

SmartAnalyzer[®] for DMS – Frequently Asked Questions

How is SmartAnalyzer used?

SmartAnalyzer requires minimal input by the user. Its menu-driven, fill-in-the-blanks ISPF interface allows you to easily analyze your current backup procedures from a number of different perspectives. This results in clear, comprehensive, and easy-to-use reports. Best of all, you can spend more time solving your backup problems rather than searching for and comparing the relevant information.

How does SmartAnalyzer improve my backup procedures?

SmartAnalyzer improves the reliability and performance of your current backup procedures by applying the following five key strategies:

- **Detect Missing Backups**

Often there are important or even crucial application data sets which are not backed up by DMS, or which are backed up at a wrong point-in-time (PIT). In case of software or hardware failure, the absence of proper backups may cause valuable time to be lost and, in extreme cases, even impact your business. Sample exposures: Active data set not backed up at all; Data set is updated multiple times with no intervening backups.

- **Detect Unusable Backups**

Sometimes existing backup data sets and volumes contain invalid data which is actually unusable when recovery is required. The impact of this situation is usually equivalent to not having any backup at all. Sample exposures: Backup taken for data set with I/O error; Tape backup volume already scratched.

- **Detect Non-Standard Backups**

Jobs often contain steps to back up data in a non-standard manner, causing resources to be wasted, or valuable time to be lost during recovery. Sample exposures: Backup for data set taken via general copy program (e.g., IEBGENER); Backup taken bypassing DFSMS-defined backup policy.

- **Detect Conflicting Backup Policies/Statuses**

Backup policies defined to the local data management products, or backup statuses maintained in the local data management products, are sometimes not identical, causing data to be lost. Sample exposures: Differing expiration date for a backup file (volume) in DMS and in the Tape Management system; Differing catalog status of an archive file in DMS and in the System Catalog.

- **Detect Excessive Backups**

More backups than actually required are often taken, causing resources to be wasted. Eliminating unnecessary backups can drastically reduce the amount of data being backed up, significantly reducing backup window time and system resources consumption. Sample points: Excessive backup performed for data which does not change; Backup taken for insignificant data.