

# IBM i

## Protect Your IBM i Objects and Data with Authority Collection

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# Agenda

- Situation today
- Introduction to IBM i Authority Collection
- Practical examples

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## Situation Today

# IBM i

- Customers run many applications on a single partition
  - No detailed knowledge of the applications... where is the data?
    - Data in DB2 or IFS ... but where?
  - Once found, how do you lock down security without application breakage?
    - What is the “minimum” authority level that can be granted for the end user?
  - Many customers have little to no idea what interfaces an application uses so the authority requirements cannot be determined
  - Applications are shipped with excessive public authority (common problem) which leads to security exposures, such as **data theft** or data encryption via **Ransomware**
- **The problem:** customers don't change permission settings leaving data exposed



# Agenda

- Situation today
- Introduction to IBM i Authority Collection
- Practical examples

# IBM i Authority Collection

- Initially introduced with IBM i V7.3
- Utility that captures pertinent data associated with an authority check
  - Included as part of the base IBM i OS
  - The collection covers all native IBM i file systems
  - Focus on capturing only unique instances of the authority check
  - Run-time performance, while the collection is active, will degrade 2-3%
  - Storage consideration for long running authority collection
- The collection includes key pieces of information... (including)

*What authority is required for this authority check*

# Implementation

- The Authority collection is “user” based in the 7.3 release
  - Turn on the authority collection for a given user(s)
  - Collect authority information for the user
    - Cannot collect information on the group level but object access allowed via a group profile authority is collected
    - Adopted authority information collected
- Authority collection can be enabled on an object basis
  - Collect information for a given object
  - New attribute on every object specifies whether authority collection is enabled

7.3

7.4

## Display Object Description - Full

```

Library 1 of 1
Object . . . . . : BARLEN      Attribute . . . . . : PROD
Library . . . . . : QSYS       Owner . . . . . : BARLEN
Library ASP device . : *SYSBAS  Library ASP group . : *SYSBAS
Type . . . . . : *LIB        Primary group . . . : *NONE
Authority collection value . . . . . : *OBJINF
  
```

# Running the collection – Start collection for user(s)

- Collection is started with the Start Authority Collection (STRAUTCOL) command

```

                                Start Authority Collection (STRAUTCOL)
Type choices, press Enter.
Type of authority collection . . > *USRPRF          *USRPRF, *OBJAUTCOL
User profile . . . . . > BARLENT              Name
Library and ASP device:
  Library . . . . . > PAYROLLO                    Name, *NONE, *ALL
  ASP device . . . . . *SYSBAS                     Name, *SYSBAS

  Library . . . . . > PAYROLLD                    Name
  ASP device . . . . . *SYSBAS                     Name, *SYSBAS
                                + for more values
Object . . . . . *ALL                             Name, generic*, *ALL
                                + for more values
Object type . . . . . *ALL                         *ALL, *CMD, *DTAARA...
                                + for more values
Include DLO . . . . . *NONE                       *NONE, *ALL, *DOC, *FLR
Include file system objects . . *NONE           *NONE, *ALL, *BLKSF...
Delete collection . . . . . *NO                   *NO, *YES
Detail . . . . . *OBJINF                          *OBJINF, *OBJJOB
    
```



# Running the collection – Start collection for object(s)

7.4+

- Authority collection for objects need to be started differently
  - First define the objects you want to collect authority information for

```

Change Authority Collection (CHGAUTCOL)
Type choices, press Enter.
Object . . . . . > '/qsys.lib/barlen.lib/*'

Authority collection value . . . > *OBJINF          *NONE, *OBJINF
Include dependent objects . . . > *LF              *NO, *LF
Directory subtree . . . . . *NONE                *NONE, *ALL
Symbolic link . . . . . *NO                      *NO, *YES
Delete collection . . . . . *NO                  *NO, *YES
    
```

- Next start the collection

```

Start Authority Collection (STRAUTCOL)
Type choices, press Enter.

Type of authority collection . . > *OBJAUTCOL      *USRPRF, *OBJAUTCOL
Delete collection . . . . . *NO                    *NO, *YES, *ALL
    
```

# Running the collection - Stop

- Collection is ended with the End Authority Collection (ENDAUTCOL) command
  - Ending **user-based** collection:

```
End Authority Collection (ENDAUTCOL)
```

```
Type choices, press Enter.
```

```
Type of authority collection . . *USRPRF      *USRPRF, *OBJAUTCOL
User profile . . . . . BARLENT      Name
```

- Ending **object-based** collection:

```
End Authority Collection (ENDAUTCOL)
```

```
Type choices, press Enter.
```

```
Type of authority collection . . *OBJAUTCOL *USRPRF, *OBJAUTCOL
```

# Determine list of objects with enabled collection

7.4+

- It is not obvious which objects have turned on the authority collection attribute
- The following SQL statement can be used to list all object where the authority collection value has been set to \*OBJINF
  - Note → this command can take a while to complete
    - It is better to remember what you have activated

QSYS

```
SELECT * FROM TABLE (QSYS2.OBJECT_STATISTICS ('*ALLUSR ', '*ALL') ) AS X
WHERE AUTHORITY_COLLECTION_VALUE = '*OBJINF'
```

OBJNAME	OBJTYPE	OBJOWNER	OBJDEFINER	OBJCREATED
STARTSYSBK	*PGM	BARLEN	BARLEN	2024-09-29-07.12.24.000000
STARTSYSL	*PGM	BARLEN	THOMAS2	2024-10-23-10.32.38.000000
SYSLOG1	*PGM	BARLEN	BARLEN	2024-08-09-11.53.48.000000
SYSLOG2	*PGM	BARLEN	BARLEN	2024-08-09-11.56.02.000000
SYSLOG3	*PGM	THOMAS2	THOMAS2	2024-11-02-11.19.13.000000
SYSLOG3S	*PGM	BARLEN	BARLEN	2024-04-26-10.50.24.000000

# Determine list of objects with enabled collection

7.4+

- The following command and SQL statement can be used to list all object where the authority collection value has been set to \*OBJINF for a given IFS directory

IFS

```
RTVDIRINF DIR(/) OMIT('/QSYS.LIB')
```

This will produce a QAEZDxxxxO file

- List the objects with the authority collection value set to \*OBJINF

```
SELECT QEZOBJNAM, QEZOBJTYPE, QEZAUTCOL FROM QUSRSYS.QAEZDxxxxO  
WHERE QEZAUTCOL = '*OBJINF'
```

# Check for active authority collections for users

- The following command and SQL statement can be used to check the status of **user-based** authority collections

```
SELECT AUTHORIZATION_NAME, AUTHORITY_COLLECTION_ACTIVE FROM  
QSYS2.USER_INFO
```

AUTHORIZATION_NAME	AUTHORITY_COLLECTION_ACTIVE
SECHARD	NO
SLOPR	NO
SSHGRP	NO
SYSLOG	NO
TBARLEN	YES
THOMAS	NO
THOMAS2FA	YES

- Just checking for active collections

```
SELECT AUTHORIZATION_NAME, AUTHORITY_COLLECTION_ACTIVE FROM  
QSYS2.USER_INFO WHERE AUTHORITY_COLLECTION_ACTIVE='YES'
```

# Check for existing user collection repositories

- The following command and SQL statement can be used to check the existence of user-based authority collection repositories

```
SELECT AUTHORIZATION_NAME, AUTHORITY_COLLECTION_ACTIVE FROM  
QSYS2.USER_INFO WHERE AUTHORITY_COLLECTION_REPOSITORY_EXISTS='YES'
```

AUTHORIZATION_NAME	AUTHORITY_COLLECTION _ACTIVE
BARLEN	NO
THOMAS2FA	YES

# Check for active authority collections for objects

7.4+

- The Display Security Attributes (DSPSECA) command can be used to check if **object-based** authority collection has been started on the system

## Display Security Attributes

System: SQ740

```

User ID number . . . . . : 716249
Group ID number . . . . . : 132655
Security level . . . . . : 50
Password level . . . . . : 0
Allow change of security related system
  values . . . . . : *NO
Allow add of digital certificates . . . . : *YES
Allow service tools user ID with default
  and expired password to change its own
  password . . . . . : *NO
Authority collection for objects active . : *YES

```

# Captured data analysis

- Collected data is stored in collections
  - The collected information contains the following:
    - Object name, Library name, ASP device, Object type
    - SQL name, SQL object type, SQL schema name
    - Path name and object name
    - Authorization list for the object
    - **Required authority**
    - **Current authority**
    - Authority source for the user that satisfies the authority request
    - Adopted authority indicator (adopt was used to satisfy the authority request), Current adopted authority, Adopted authority source, Adopting program name and indicator (adopting program that was used to satisfy the authority request), Adopting program library, Adopting program object type (\*PGM or \*SRVPGM), Adopting program owner
    - Stack info (most recent invocation and most recent user state invocation including procedure name and statement)
    - Job name, Job user, Job number
      - Current job user profile
      - Group profile and indicator (group profile that was used to satisfy the authority request)
  - Date and time of authority check



## Captured data analysis (cont'd)

- Example of a query output for a user collection

```
SELECT AUTHORIZATION_NAME, OBJECT_NAME, SYSTEM_OBJECT_TYPE,
       DETAILED_REQUIRED_AUTHORITY,
       DETAILED_CURRENT_AUTHORITY, AUTHORITY_SOURCE
FROM QSYS2.AUTHORITY_COLLECTION WHERE USER_NAME = 'BARLENT'
```

AUTHORIZATION _NAME	OBJECT_NAME	SYSTEM_ OBJECT_TYPE	DETAILED_REQUIRED_AUTHORITY	AUTHORITY_SOURCE
BARLENT	SALES	*FILE *OBJOPR		USER PRIVATE
BARLENT	SALES	*FILE *OBJOPR	*READ	USER PRIVATE
BARLENT	SALESPGM	*PGM *OBJOPR	*READ *EXECUTE	PUBLIC
BARLENT	SALESPGM	*PGM *OBJOPR		PUBLIC

# Captured data analysis (cont'd)

7.4+

- Example of a query for an object collection
  - See who performed changes on file SALARIES in library PAYROLL

```
WITH emp_activity (username, cur_auth, req_auth) AS (  
    SELECT "CURRENT_USER",  
           detailed_current_authority,  
           detailed_required_authority  
    FROM qsys2.authority_collection_object as aco  
    WHERE system_object_schema = 'PAYROLL'  
           AND system_object_name = 'SALARIES'  
           AND adopting_program_owner IS NULL  
)  
SELECT *  
    FROM emp_activity  
    WHERE req_auth LIKE '%UPD%'  
           OR req_auth LIKE '%DLT%'  
           OR req_auth LIKE '%ADD%';
```

# Captured data analysis (cont'd)

7.4+

- Following collection objects are available when using **object-based** authority collections
  - **AUTHORITY\_COLLECTION\_OBJECT**  
View to look at information that was collected for libraries and objects in libraries during authority collection for objects.
  - **AUTHORITY\_COLLECTION\_LIBRARIES**  
View to look at information that was collected for all libraries and objects in libraries during authority collection for objects.
    - QSYS2.AUTHORITY\_COLLECTION\_OBJECT and QSYS2.AUTHORITY\_COLLECTION\_LIBRARIES return the same results
    - QSYS2.AUTHORITY\_COLLECTION\_OBJECT will perform better when the number of entries in the authority collection is large and you are looking for a specific object
    - QSYS2.AUTHORITY\_COLLECTION\_LIBRARIES will perform better when the number of entries in the authority collection is small or you are looking for all or most objects in the authority collection

# Captured data analysis (cont'd)

7.4+

- **AUTHORITY\_COLLECTION\_FSOBJ**  
View to look at information that was collected for all file system objects in the "root" (/), QOpenSys, and user-defined file systems
- **AUTHORITY\_COLLECTION\_DLO**  
View to look at information that was collected for document library objects (DLO)

# Deleting the collection

7.4+

- The authority collection can be deleted with the Delete Authority Collection (DLTAUTCOL) command

- Deleting user-based collection:

```

Delete Authority Collection (DLTAUTCOL)

Type choices, press Enter.
Type of authority collection . .      *USRPRF          *USRPRF, *OBJ
User profile . . . . .                BARLENT          Name
    
```

- Deleting object-based collection:

```

Delete Authority Collection (DLTAUTCOL)

Type choices, press Enter.
Type of authority collection . .      *OBJ              *USRPRF, *OBJ
                                      *ALL
    
```

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# Recommended authority collection process

- A typical approach to collect, analyze, and change object permissions is:

1. Define list of objects and set authority collection value to \*OBJINF
2. Define application use cases
3. Start authority collection
4. Run all use cases to capture access attempts of all application functions
5. Stop authority collection
6. Analyze collected data, create groups/authorization lists, assign required permissions to groups, assign authorization lists to objects, remove previous permissions from objects (most likely public permissions)
7. Delete authority collection
8. Set authority collection value from \*OBJINF to \*NONE





# Determining the right authority requirements

- From your authority collection get the required authority by object
- Example SQL:

```

1 SELECT AUTHORIZATION_NAME,
2 CAST(OBJECT_NAME AS VARCHAR(10)) as Object,
3 DETAILED_REQUIRED_AUTHORITY,
4 AUTHORITY_SOURCE, GROUP_NAME FROM QSYS2.AUTHORITY_COLLECTION_OBJECT
5 WHERE object_schema = 'PAYROLL' ORDER BY AUTHORIZATION_NAME, DETAILED_REQUIRED_AUTHORITY
6
    
```

AUTHORIZATION_NAME	OBJECT	DETAILED_REQUIRED_AUTHORITY	AUTHORITY_SOURCE	GROUP_NAME
BARLEN	EMPLOYEES	*OBJEXIST *OBJMGT *OBJOPR *READ *ADD *DLT *UPD *EXECUTE	USER *ALLOBJ	-
BARLEN	SALARIES	*OBJEXIST *OBJMGT *OBJOPR *READ *ADD *DLT *UPD *EXECUTE	USER *ALLOBJ	-
BARLEN	SALARIES	*OBJMGT *OBJOPR *READ *EXECUTE	USER *ALLOBJ	-
BARLEN	SALARIES	*OBJMGT *OBJOPR *READ *EXECUTE	USER *ALLOBJ	-
BARLEN	EMPLOYEES	*OBJOPR	USER *ALLOBJ	-

```

SELECT AUTHORIZATION_NAME,
CAST(OBJECT_NAME AS VARCHAR(10)) as Object,
DETAILED_REQUIRED_AUTHORITY,
AUTHORITY_SOURCE, GROUP_NAME FROM QSYS2.AUTHORITY_COLLECTION_OBJECT
WHERE object_schema = 'PAYROLL' ORDER BY AUTHORIZATION_NAME, DETAILED_REQUIRED_AUTHORITY
    
```

BARLEN	EMPLOYEES	*READ *ADD *DLT *UPD	USER *ALLOBJ	-
BARLEN	SALARIES	*READ *ADD *DLT *UPD	USER *ALLOBJ	-
THOMAS	SALARIES	*ADD	GROUP PRIVATE	SSHGRP
THOMAS	SALARIES	*OBJOPR	GROUP PRIVATE	SSHGRP
THOMAS	SALARIES	*OBJOPR	GROUP PRIVATE	SSHGRP
THOMAS	SALARIES	*OBJOPR	GROUP PRIVATE	SSHGRP
THOMAS	SALARIES	*OBJOPR	GROUP PRIVATE	SSHGRP
THOMAS	SALARIES	*OBJOPR	GROUP PRIVATE	SSHGRP
THOMAS	SALARIES	*OBJOPR	GROUP PRIVATE	SSHGRP
THOMAS	SALARIES	*OBJOPR	GROUP PRIVATE	SSHGRP
THOMAS	SALARIES	*OBJOPR	GROUP PRIVATE	SSHGRP
THOMAS	SALARIES	*OBJOPR	GROUP PRIVATE	SSHGRP
THOMAS	SALARIES	*OBJOPR	GROUP PRIVATE	SSHGRP
THOMAS	SALARIES	*OBJOPR	GROUP PRIVATE	SSHGRP
THOMAS	SALARIES	*OBJOPR	GROUP PRIVATE	SSHGRP
THOMAS	SALARIES	*OBJOPR	GROUP PRIVATE	SSHGRP
THOMAS	SALARIES	*OBJOPR	GROUP PRIVATE	SSHGRP
THOMAS	SALARIES	*OBJOPR	GROUP PRIVATE	SSHGRP
THOMAS	SALARIES	*OWNER *OBJEXIST *OBJMGT *OBJALTER *OBJREF *OBJOPR *READ *ADD *DLT *UPD *EXECUTE	GROUP PRIVATE	SSHGRP
THOMAS	SALARIES	*OWNER *OBJEXIST *OBJMGT *OBJALTER *OBJREF *OBJOPR *READ *ADD *DLT *UPD *EXECUTE	GROUP PRIVATE	SSHGRP
THOMAS	SALARIES	*OWNER *OBJEXIST *OBJMGT *OBJALTER *OBJREF *OBJOPR *READ *ADD *DLT *UPD *EXECUTE	GROUP PRIVATE	SSHGRP
THOMAS	SALARIES	*READ	GROUP PRIVATE	SSHGRP
THOMAS	SALARIES	*READ *UPD	GROUP PRIVATE	SSHGRP

# Deciding what permission model to implement

- If required permission is \*CHANGE or \*ALL only for the business application, recommended to run application under adopted authorities
- If users have \*CHANGE or \*ALL but only need \*USE, change the permission on the object
  - Recommended to use authorization lists with group profiles to assign required authority
- Generally do not grant more than what the maximum required authority is
- Pay special attention to remote access, i.e. ODBC, and external interfaces, such as data exchange, data import/export, etc.

## Take-aways

- Authority Collection is a great feature to better protect your application data and objects without breaking the functionality of the application
- Authority Collection is most useful with IBM i 7.4
- Authority Collection provides the information to implement access control on the least privilege principle
- Always consider the combination of available security features, such as adopted authorities, profile swapping, group profiles (role-based access), authorization lists

# Thanks for your attention

## Questions ?

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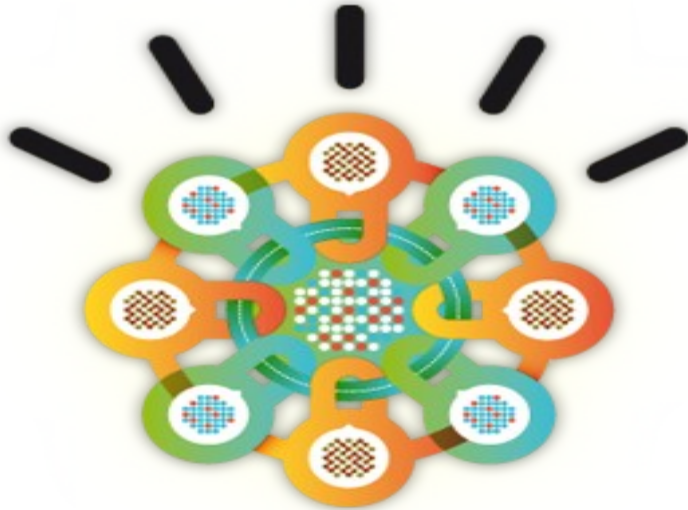
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