

TANDsoft's OPTA-Trace Stack Monitor Avoids Stack Overflow

OPTA-Trace is a popular TANDsoft product that provides real-time tracing and debugging for all HP NonStop applications. New this year to OPTA-Trace is an early warning feature that alerts developers to the impending threat of a stack overflow.

OPTA-Trace Stack Monitor analyzes an application's stack usage for memory shortages in the call stack. It is used primarily in development and testing environments. Programmers can manually establish and test stack levels to identify optimal limits for preventing stack overflow once an application is placed into production. Stack Monitor also aids in spotting potential stack-overflow culprits.

Stack Monitor provides developers with a clear snapshot of all their programs on one screen. They can look at trace files globally (show me all files with only 500 bytes remaining), or they can look at one file at a time. Long before its stack limit is approached, an application's memory issues can be evaluated and modified; and an updated version can be installed.

Here's an example: A program running in a J06.14 operating system is perilously close to its stack limit, or red zone; but no one knows it because the program still functions. The company then upgrades to a J06.15 operating system, and the migrated program suddenly abends in the upgraded operating system. OPTA-Trace Stack Monitor can prevent this from happening by allowing developers to a) recognize how close to the stack limit the program is operating in the J06.14 and b) to modify stack memory usage for the program in the J06.15.

OPTA-Trace does not fix stack overflow. Instead, it helps developers monitor all program stack limits. The result? Programs don't abend, unscheduled downtime is avoided, and users aren't inconvenienced. Without OPTA-Trace Stack Monitor, customers remain blind to which of their programs are about to experience the nasty outcome of a stack limit that has been exceeded.

TANDsoft's "best of breed, best in price" philosophy offers highly competitive value for all TANDsoft solutions. In addition to OPTA-Trace, they include the OPTA2000 virtual clock- and time-zone simulator; Command Stream Replicator, which automatically replicates DDL structure and other environment changes to target systems – changes and settings that normally are not replicated because they sit outside the TMF Audit Trail; FileSync for automatic file synchronization and replication; and the Enscribe-2-SQL and TMF-Audit Toolkits, which offer flexible, affordable alternatives to more expensive conversion products or manual conversion techniques.

TANDsoft products require no application source-code modifications and are available for all HP NonStop servers. Free trials are available. For information about TANDsoft solutions, contact Jack Di Giacomo at +1 (514) 695-2234. Our *Enscribe to SQL Migration Forum* on LinkedIn is at 156 members and counting.

TANDsoft will be represented at the SunTUG/Connect Florida Sunshine Summit on March 8th. Check out www.tandsoft.com for "Virtualize and Synchronize Your NonStop Systems with OPTA2000 and FileSync," TANDsoft's partner presentation at N2TUG's recent meeting.