

Introduction to DB2 & XML

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nikos dimitrakas



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1 Introduction

This compendium gives a short introduction to DB2 12 and its facilities for database administration. We discuss installing DB2 12 and using the Data Studio. After that, there is an introduction to some DB2 specific XML features accompanied by SQL/XML features supported by DB2. All the examples are tested on DB2 for Windows on a Windows 11 platform, but they should work in a similar manner on any platform. It is recommended that you use DB2 for Windows.

The latest version of this compendium is available at <http://coursematerial.nikosdimitrakas.com/db2xml/> where all other relevant files can also be found.

1.1 DB2

DB2 is IBM's relational DBMS and it was one of the first such products. Since version 5 or 6 IBM has included XML features in DB2. During the past two decades many of those features have become part of the SQL standard, while others have been replaced by similar standard facilities. DB2 12 (and DB2 9-11) has abandoned several DB2 specific XML solutions available in the previous versions and is moving closer to the SQL standard. DB2 12 is still missing several XML features that are part of the SQL standard.

DB2 has a set of tools for working with DB2 databases and for managing DB2 installations. In version 9 and earlier, DB2 was bundled with tools like the Control Center (which served as the main hub for performing almost everything with several wizards for practically every command) and the Command Editor (a tool for executing SQL commands and scripts). From version 10, these tools have been discontinued and replaced by IBM Data Studio which is presented later in this introduction.

1.2 Prerequisites

It is required that the reader is familiar with database administration and SQL and has a good understanding of XML. This introduction focuses on DB2 specific XML features, so most basic database concepts will not be explained in detail. All the examples can be executed in any interface tool for DB2 but the recommended tool is the Data Studio.

1.3 Structure

In the next chapter we will take a quick look at the installation and configuration of DB2 and the Data Studio with a short introduction to the relevant facilities of the Data Studio. After that we will look at the sample data used in the examples to come. In chapter 4 we will go through several examples using the sample data and DB2's XML features.

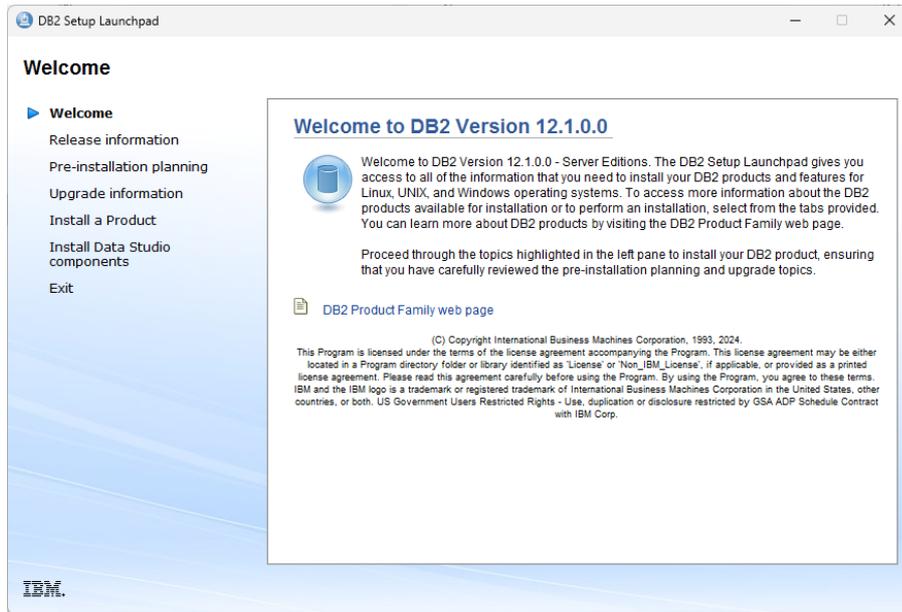
2 DB2 12

DB2 12 is available in different editions. The Community Edition is free and fully functional. In this introduction, we will use the Community Edition, but any other edition should work just fine.

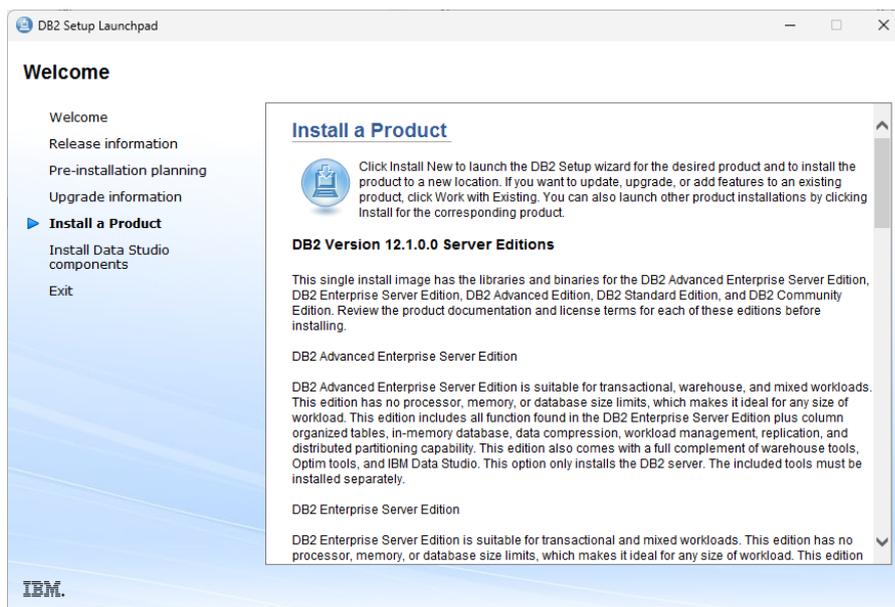
2.1 Installation

Start by downloading the appropriate installation file. This compendium is based on version 12.1.0.0 for Windows x64. In order to download the installation file, you may need to create a free account.

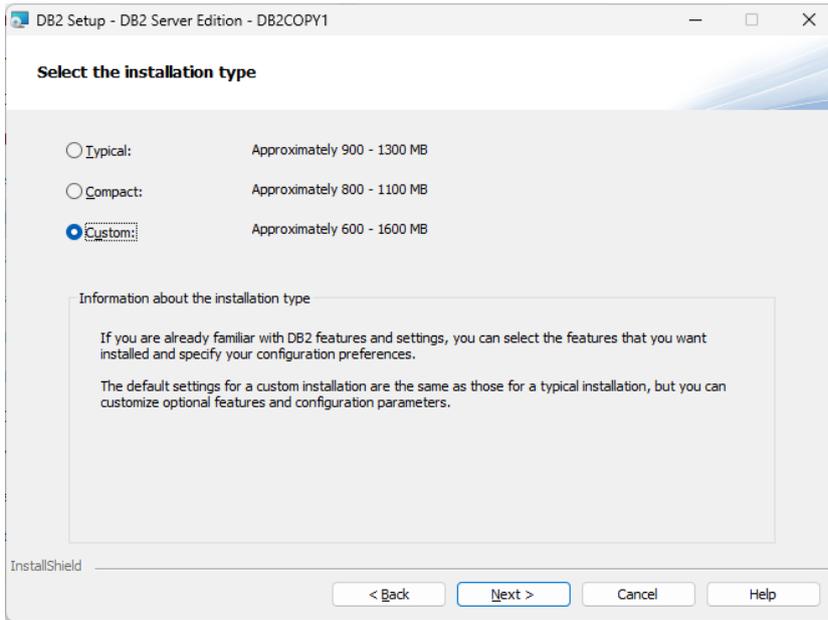
Run the executable to start the installation. You will need to unzip the downloaded file first (in a folder without spaces in its name). Eventually, the DB2 Setup Launchpad should appear:



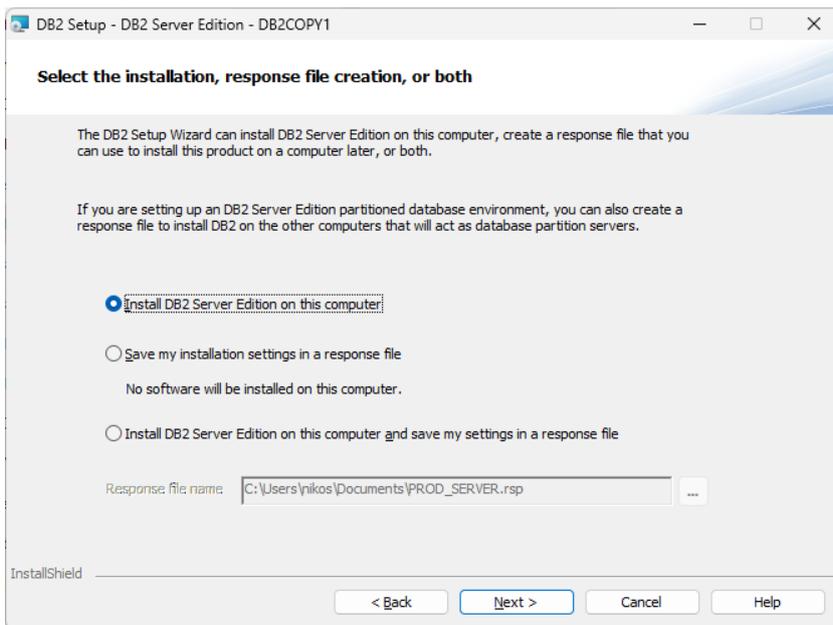
Select "Install a Product" from the menu and select "Install New" under "DB2 Version 12.1.0.0 Server Editions":



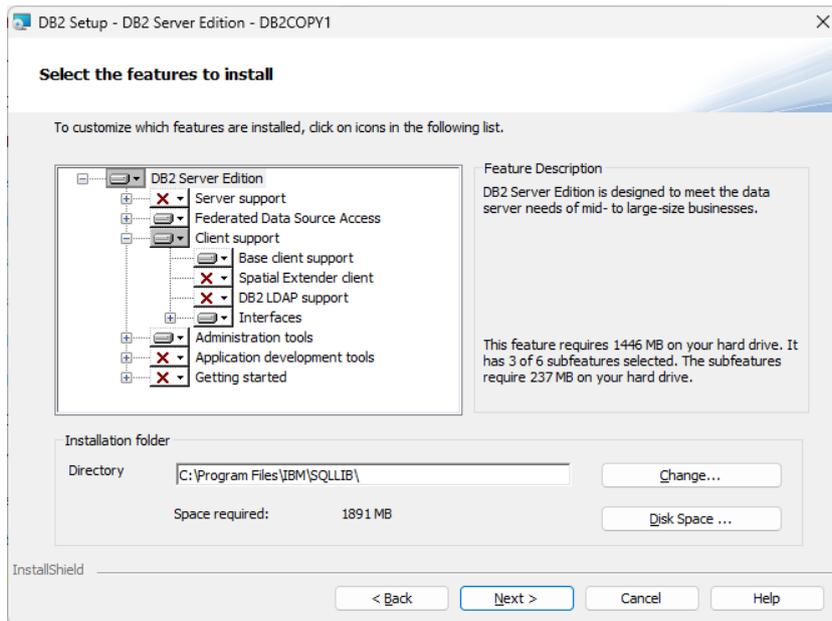
The installation wizard will appear and it will guide you through the installation and configuration. Press "Next", accept the License Agreement and press "Next" once more. Choose "Custom" as the installation type:



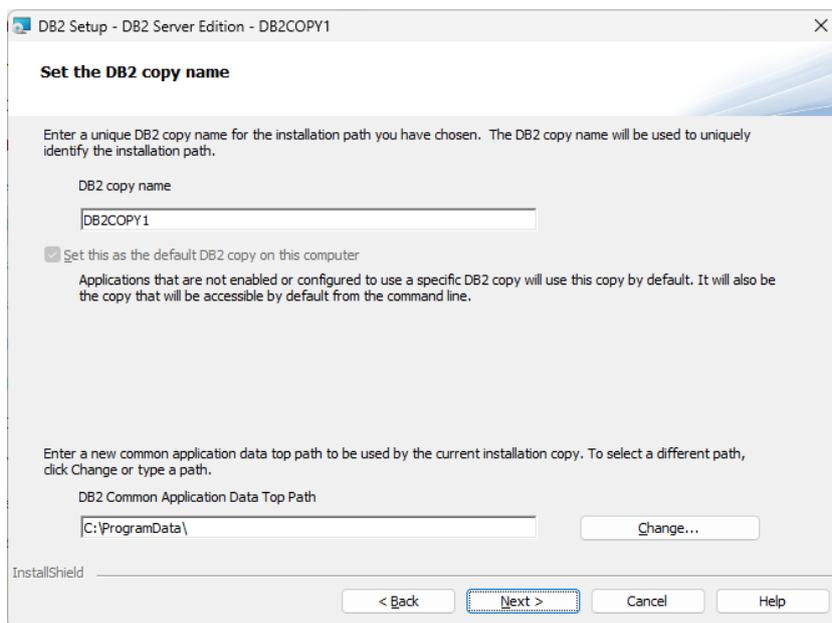
In the next step, choose to install DB2 on this computer:



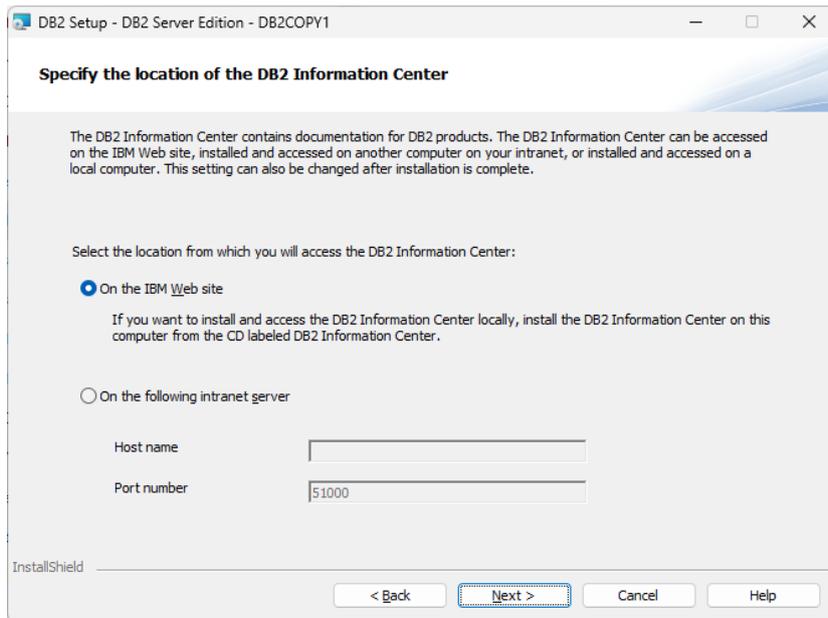
In the next step, you may add or remove features. For example, the Application development tools, LDAP support, Server Support, and Spatial Extender are not relevant to this introduction and can be excluded, which saves some space.



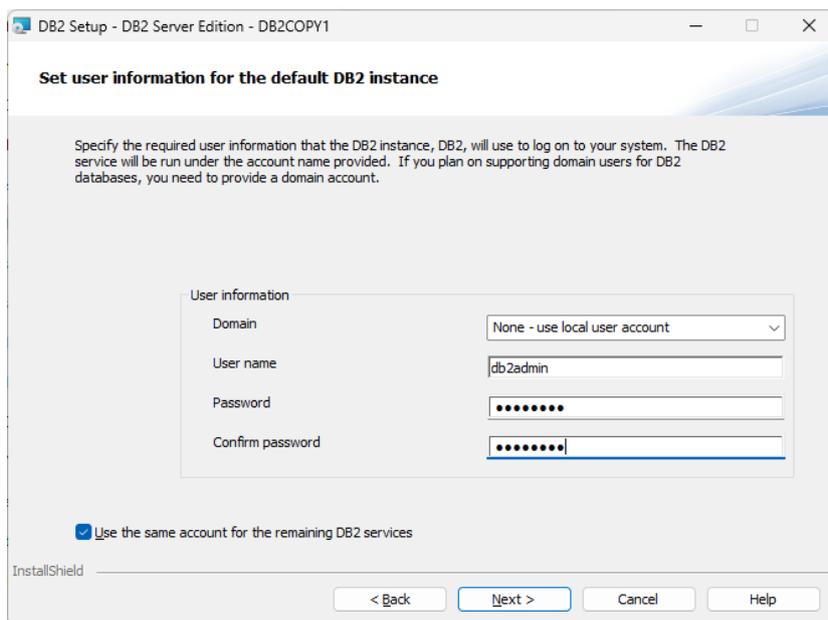
In the next step you can choose to install additional interface languages. We are fine with just English. In the next step you can name your installation. The default is DB2COPY1, which is fine. You can also choose the directory where DB2 will store application data.



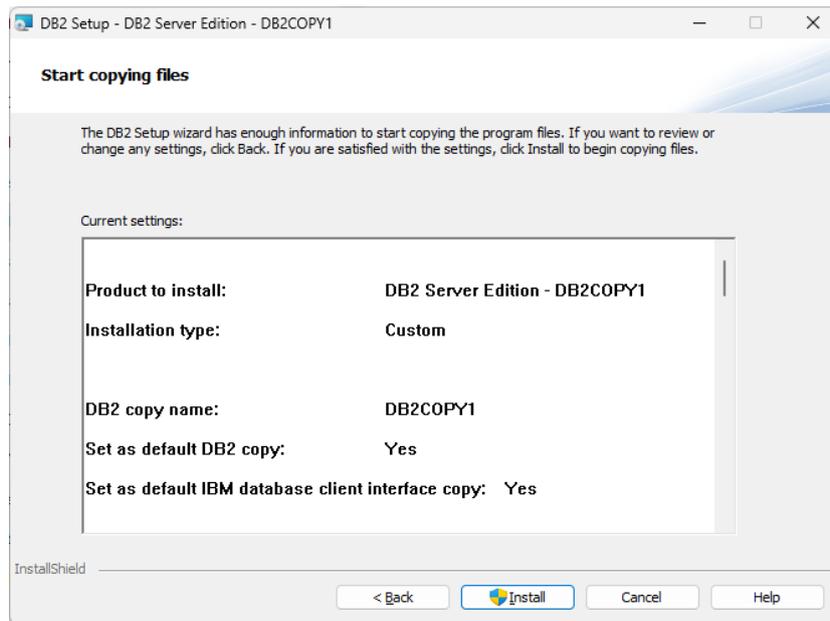
In the next step you can select how you want to access the Information Center, which is the DB2 manual. The IBM Web site option is fine.



In the next step you must provide a password for the db2admin account. This will be the administrator account for DB2 and it will be used for running the DB2 services on the system.

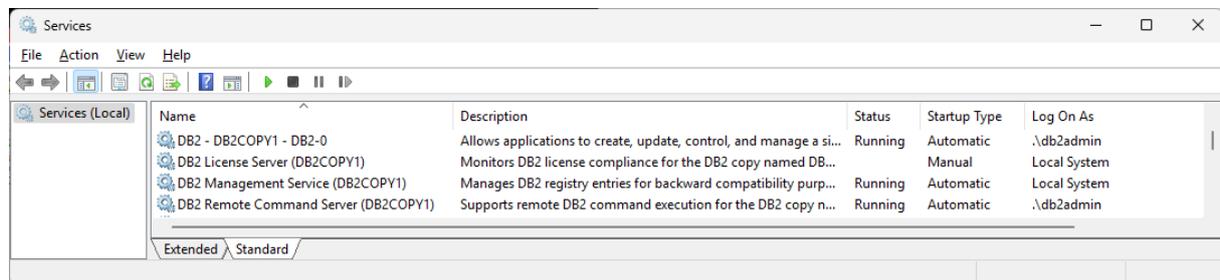


In the next step, you see that a new DB2 instance will be created. You may configure the instance, so that it, for example, does not start automatically every time Windows starts, but then you will have to manually start it every time you want to use it. Leave the default settings and go to the next step. If the operating system security is enabled, then Windows users must belong to the right group in order to access the local database instance and databases. By disabling this option, all local accounts will have full access to the database instance. We disable it, but you should choose the appropriate option for your system. If you enable this option, make sure to make your account a member of DB2ADMNS in order to get full access. After this step, the wizard will present a summary, before the installation is completed:



After pressing "Install" you may have to wait for a while. The installation will take a few minutes and eventually you will get the message "Setup is complete".

During the installation several Windows services were created and some of them use the db2admin account, which was also created in the system:



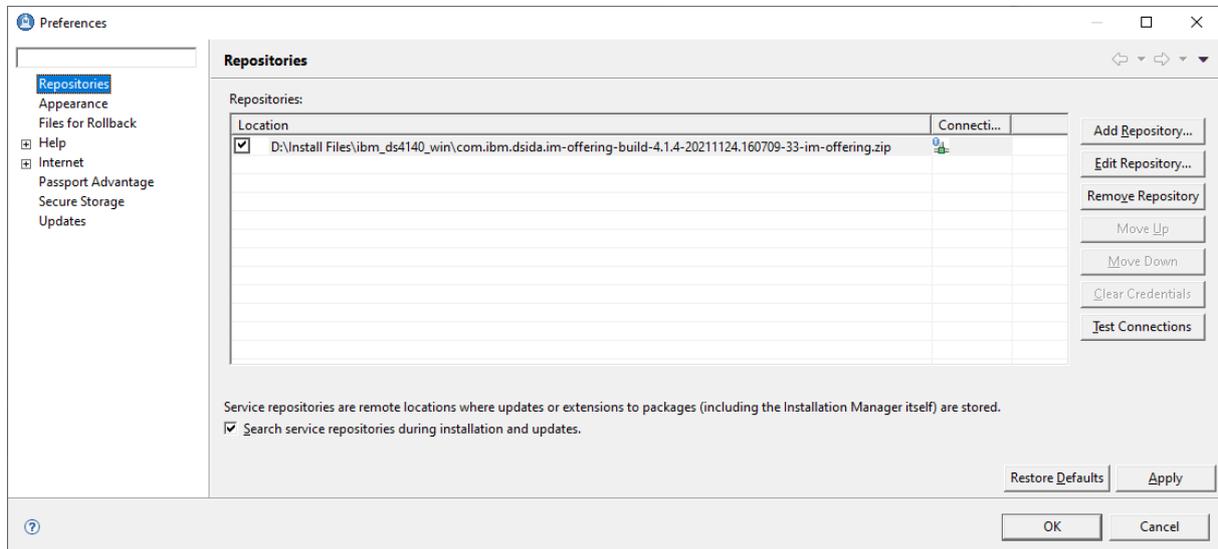
2.2 Data Studio

Data Studio is a free tool offered by IBM for administration of DB2. Version 4.1.4 (the one used in this introduction) contains many features covering database administration, database design and database integration for application developers. In this section we will look at the installation of the Data Studio and at some of its relevant facilities. For a more comprehensive introduction take a look at IBM's free ebook *Getting Started With IBM Data Studio for DB2*.

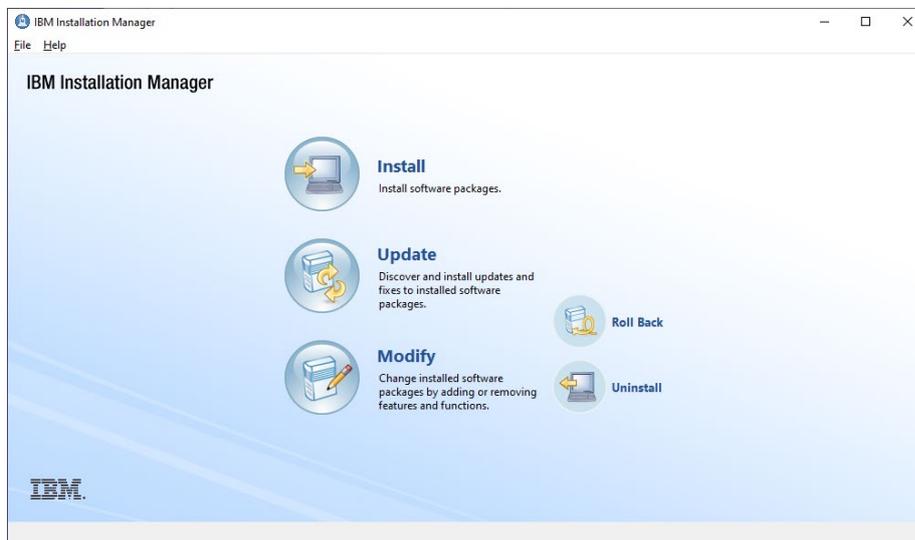
Data Studio is not bundled with DB2 12.1. It must be downloaded and installed separately. Some earlier DB2 editions included Data Studio, thus the installation section is only relevant if you are using an edition without Data Studio. In this introduction we use Data Studio 4.1.4 (together with the DB2 12.1 that we installed in the previous section).

2.2.1 Installation and configuration

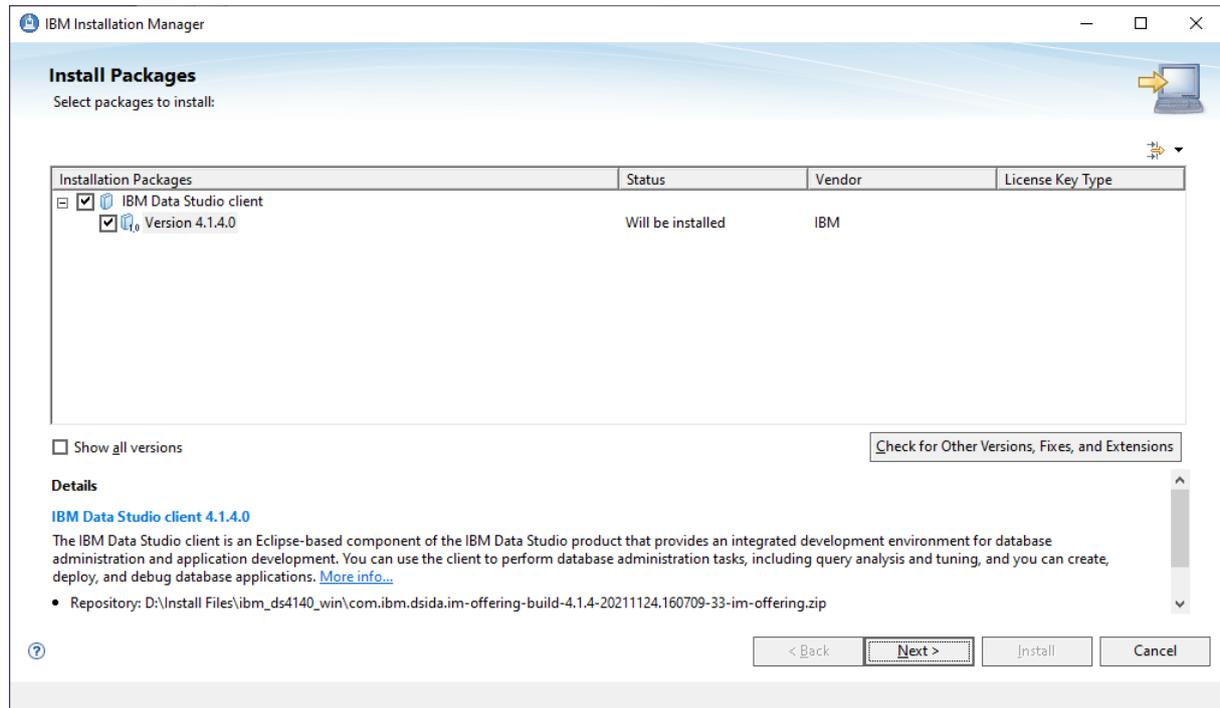
Start by downloading the appropriate installation file. Unzip it in a folder. Inside that folder find and unzip the agent.installer...zip in a folder. In that folder find and run the executable install.exe. This will install the latest version of the IBM Installation Manager. Complete the installation with all the defaults. Once the IBM Installation Manager is ready, start it and select File > Preferences. Under Repositories add the other larger zip file:



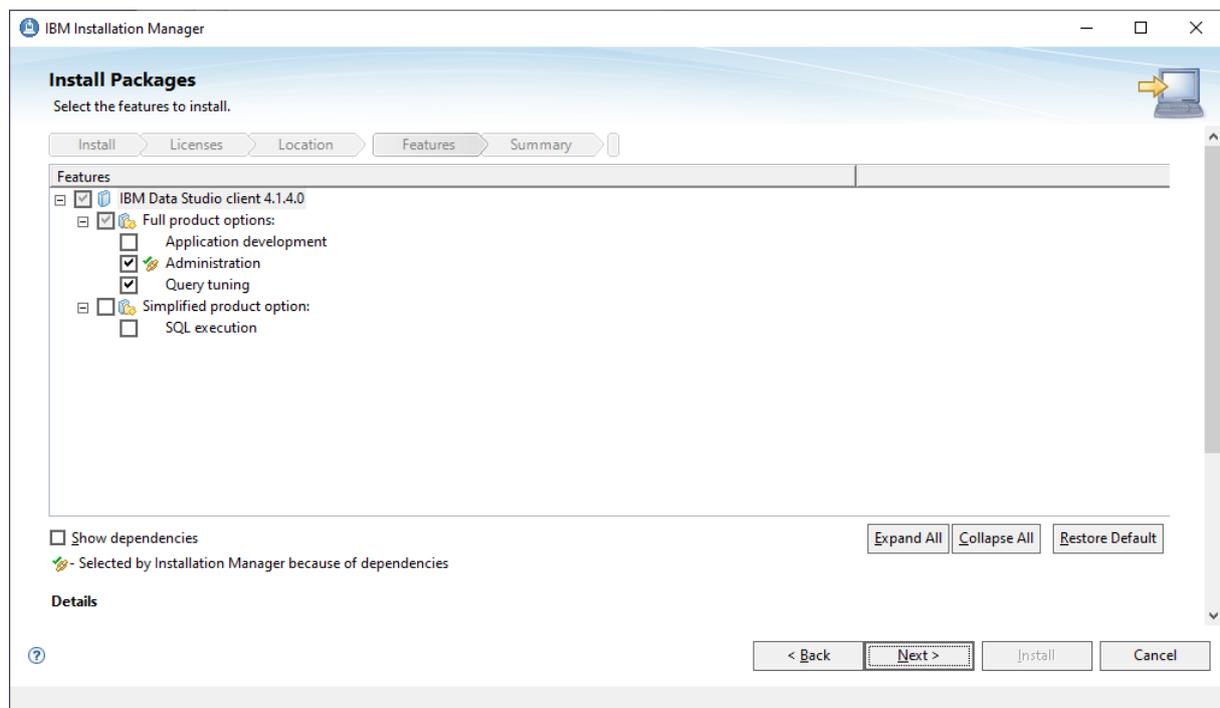
Press OK to close the Preferences window and return to the main window of the IBM Installation Manager. Select Install from the following menu:



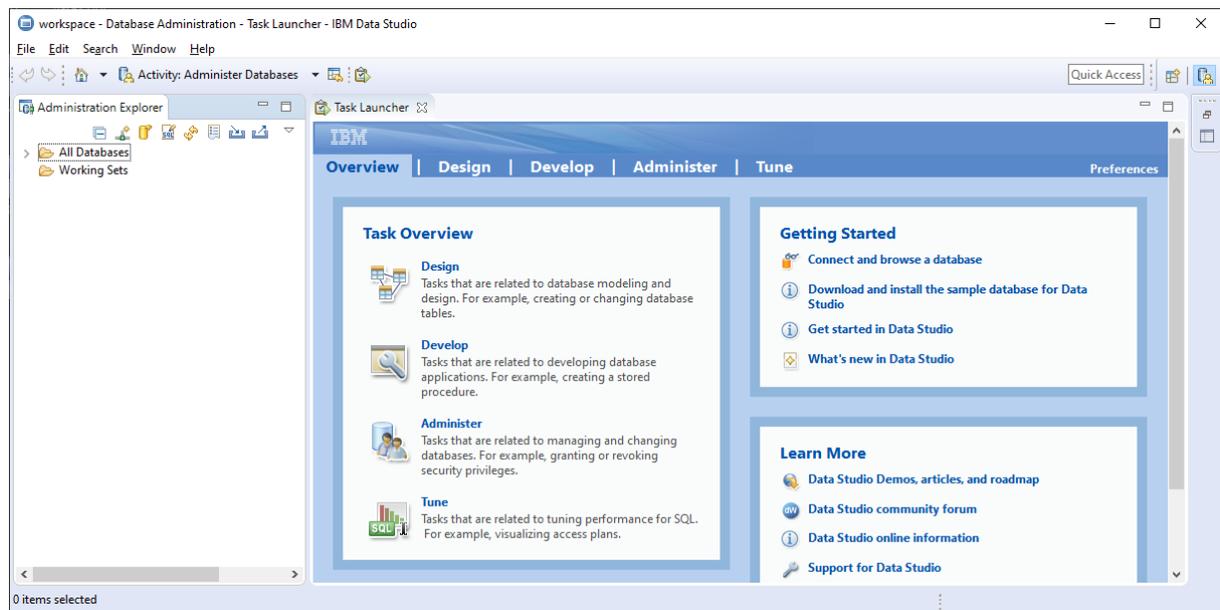
In the next step you should only have one option. Select IBM Data Studio client Version 4.1.4.0 and continue:



Go through all the steps and accept the defaults. Eventually you will have to choose which features to install. At this step you can select "Administration" and "Query Tuning" (we don't actually need the Query Tuning facilities, so if you want to save some space, deselect that option).



Once the installation is complete, you can start the Data Studio. You should see the following (after choosing a workspace):



2.2.2 Interface

On the top left, we have the Administration Explorer where we can navigate through different database servers, instances and databases.

On the right side, we have the Editor Area where the Task Launcher appears when we start the Data Studio. This is the area where we can work with SQL or see details about the object selected in the Administration Explorer.

Under the editor area, we have the Properties tab and the SQL Results tab. The Properties tab lets us edit details of the selected item in the Administration Explorer or in the Editor Area. The SQL Results tab is used to present the results of any SQL (or XQuery) statement or script that we run. It contains a log, a status and a result (when applicable).

By pressing F1 at any time, an extra area will appear on the right side with context sensitive help.

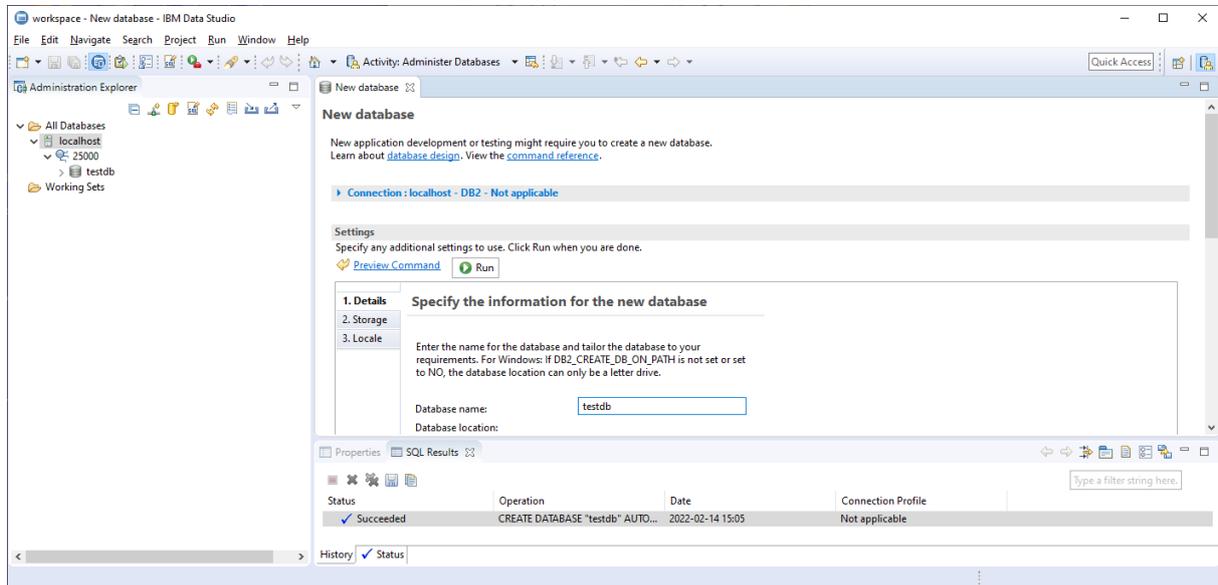
2.2.3 Connecting to a DBMS

Under "All Databases" in the "Administration Explorer", we can see the connected database servers. The local database server should show up automatically, but sometimes it doesn't. Unfortunately, the Data Studio can only add a database server to the list when we connect or create a database on that server. So, if the local database server (localhost) is not there, we can force it to show up by creating a new database or connecting to an existing one. Select "New Database" (the third icon in the Administration Explorer), fill in the fields and press Finish:

This will force the Data Studio to show the localhost under "All Databases". Now, a new database can be created, for example "testdb". Specify the "Database name" and press "Run". As soon as the database has been created, it will appear under localhost. If the command fails, a new database can be created through the DB2 Command Line Processor (available through the Windows Start Menu) by running a CREATE DATABASE command. In order for the database to be associated with a specific user, the ATTACH command must be executed first, for example, ATTACH TO DB2 USER DB2ADMIN¹. Once the database has been created, a connection to it can be established in Data Studio by selecting "New connection to a database" in the Administration Explorer, picking the right type of database manager and specifying the required fields:

¹ DB2 is the instance name. To look up the instance name, use the command "get instance" in the DB2 Command Line Processor or the command "echo %DB2INSTANCE%" in a Command Prompt.

DB2 uses a concept called "instance". An instance is a DBMS and can be in charge of many databases. But a server (machine) may have multiple instances installed. That is why there are two levels (localhost and DB2, sometimes shown only as a port number) in the tree in the Administration Explorer:

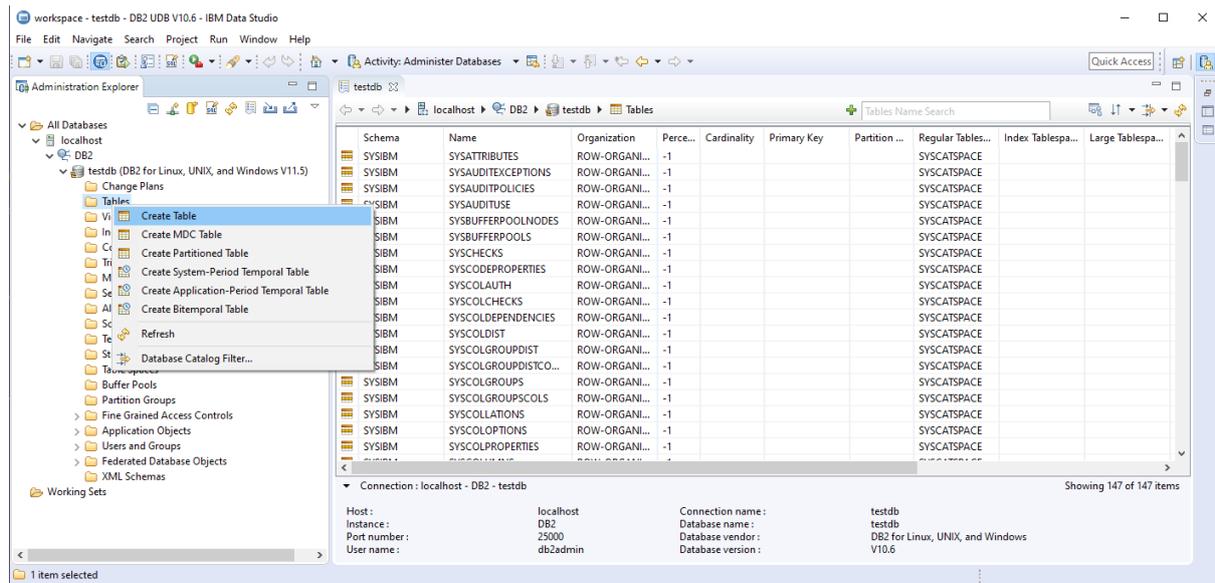


Once an instance is available in the Administration Explorer, we can right-click on it to create a new database or connect to an existing database (and have it added to the tree). If that does not work, press the "New Database" (or "New connection to a database") icon in the Administration Explorer instead.

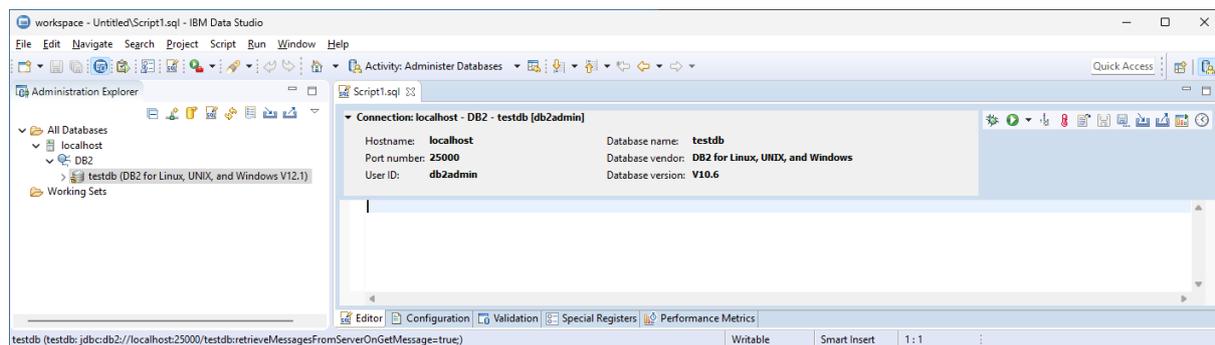
2.2.4 Working with Databases and SQL

The Data Studio offers many wizards to assist in performing basic tasks like creating a database, a table, etc.

In order to run any SQL statement, we must first have a database and a connection to it. To connect to a database (that has already been created and is available in the Administration Explorer), we can right-click on it in the Administration Explorer and select "Connect". As soon as a connection has been established, the Administration Explorer will show a tree of all the possible objects and with relevant options upon right-clicking on any object type:

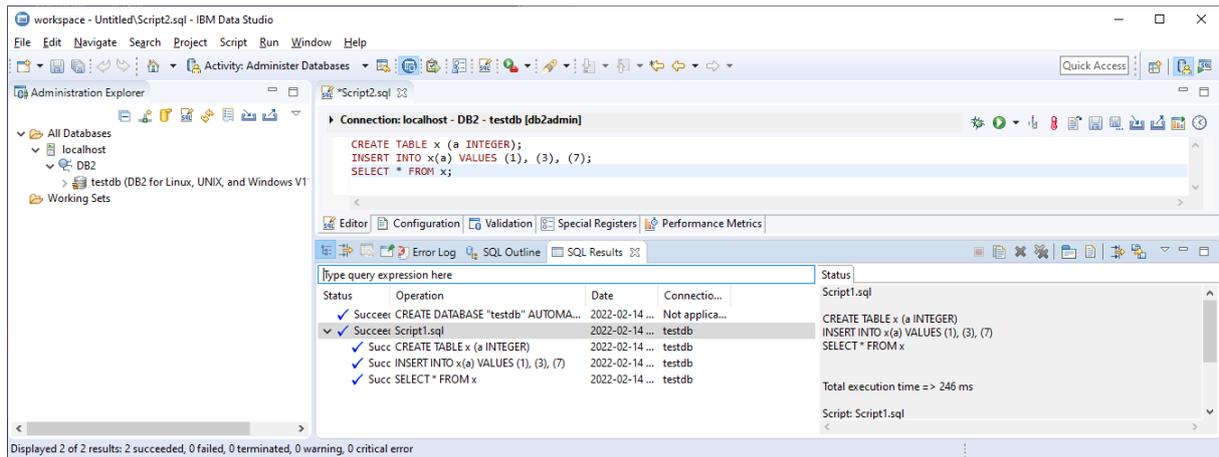


By selecting an option like "Create Table" the appropriate wizard will show up. If we instead prefer to work with SQL, we can start a "New SQL Script" from the Administration Explorer. A new script tab will appear in the Editor Area and it will be associated to the database connection that was selected in the Administration Explorer (weirdly the Database version is mistakenly reported as 10.6 instead of 12.1).

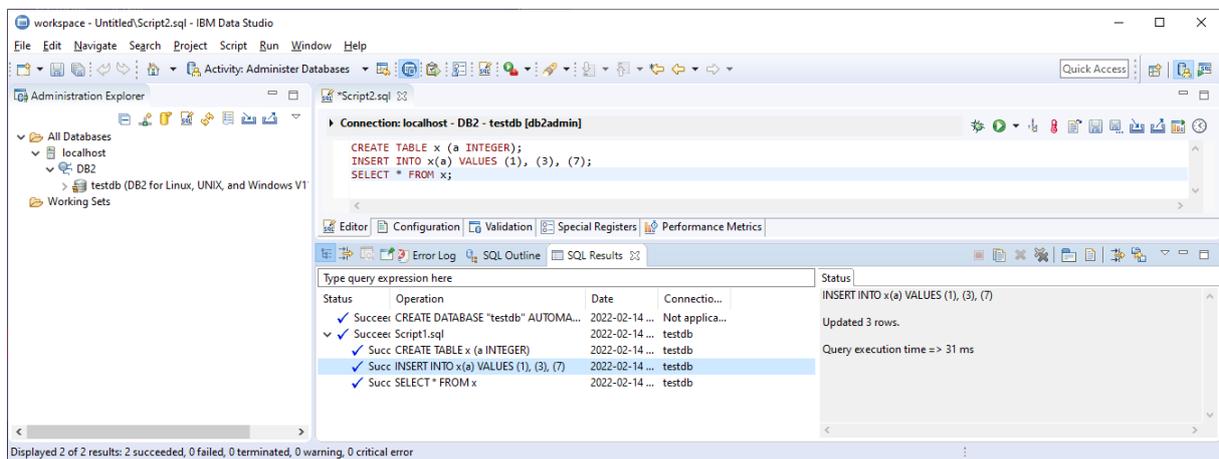


The Connection part can be hidden and then we have a large script area for writing SQL. To execute an SQL statement or script, we can press the green "Run" button or press F5. The SQL Results tab will show a log of the commands executed and possible error messages²:

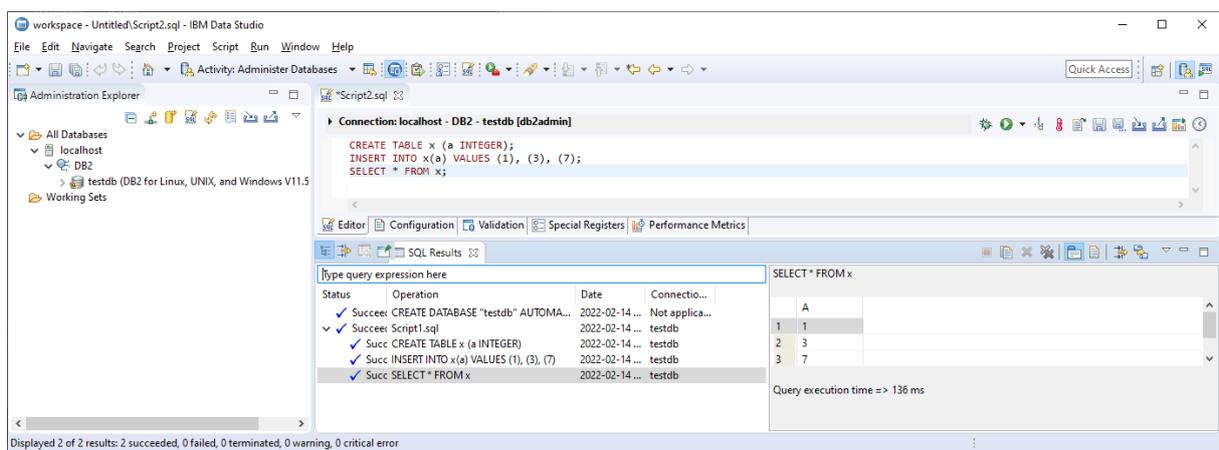
² If the SQL Results tab freezes or crashes, go to Window > Preferences, find SQL Results View Options and make sure to uncheck "Toggle Tabbed Layout View". Apply the changes and restart Data Studio if needed.



In the SQL Results tab we can see the script's result for the whole script and per statement. Highlight a particular row to see the details/result on the right side. For example, for the INSERT statement it shows how many rows were updated (created) and how long it took:



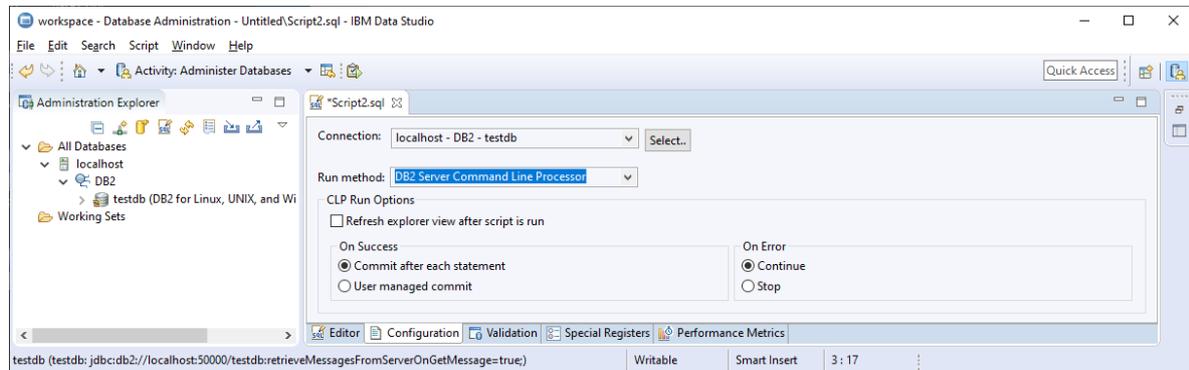
For the SELECT statement (that has a result) the entire result is shown:



Pressing "Run" or F5 will actually execute the highlighted part of the script (or the entire script if nothing is highlighted).

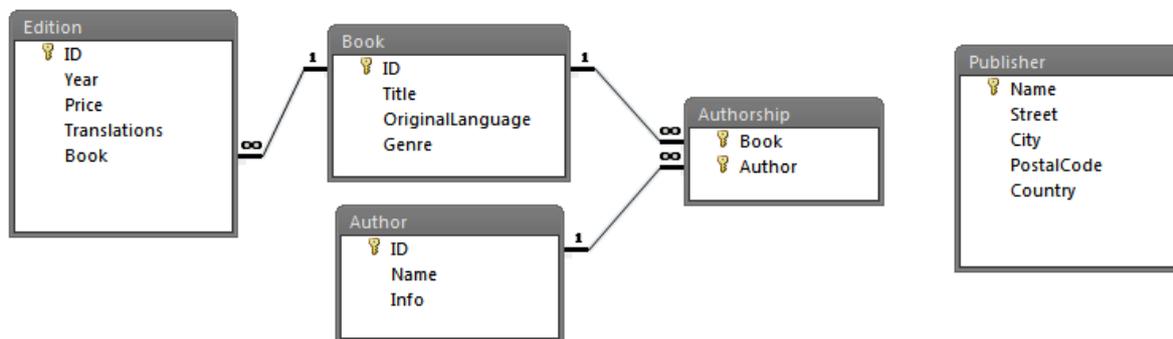
2.2.5 Administrative commands

An SQL Script tab can also be used to issue administrative commands to the connected database server. The default setting is that commands are interpreted as SQL (and run through JDBC). To change the mode to DB2 administrative commands, switch to the “Configuration” subtab (from the “Editor” subtab) of the current SQL Script tab and select “DB2 Server Command Line Processor” instead of “JDBC” as the “Run method”.



3 Sample Data

In this chapter we will take a look at the data that we will use in the examples to follow. We will use a database with both relational data and XML data. That is, a database with tables, columns, keys, integrity constraints, etc. but with a couple of columns containing XML documents (each cell being an XML document).



The columns Edition.Translations and Author.Info contain XML according to the following XML Schemas. The rest of the columns are defined as VARCHAR and INTEGER. The only column that allows NULL is the column Book.Genre.

XML Schema for documents in Edition.Translations:

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<schema xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema">
  <element name="Translations">
    <complexType>
      <sequence>
        <element name="Translation" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded">
          <complexType>
            <attribute name="Language" type="string" use="required"/>
            <attribute name="Publisher" type="string" default="N/A"/>
            <attribute name="Price" type="integer" use="required"/>
          </complexType>
        </element>
      </sequence>
    </complexType>
  </element>
</schema>
```

The value of the attribute Publisher must correspond to a value in the column Publisher.Name. This kind of constraint could be implemented as a set of triggers.

XML Schema for documents in Author.Info:

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<schema xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema">
  <element name="Info" type="InfoType"/>
  <complexType name="InfoType">
    <all>
      <element name="Email" type="string"/>
      <element name="YearOfBirth" type="integer"/>
      <element name="Country" type="string"/>
    </all>
  </complexType>
</schema>
```

The entire script for creating and populating the database can be found on <http://coursematerial.nikosdimitrakas.com/db2xml/>

The script can be run in the Data Studio after creating a database called bookdb and connecting to it.

3.1 XML data type

In DB2 12 there is a special data type for XML. The data type itself is called XML. There is no support for associating a DTD or XML Schema with a column of this data type directly. Instead, validation of XML values must be done manually with the function XMLVALIDATE and it supports only XML Schema. Any schema to be used for validation must be registered

in the schema repository in advance. In order to avoid invalid XML documents from being stored in a column, a constraint "IS VALIDATED" can be created. Any attempt to put invalid data in the column will result in a constraint violation error.

In the provided database script, there is no validation. The XML data type does on the other hand always check that the input is well-formed.

4 Examples

In this chapter we will go through some examples of SQL/XML in DB2 and some examples that use DB2-specific XML features. All the examples in this chapter assume that the database has been created and that the Script tab used in the Data Studio is connected to it.

4.1 XMLELEMENT, XMLFOREST, XMLATTRIBUTES

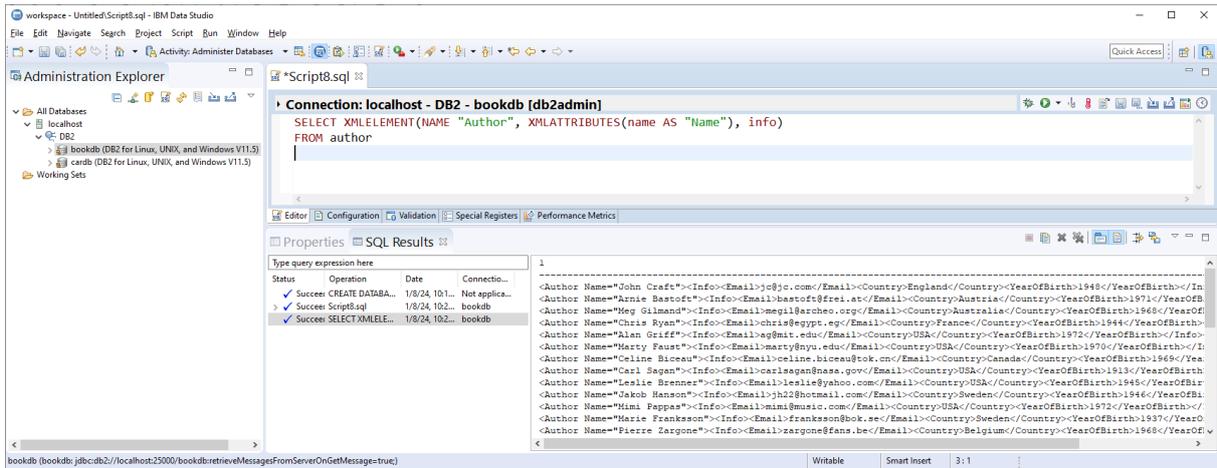
Let's start off with a few simple queries using some basic SQL/XML publishing functions. We want to create an XML document for each author. The root element shall be "Author", the name shall be an attribute and the author info (which is already an XML document) shall be the content. The following SQL statement does that.

```
SELECT XMLELEMENT(NAME "Author", XMLATTRIBUTES(name AS "Name"), info)
FROM Author
```

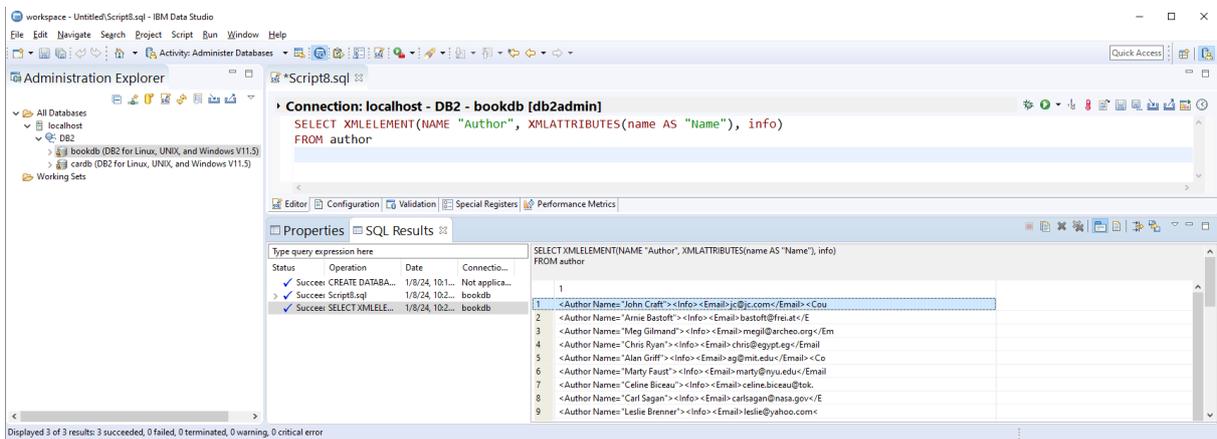
Here is a portion of the result (2 rows):

```
<Author Name="John Craft">
  <Info>
    <Email>jc@jc.com</Email>
    <Country>England</Country>
    <YearOfBirth>1948</YearOfBirth>
  </Info>
</Author>
<Author Name="Arnie Bastoft">
  <Info>
    <Email>bastoft@frei.at</Email>
    <Country>Austria</Country>
    <YearOfBirth>1971</YearOfBirth>
  </Info>
</Author>
```

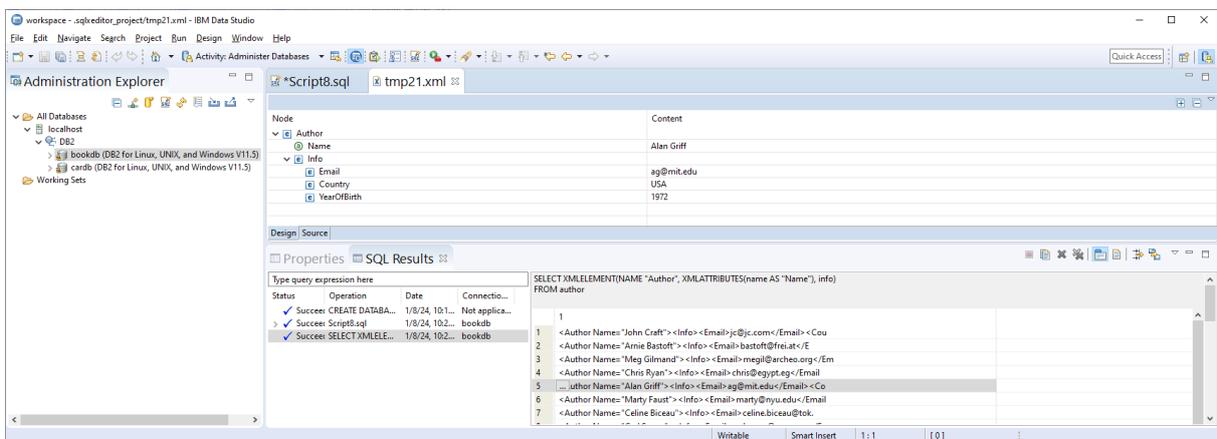
In the Data Studio the result may look like this:

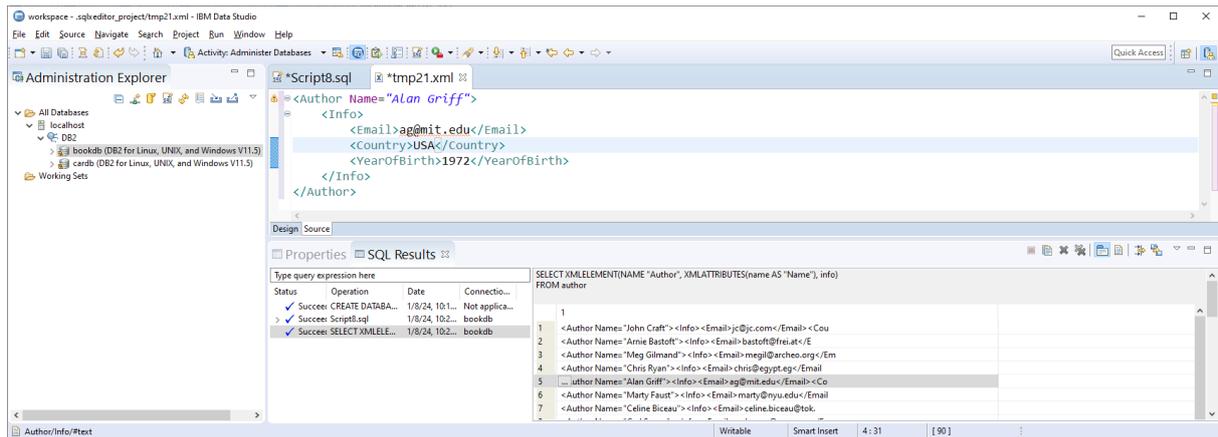


Or like this (depending on the settings of the SQL Results tab):



If the result is shown in a grid, then we can click on the ellipsis on a cell to see the content in a different way:





If we would like to create an XML document for each publisher, it may be better to use XMLFOREST since the table Publisher has many columns that we may want to have as elements. Let's assume that for each publisher, we want to have a root element "Publisher" and that all the columns should get their own elements. The following statement does that.

```
SELECT XMLELEMENT(NAME "Publisher", XMLFOREST(name AS "Name", street AS "Street",
city AS "City", postalcode AS "PostalCode", country AS "Country"))
FROM Publisher
```

For each row in the table Publisher, we get an XML document like this:

```
<Publisher>
  <Name>ABC International</Name><Street>7th Bear St.</Street><City>Berlin</City>
  <PostalCode>44500</PostalCode><Country>Germany</Country>
</Publisher>
```

One thing that is important when working with XML is the case of the element names and attribute names. In the above examples, we used the double quotes in order to enforce the desired case. DB2's default is to capitalize column names when generating XML. So, the following statement would capitalize everything except for "City":

```
SELECT XMLELEMENT(NAME Publisher, XMLFOREST(name, street AS StrEEt, city AS "City"))
FROM Publisher
```

The result looks like this:

```
<PUBLISHER>
  <NAME>ABC International</NAME><STREET>7th Bear St.</STREET><City>Berlin</City>
</PUBLISHER>
```

4.2 XMLAGG

XMLAGG is an aggregate function and as such, it complies with the rules of aggregate functions. If it is used without a GROUP BY clause, then all the rows will become one group. It can, of course, be mixed with non-aggregated columns in the SELECT clause, but then all non-aggregated columns must also appear in the GROUP BY clause.

If we want to expand on the example from the previous section and put all the authors in one XML document, we need to use XMLAGG. Any column that appears inside the XMLAGG function is considered to be aggregated. The following statement creates a root element "Authors" and aggregates all the Author elements into it.

```
SELECT XMLELEMENT(NAME "Authors",
                  XMLAGG(XMLELEMENT(NAME "Author",
                                    XMLATTRIBUTES(name AS "Name"),
                                    info)))
FROM Author
```

The result looks like this:

```
<Authors>
  <Author Name="John Craft"><Info><Email>jc@jc.com</Email>
  <Country>England</Country><YearOfBirth>1948</YearOfBirth></Info></Author>
  <Author Name="Arnie Bastoft"><Info><Email>bastoft@frei.at</Email>
  <Country>Austria</Country><YearOfBirth>1971</YearOfBirth></Info></Author>
  <Author Name="Meg Gilmand"><Info><Email>megil@archo.org</Email>
  <Country>Australia</Country><YearOfBirth>1968</YearOfBirth></Info></Author>
  ...
</Authors>
```

XMLAGG in combination with GROUP BY is relevant when we need some nesting. Perhaps we want to group the publishers by country. The result shall be one Country element per country containing one or more Publisher elements. If we want to also have a root element, a second XMLAGG is required.

```
SELECT XMLELEMENT(NAME "PublishersByCountry", XMLAGG(countryxml))
FROM (SELECT XMLELEMENT(NAME "Country",
                        XMLATTRIBUTES(country AS "Name"),
                        XMLAGG(XMLELEMENT(NAME "Publisher",
                                          XMLATTRIBUTES(name AS "Name", city AS "City")))) AS countryxml
FROM publisher
GROUP BY country) innertable
```

The nested statement produces one Country element for each country. The result is a table with as many rows as there were countries (groups). The outer statement aggregates these Country elements and makes them the content of the element PublishersByCountry. In the nested statement the column country is the only one appearing in the SELECT clause outside the aggregate function, and is thus the only column appearing in the GROUP BY clause. The result of the nested statement is a table with the alias innertable and it has a column named countryxml. The result of the entire statement has the following structure:

```

<PublishersByCountry>
  <Country Name="England">
    <Publisher Name="Benton Inc" City="London"/>
  </Country>
  <Country Name="Sweden">
    <Publisher Name="Bästa Bok" City="Stockholm"/>
    <Publisher Name="KLC" City="Uppsala"/>
    <Publisher Name="SCB" City="Stockholm"/>
  </Country>
  ...
</PublishersByCountry>

```

4.3 XMLQUERY

The XMLQUERY function can be used when we want to execute XQuery within an SQL statement. The XMLQUERY function can also accept parameters that map values of the SQL scope to variables in the XQuery scope. We may want to retrieve the name and country of each author:

```

SELECT name, XMLQUERY('$/Country/text()' PASSING info AS "i")
FROM Author

```

In this case the XQuery expression was quite a simple one, but it can also be complicated. The PASSING keyword allows us to map the current value of the column info as an XQuery variable (in this case "i" which is then referred to as "\$i"). The result has two columns:

John Craft	England
Arnie Bastoft	Austria
Meg Gilmand	Australia
Chris Ryan	France
Marty Faust	USA

...

The result of the XMLQUERY function is actually of the XML data type, but DB2 will serialize it automatically when showing the result. Here is another example that illustrates that the XMLQUERY function returns XML:

```

SELECT name,
  XMLQUERY('$x/text()' PASSING XMLQUERY('$/Country' PASSING info AS "i") AS "x")
FROM Author

```

This produces the same result as the previous statement, but finds the country in two steps.

XMLQUERY can also be used to create XML from a string. So XMLQUERY('<X>123</X>') will return an XML value. This is because the string '<X>123</X>' is a valid XQuery statement.

4.4 XMLTABLE

When dealing with repeating elements in an XML document, we may want to break it down into smaller XML documents or even values. The XMLTABLE function can be used in the FROM clause of a SELECT statement and it transforms the result of an XQuery statement into

a table. We may want to get one row per translation of each edition. The column translations in the table Edition contains multiple Translation elements. So, the following statement splits them up and presents them one by one.

```
SELECT id, book, tt.*
FROM Edition, XMLTABLE('$t//Translation' PASSING translations AS "t") AS tt
```

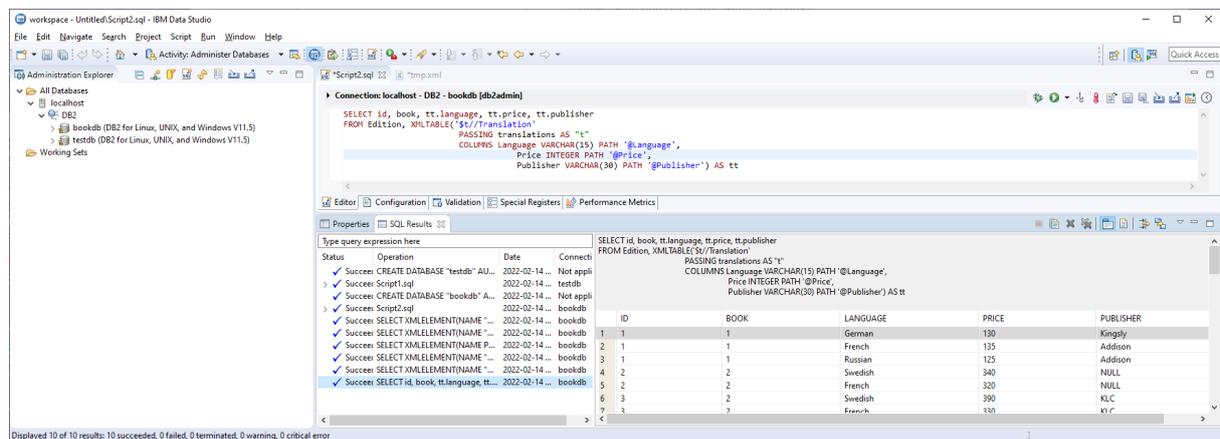
The result should look like this:

```
1 1 <Translation Language="German" Publisher="Kingsly" Price="130"/>
1 1 <Translation Language="French" Publisher="Addison" Price="135"/>
1 1 <Translation Language="Russian" Publisher="Addison" Price="125"/>
2 2 <Translation Language="Swedish" Price="340"/>
2 2 <Translation Language="French" Price="320"/>
...
```

The keyword COLUMNS can break this down further:

```
SELECT id, book, tt.language, tt.price, tt.publisher
FROM Edition, XMLTABLE('$t//Translation'
    PASSING translations AS "t"
    COLUMNS Language VARCHAR(15) PATH '@Language',
    Price INTEGER PATH '@Price',
    Publisher VARCHAR(30) PATH '@Publisher') AS tt
```

The translations XML is now fully shredded:



The screenshot shows the IBM Data Studio interface. The SQL editor contains the following query:

```
SELECT id, book, tt.language, tt.price, tt.publisher
FROM Edition, XMLTABLE('$t//Translation'
    PASSING translations AS "t"
    COLUMNS Language VARCHAR(15) PATH '@Language',
    Price INTEGER PATH '@Price',
    Publisher VARCHAR(30) PATH '@Publisher') AS tt
```

The SQL Results pane displays the following table:

ID	BOOK	LANGUAGE	PRICE	PUBLISHER
1	1	German	130	Kingsly
2	1	French	135	Addison
3	1	Russian	125	Addison
4	2	Swedish	340	NULL
5	2	French	320	NULL
6	3	Swedish	390	KLC
7	3	French	330	KLC

4.5 XMLEXISTS

XMLEXISTS is a function that can be used to express conditions based on the existence of a particular XML node. We could for example find any books that have been translated to German (i.e. they have an edition with a translation whose language is German):

```

SELECT title
FROM Book
WHERE id IN (SELECT book
             FROM Edition
             WHERE XMLEXISTS('$t//Translation[@Language="German"]'
                             PASSING translations AS "t"))

```

The nested statement does the work of finding the correct books, while the outer statement retrieves the titles. As you can see, the result of the function is a boolean value, so it can be used as a condition. The result looks like this:

```

Misty Nights
Contact
Music Now and Before
Musical Instruments
Oceans on Earth
Le chateau de mon pere

```

4.6 XMLROW

XMLROW is a DB2 specific function that creates one XML element per row in the result of a SELECT statement. The same result can of course be achieved by SQL/XML publishing functions. Here are some examples with XMLROW.

If we want an XML document per publisher, we could use the following:

```

SELECT XMLROW(name, street, city)
FROM Publisher

```

The default result is always one "row" root element and one element per column:

```

<row><NAME>ABC International</NAME><STREET>7th Bear St.</STREET><CITY>Berlin</CITY></row>
<row><NAME>Addison</NAME><STREET>2nd Monet St.</STREET><CITY>Toulouse</CITY></row>
<row><NAME>Aurora Publ.</NAME><STREET>3rd Uffizi Rd.</STREET><CITY>Florence</CITY></row>
...

```

XMLROW allows for some configuration. We can for example rename the root element or ask for attributes instead of elements for all the columns and even define the attribute/element names:

```

SELECT XMLROW(name AS "Name", street AS "Street", city AS "Town"
              OPTION ROW "Publisher" AS ATTRIBUTES)
FROM Publisher

```

This will still give one row per publisher in the result, but each row is an element according to our design:

```

<Publisher Name="ABC International" Street="7th Bear St." Town="Berlin"/>
<Publisher Name="Addison" Street="2nd Monet St." Town="Toulouse"/>
...

```

We can of course combine this function with XMLAGG and XMLELEMENT in order to create a root element Publishers.

```
SELECT XMLELEMENT(NAME "Publishers",
                  XMLAGG(XMLROW(name AS "Name", street AS "Street", city AS "Town"
                                OPTION ROW "Publisher" AS ATTRIBUTES)))
FROM Publisher
```

This will result in one XML document, instead of one per row:

```
<Publishers>
  <Publisher Name="ABC International" Street="7th Bear St." Town="Berlin"/>
  <Publisher Name="Addison" Street="2nd Monet St." Town="Toulouse"/>
  ...
</Publishers>
```

4.7 XMLGROUP

XMLGROUP is another DB2 specific function. It is an aggregate function and creates an XML document as the result of a SELECT statement (or one per group if there is a GROUP BY clause). The default result is one "root" element per group with one "row" element per row and one subelement per column. We can configure the output in the same manner as we did with XMLROW and even rename the root element. Here is the same example as before, but with XMLGROUP instead:

```
SELECT XMLGROUP(name AS "Name", street AS "Street", city AS "Town"
                OPTION ROOT "Publishers" ROW "Publisher" AS ATTRIBUTES)
FROM Publisher
```

And the result is identical to that of the previous example:

```
<Publishers>
  <Publisher Name="ABC International" Street="7th Bear St." Town="Berlin"/>
  <Publisher Name="Addison" Street="2nd Monet St." Town="Toulouse"/>
  <Publisher Name="Aurora Publ." Street="3rd Uffizi Rd." Town="Florence"/>
  ...
</Publishers>
```

4.8 DML for XML

In order to manipulate XML in DB2 we need to use the transform statement (specified in the XQuery Update Facility specification). The syntax is a little different from what the specification describes, but this is probably due to the specification being finalized only a few months prior to DB2 10 being released, and DB2 choosing to be backwards compatible. The transform statement makes a copy of an XML value, modifies it and returns it. Technically, we could return something other than the modified copy, but that is hardly the intended usage of the transform statement. The transform statement, being an XQuery statement, must be used inside the function XMLQUERY. The PASSING keyword can be used to pass an XML value from the SQL context to the XQuery context. The result of the transform statement becomes the result of the function. The passed XML value itself is not affected,

which means that we need to use an SQL UPDATE in order to store the modified value inside the table. So, if we would like to change the information of an author, we would use the following statement:

```
UPDATE Author
SET info = XMLQUERY('transform-statement' PASSING info)
WHERE ...
```

The transform statement has three clauses and they are all required. A transform statement has the following structure:

```
(transform) optional keyword
copy variable assignment
modify modify-expression
return return-expression
```

The variable assignment will most probably be used to create a copy of the passed value, thus creating a copy to modify. The variable containing the copy will probably be the return-expression. The modify-expression is where we can add, remove and alter the content of our variable. The modify-expression can be any of the following expressions: do delete, do insert, do rename, or do replace. In the following sections we will look at some examples that use the different modify expressions.

4.8.1 insert

When using a transform statement to add nodes to an XML value, you need to use a "do insert" expression. The placement of the new node will be based on an XPath expression and on the specified position keyword (before, after, as last into, as first into, into). We could, for example, add a Website element to the info of the author Carl Sagan (this would actually violate the XML Schema, but let's ignore that for the sake of this example). The following statement finds Carl Sagan's row in the table Author and updates the info column with the result of the XMLQUERY function. The XMLQUERY function takes the current value of the column info and adds a new element as the last child element of the root element.

```
UPDATE Author
SET info = XMLQUERY('transform
    copy $res := $i
    modify do insert element Website {"www.carlsagan.com"} as last into $res/Info
    return $res'
    PASSING info AS "i")
WHERE name = 'Carl Sagan'
```

4.8.2 delete

If we want to remove a node, then we use the "do delete" expression in the modify clause. We can for example remove the Email element in the info XML of Carl Sagan:

```

UPDATE Author
SET info = XMLQUERY('transform
    copy $res := $i
    modify do delete $res/Info/Email
    return $res'
    PASSING info AS "i")
WHERE name = 'Carl Sagan'

```

If the XPath expression specified after "do delete" matches several nodes, then all of them will be removed.

You can undo the change caused by the previous statement with the following statement:

```

UPDATE Author
SET info = XMLQUERY('transform
    copy $res := $i
    modify do insert element Email {"carlsagan@nasa.gov"} as first into $res/Info
    return $res'
    PASSING info AS "i")
WHERE name = 'Carl Sagan'

```

4.8.3 rename

It is also possible to rename a node without having to remove it and create a new one. The node's location and value will be unchanged. We could, for example, change the name of the element Country to BirthCountry for all the authors (once again, this would violate the XML Schema).

```

UPDATE Author
SET info = XMLQUERY('transform
    copy $res := $i
    modify do rename $res/Info/Country as "BirthCountry"
    return $res'
    PASSING info AS "i")

```

The XPath expression specified after "do rename" must match exactly one node. In this case it does, but what if we wanted to change all the Translation elements to Version elements in the XML values stored in the column Edition.translations? According to the XML Schema there can be zero to many Translation elements in each Translations element. And that would cause an error. Fortunately, FLWOR expressions can be nested in the modify clause. We can instruct the modify clause to loop through all the Translation elements and do the rename once for each matching element:

```

UPDATE Edition
SET translations = XMLQUERY('transform
    copy $res := $trans
    modify for $t in $res//Translation
        return do rename $t as "Version"
    return $res'
    PASSING translations AS "trans")

```

You can undo the changes caused by the previous statements with these ones:

```

UPDATE Author
SET info = XMLQUERY('transform
    copy $res := $i
    modify do rename $res/Info/BirthCountry as "Country"
    return $res'
    PASSING info AS "i")

```

```

UPDATE Edition
SET translations = XMLQUERY('transform
    copy $res := $trans
    modify for $t in $res//Version
        return do rename $t as "Translation"
    return $res'
    PASSING translations AS "trans")

```

4.8.4 replace

It is also possible to replace a node with another node or sequence of nodes. A "do replace" expression identifies one node with an XPath expression and then replaces it with a node or a sequence of nodes. We can for example replace the Email element of Carl Sagan with a Skype element:

```

UPDATE Author
SET info = XMLQUERY('transform
    copy $res := $info
    modify do replace $res//Email with element Skype {"carl.sagan.author"}
    return $res'
    PASSING info AS "info")
WHERE name = 'Carl Sagan'

```

A replace expression can also be used to replace the value of a node and not the node itself. The keywords "value of" should be used in such case. We could for example change Carl Sagan's year of birth (which is the content of the element YearOfBirth) to 1914.

```

UPDATE Author
SET info = XMLQUERY('transform
    copy $res := $i
    modify do replace value of $res/Info/YearOfBirth with 1914
    return $res'
    PASSING info AS "i")
WHERE name = 'Carl Sagan'

```

If you want to restore Carl Sagan's info to the original value, just use the following statement:

```

UPDATE Author
SET info = '<Info><Email>carlsagan@nasa.gov</Email><Country>USA</Country>
    <YearOfBirth>1913</YearOfBirth></Info>'
WHERE name = 'Carl Sagan'

```

4.9 XSLTRANSFORM

The function XSLTRANSFORM can be used to transform XML values based on an XSLT. The function requires the XML value to be transformed and the XSLT to be specified as parameters. We could, for example, apply the following XSLT to the info XML of the authors.

```

<xsl:transform xmlns:xsl="http://www.w3.org/1999/XSL/Transform" version="1.0">
  <xsl:output method="xml"/>
  <xsl:template match="/">
    <xsl:element name="Details">
      <xsl:attribute name="Mailaddress"><xsl:value-of select="//Email"/></xsl:attribute>
      <xsl:attribute name="Country"><xsl:value-of select="//Country"/></xsl:attribute>
      <xsl:attribute name="Birthyear"><xsl:value-of select="//YearOfBirth"/></xsl:attribute>
    </xsl:element>
  </xsl:template>
</xsl:transform>

```

This XSLT restructures the information in the info XML and returns a Details element with three attributes.

We could ask for the info XML of Carl Sagan, transformed according to the XSLT, with the following statement:

```

SELECT XSLTRANSFORM(info USING
'<xsl:transform xmlns:xsl="http://www.w3.org/1999/XSL/Transform" version="1.0">
  <xsl:output method="xml"/>
  <xsl:template match="/">
    <xsl:element name="Details">
      <xsl:attribute name="Mailaddress"><xsl:value-of select="//Email"/></xsl:attribute>
      <xsl:attribute name="Country"><xsl:value-of select="//Country"/></xsl:attribute>
      <xsl:attribute name="Birthyear"><xsl:value-of select="//YearOfBirth"/></xsl:attribute>
    </xsl:element>
  </xsl:template>
</xsl:transform>')
FROM Author
WHERE name = 'Carl Sagan'

```

The result is the following XML value:

```

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<Details Mailaddress="carlsagan@nasa.gov" Country="USA" Birthyear="1913"/>

```

The function adds an xml declaration by default. It is also possible to pass parameters, which can be retrieved in the XSLT with xsl:param.

Of course, the XSLT doesn't have to be provided in this way. We could, for example, create a table and store all of our XSLTs in it and then retrieve the one to use.

4.10 Native XQuery

In DB2 it is also possible to use XQuery independently of SQL. This is simply done by using the keyword XQUERY. We could, for example, execute the following:

```

XQUERY
for $x in (1 to 5)
let $r := attribute Number {$x}
return element Result {$r}

```

This would produce the following result (five rows):

```

<Result Number="1"/>
<Result Number="2"/>
<Result Number="3"/>
<Result Number="4"/>
<Result Number="5"/>

```

Of course, we may want to access our relational data in the XQuery statement. For that purpose, DB2 adds two XQuery functions. These functions retrieve relational data and expose them to the XQuery context.

4.10.1 Function db2-fn:sqlquery

If we want to access some relational data and use them in an XQuery statement, we can use the DB2-specific function db2-fn:sqlquery. This function takes a SELECT statement as its parameter and returns the result as a sequence. The SELECT statement must have exactly one column in its result and that column must be XML. We could retrieve the info XML of the authors in order to find all the countries of authors:

XQUERY

```
for $x in distinct-values(db2-fn:sqlquery("SELECT info FROM Author"))//Country
return element Country {$x}
```

The result is one Country element for each unique country name:

```
<Country>England</Country>
<Country>Austria</Country>
<Country>Australia</Country>
<Country>France</Country>
<Country>USA</Country>
<Country>Canada</Country>
<Country>Sweden</Country>
<Country>Belgium</Country>
<Country>Spain</Country>
<Country>Portugal</Country>
<Country>Greece</Country>
<Country>Germany</Country>
<Country>Norway</Country>
<Country>Mexico</Country>
```

We could, of course, have a much more complicated SELECT statement as parameter, perhaps generating the XML result with SQL/XML publishing functions. How about this:

XQUERY

```
for $c in db2-fn:sqlquery('SELECT XMLELEMENT(NAME "Country",
                                XMLATTRIBUTES(country AS "Name"),
                                XMLAGG(XMLFOREST(city AS "City")))
                                FROM Publisher
                                GROUP BY country')
let $cities := count(distinct-values($c/City))
order by $cities descending
return element Country {$c/@Name, attribute Cities {$cities}}
```

This produces the following result:

```
<Country Name="Sweden" Cities="2"/>
<Country Name="Austria" Cities="1"/>
<Country Name="United States" Cities="1"/>
<Country Name="Turkey" Cities="1"/>
<Country Name="Scotland" Cities="1"/>
<Country Name="Russia" Cities="1"/>
<Country Name="Italy" Cities="1"/>
<Country Name="Germany" Cities="1"/>
<Country Name="France" Cities="1"/>
<Country Name="Finland" Cities="1"/>
<Country Name="England" Cities="1"/>
<Country Name="China" Cities="1"/>
<Country Name="Belgium" Cities="1"/>
```

Another interesting feature of the function `db2-fn:sqlquery` is its support for parameters. The following statement groups the books based on the number of editions they have. In XQuery we loop through the sequence 0 to 10 and for each iteration we parameterize the SELECT statement with the current `$num`. The SELECT statement creates a sequence of Book elements with the books that have the correct number of editions. We eliminate numbers that have no books and return an element Books for each number with at least one book. We also place the Books elements inside a Root element:

XQUERY

```
element Root {
  for $num in (0 to 10)
  let $books := db2-fn:sqlquery('SELECT XMLFOREST(title AS "Book")
                                FROM Book
                                WHERE (SELECT COUNT(*)
                                       FROM Edition
                                       WHERE book = book.id) = parameter(1)', $num)
  where not(empty($books))
  return element Books {attribute NumberOfEditions {$num}, $books}
}
```

The result has the following structure:

```
<Root>
  <Books NumberOfEditions="1">
    <Book>Misty Nights</Book>
    <Book>Contact</Book>
    ...
  </Books>
  <Books NumberOfEditions="2">
    <Book>Database Systems in Practice</Book>
    <Book>Våren vid sjön</Book>
    ...
  </Books>
  <Books NumberOfEditions="3">
    <Book>Archeology in Egypt</Book>
  </Books>
  ...
</Root>
```

4.10.2 Function db2-fn:xmlcolumn

The other DB2-specific XQuery function is called db2-fn:xmlcolumn. This function takes the qualified name of an XML column as an argument and returns the values in that column as a sequence. So, we could use the following statement in order to get all the countries where there are authors.

```
XQUERY
distinct-values(db2-fn:xmlcolumn('AUTHOR.INFO')//Country)
```

The column name must be defined in the correct case. The default is upper case.

5 Epilogue

DB2 has been moving closer to the SQL standard with each new version. Many of the XML specific DB2 extensions have been abandoned and standard constructs have been integrated in the DB2 core engine. DB2 is not yet up to speed with the XML functionality described in the SQL standard. On the other hand, DB2 has addressed areas with its extensions that have yet to be covered in the SQL standard and/or in the XQuery standard. Many of the DB2 specific features described here will probably be replaced in the years to come. DB2 is one of the major DBMSs that supports the XQuery Update Facility. In the examples in the previous chapter, we looked at some of the features that are available in DB2 12. There are many more details, but it has not been the goal of this introduction to cover everything.

I hope you have found this introduction educational and fun. Do not hesitate to send comments and suggestions that may help improve the next version of the compendium!

The Author
nikos dimitrakas