

'Changing Dimension' option??

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/SQL-Server/microsoft.public.sqlserver.olap/2004-04/0730.html>

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Date: 04/26/04

Date: Mon, 26 Apr 2004 07:47:20 -0700

Hi,

Dimensions that are defined as "Changing" dimensions are optimised to support dimension structure change. A common scenario is for a dimension member to change from having one parent member to have another existing parent member.

For scenarios where you only add dimension members to an existing dimension structure, the dimension does not have to be defined as "Changing". This dimension modification can be accommodated by performing an increment update.

When deleting dimension members from a dimension the dimension will have to be fully reprocessed. Any cubes using this dimension will also have to be reprocessed.

In your scenario the decision to define a dimension as a "Changing" dimension depends on the type of dimension update and if you wish to avoid fully reprocessing the dimension and the cubes that use the dimension.

Using "Changing" dimensions has an impact on the initial aggregations available within cubes after the cubes have been processed.

For more information the following white paper contains useful information about changing dimensions:

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/treeview/default.asp?url=/technet/prodtechnol/sql/maintain/Optimize/AnSvcsPG.asp>

Graeme Scott [MS]

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>-----Original Message-----

>Hi,

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>Can someone please help me understand what the 'Changing Dimension'

>option is? (we come across this under the advanced options on one of the

>dimension wizard' screens)

>

>The description says "..this options allows to add, remove, and move

>move dimension members without having to re-process the cube". I hope

>you will not bawl out at me for not understanding the obvious or going

>through the BOL first. I did, but sometimes find it difficult to apply

>the description in BOL... so my apologies in advance ;)

>

>In my scenario 4 out of 6 dimensions updated daily (i.e. the underlying

>tables on which these 4 dimensions are based are updated daily using

>ETL). So given this scenario, my questions are:

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>1) Should I use the 'Changing Dimension' options for these 4 dimensions

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>2) What advantages will I get (I hope there are more than just the

>description which I copy/pasted above)

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>3) Will I still have to process the cube if the remaining 2 dimensions

>which it uses are shared (not private) but are not changed that

>frequently i.e. maybe once every 15-20 days

>

>Many TIA for helping me understand.

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