

CA Allocate™ DASD Space and Placement



At a Glance

CA Allocate™ DASD Space and Placement (CA Allocate) delivers allocation control for non-SMS data and extends the allocation control provided by IBM's DFSMS. Its automation manages resources more effectively and provides a central point of control and prevents X-37 type job failures – alleviating batch window constraints by saving valuable time and reducing system impact by saving resources.

CA Allocate automates lack of space protection of all z/OS data sets and optimizes storage resources via allocation control. It enables you to more efficiently use DASD by enforcing allocation policies and procedures and simplifying the implementation of allocation rules defined by the storage administrator. CA Allocate intercepts storage allocation requests and executes a user-defined Allocation Selection Routine (ASR) to monitor and adjust allocations. By using CA Allocate, storage managers can become proactive – instead of reactive.

Key Benefits/Results

- **Saves time and resources** with x-37 resolution which can help prevent application failures.
- **Optimizes storage resources** through automated allocation standards that direct data sets to the correct tape or volume within a storage group. They also redirect inaccurate allocations for proper grouping, optimum space or best-fit usage.
- **Improves system throughput** by intercepting secondary allocation ABENDs and including an additional volume to allow processing to continue uninterrupted.
- **Maintains security** through interfaces with security systems such as CA ACF2™ for z/OS, CA Top Secret® for z/OS or IBM z/OS Security Server to access user and group ID-related information.

Key Features

- **Does It Fit (DIF) support.** DIF checks to see how much free space is available in a target volume or volume group before volume selection is initiated. This gives the ASR the opportunity to adjust the space request in order to help provide the data set will be allocated effectively.
- **CA Service Desk integration.** This integration enables the software to create transactions to log significant CA Allocate events or problems in CA Service Desk.
- **Security Interfaces.** CA Allocate interfaces with other security systems from CA Technologies to access user and group ID-related information. It can also verify allocation authorization before performing allocation tasks.

Business Challenges

CA Allocate optimizes System z storage resources via automated allocation standards that direct data sets (both VSAM and non-VSAM) to the correct tape or volume within a storage group. It enables more efficient use of DASD by enforcing allocation policies and procedures and redirecting inaccurate allocations for proper grouping, optimum space or best-fit usage.

In addition, X-37 resolution can prevent application failures to help save your enterprise time, resources and money. CA Allocate can help your enterprise maximize tape and DASD usage and optimize tape management resources with:

- Dynamic storage management for new allocations
- Flexible, user-defined rules for allocation management

Solution Overview

CA Allocate automatically protects mainframe data sets from lack-of-space issues and optimizes storage resources via allocation control. CA Allocate intercepts storage allocation requests and executes a user-defined ASR to monitor and adjust allocations.

Processes to user-defined rules. CA Allocate directs data sets to the correct tape or volume pool based on rules that are defined by the storage administrator via the ASR. This results in more efficient tape and DASD usage. When changes are needed, a single command can refresh the system with new rules and update the allocation criteria with no downtime required.

Manages storage dynamically. For new allocations, when an allocation is incorrectly specified, CA Allocate can automatically substitute a value consistent with user-defined standards. For example, CA Allocate can redirect allocations from tape to DASD or from DASD to tape and can also add volumes for secondary DB2 table allocations.

Automates policy enforcement. CA Allocate provides a central point of control for data allocation by automating policy enforcement for z/OS. This prevents space-related allocation failures and allows storage administrators to modify storage management criteria dynamically to meet the needs of rapidly changing environments. CA Allocate can also free users from having to learn and apply allocation policies.

Solution Overview (continued)

Improves system throughput and efficiencies. CA Allocate intercepts secondary allocation ABENDs due to lack of space on a volume and adds an extra volume to enable processing to continue uninterrupted. In addition, storage administrators can establish and maintain allocation quotas by application or according to pre-defined thresholds. This resolves the problem of over-allocated disk space and gives administrators control over how much total space can be allocated at any level.

Critical Differentiators

CA Storage Management solutions are designed to be different than traditional storage vendors. We are software, not hardware, and that is important. We are vendor-neutral. We go beyond proprietary storage-specific offerings that just offer hardware-specific installation, management and support. We help you get the most out of your disk and tape investments. Plus, we can help you address compliance and “green” initiatives—while also increasing efficiency and improving the security of your business information.

Related Products/Solutions

- **CA Vantage™ Storage Resource Management.** Helps maximize use of your entire storage infrastructure.
- **CA Vtape™ Virtual Tape System.** Improve tape utilization and processing performance with virtualization.

For more information, please visit ca.com/mainframe/storage

CA Technologies (NASDAQ: CA) creates software that fuels transformation for companies and enables them to seize the opportunities of the application economy. Software is at the heart of every business, in every industry. From planning to development to management and security, CA is working with companies worldwide to change the way we live, transact and communicate – across mobile, private and public cloud, distributed and mainframe environments. Learn more at ca.com.