfalcon.net for greater detail.

1. *Zenator* and SQL Server.
   a. *Zenator Check*, *Allocator*, *Launch* and *WDC* (through *webAPI*) update the native *Zenator* tables, which for this Best Practice, we call the "4 Applications".
   b. *Reports Plus* works on a set of separate static *Zenator* reporting tables.
   c. The static *Zenator* reporting tables are periodically updated from the native *Zenator* tables by a process called the *Reports Plus* transfer.
2. Scheduling.
   a. Most *Zenator* users run an automatic *Reports Plus* transfer overnight. Generally, nobody is using the 4 Applications at that time, and there is no conflict between the native *Zenator* tables and the static *Zenator* reporting tables.
   b. *Zenator* users often need to run another transfer during the working day. If any user is using the 4 Applications while the *Reports Plus* transfer is running there can be a conflict between the native *Zenator* tables and the static *Zenator* reporting tables.
3. Running the *Reports Plus* transfer during the working day. (refer to Best Practices on Setting up a shared folder for Reports, and Setting up *Reports Plus Scheduler*.)
   a. None of the 4 Applications should be running or at least should not be updating data when the *Reports Plus* transfer starts.

   b.   None of the 4 Applications should be started or at least should not be updating data until the *Reports Plus* transfer finishes.

4.   *Zenator* users should carry out periodic checks to prove that the *Reports Plus* transfer is working correctly.

   a.   This should be a Health Check report in Reports +.

   b.   Alan, I am doing this checking to make sure the *Reports Plus* transfer is working correctly in the Kiewit database. I will build my checks into a report.

5.   Kiewit.

   a.   Kiewit developed new functionality that prevents updates to ITRs, PLIs, Tags and TLCBs on certified systems. The new code was written in the SQL database, not in the 4 Applications. The functionality was tested and worked perfectly in the 4 Applications.

   b.   The code was in the SQL database caused the Reports Plus transfer and Allocator both to fail intermittently when they were running at the same time.

6.   Recommended solution using a separate ProductionReporting database.

   a.   *Reports Plus* transfer and *Allocator* clash with each other when they are run in the same database. FGL recommends running them in separate databases.

   b.   Copy the Production database to the (New) ProductionReporting database. (SQL Script can be supplied)

   c.   Run *Reports Plus* transfer in ProductionReporting database.

   d.   Run *Reports Plus* with ProductionReporting database once transfer is complete. (This is a permanent change)

   e.   Run *Zenator Check*, *Allocator* and *Launch* as normal with Production database.

   f.   Benefits.

Important Points to Note

1.   Compliance with item 3 above is simplified. This advice is for all users.
2.   Kiewit problem running *Reports Plus* transfer and *Allocator* no longer happens. This advice is for Kiewit.
3.   The periodic checks to prove that the *Reports Plus* transfer is running can be checked precisely.
4.   There is no disruption to the 4 Applications.