Safe-Update

Regulation of use of File Editors in IBM i

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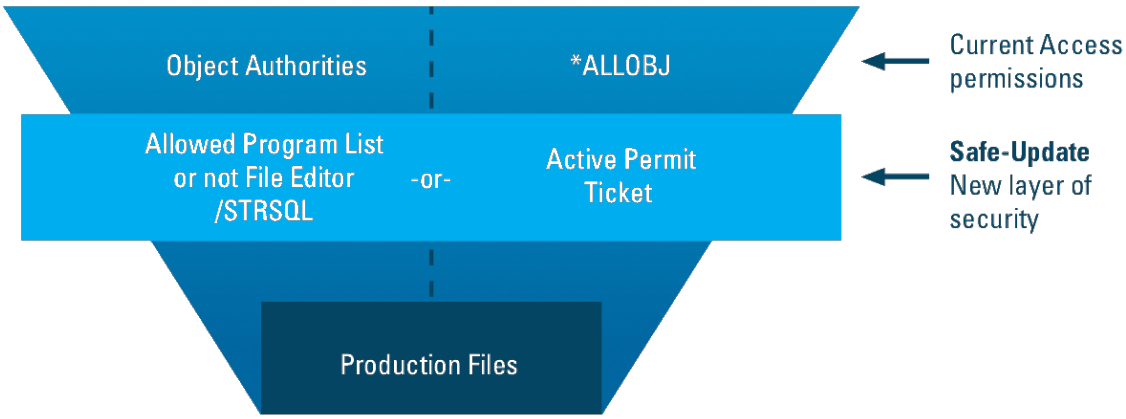
What is iSecurity Safe Update?

Updates made by programming tools and programs that are not specifically dedicated to update that data can cause costly slowdowns and issues. While you might already have a system in place that limits the changes users can make, Safe-Update adds an extra layer of protection over your data by analyzing which programs are requesting to make changes, and allowing or denying access. Federal regulations, such as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act require that only the properly authorized programs are able to make changes to critical data. Due to this regulation, programs such as DFU, the interactive Start SQL (STRSQL) command, and third-party file editors are categorized as possible risks, and are prohibited. The use of these programs renders your systems unreliable and makes them more vulnerable to fraud.

Simply restricting the access of programmers to make changes is not enough to completely secure your system. There will be times when programmers need temporary *ALLOBJ authority in order to complete a project. During this temporary access, your system is more at risk, since there is no way to restrict these types of users. Now, with Safe-Update as an added layer of security, even *ALLOBJ users can be blocked from making changes to your most critical files.



The Safe-Update Solution:

The newest solution in the iSecurity Suite, Safe-Update monitors all updates, and ensures that they are only made by approved programs. Specific whitelists and blacklists are created to keep your updates limited to the programs that should be making them.

Whitelists include the programs that are allowed to update files. Your whitelist contains multiple entries, each specifying generic program names and generic library names.

A blacklist preloaded with programs such as DFU, STRSQL and other known restricted file editors is included with Safe-Update. This blacklist can then be modified according to your organization's needs.

Safe-Update implements an organized workflow for situations in which updates do need to be made by programs that aren't usually allowed. In these situations, a work order is created before the update is approved. Each work order outlines the reason it was opened, the programmer or programmers that can perform it, the file or files the programmer can update, the time frame that it remains active, and more. A programmer then generates a ticket, which informs Safe-Update that the change will be made. Safe-Update issues a temporary authorization, and logs the activity as the programmer makes the update. All activity during this time is logged, even if the data files themselves are not journaled.

The option to allow ad-hoc tickets is also available. These tickets are not connected to any work orders, but contain all of the relevant information themelves.

Key Features

- Monitors and protects updates to data according to the program used.
- Uses either a whitelist of allowed programs, or a blacklist of programs that are not allowed.
- Ensures that DFU, Start SQL and file editors are not used in production environments even when *ALLOBJ is in effect.
- Restriction of updates can be removed when the update is only for field marked in advance as "insignificant".
- Programs that may not update data can read it. They will be stopped when an update is issued.
- Comprehensive workflow of management-approved work orders with tickets opened by preassigned programmers.
- Organizations may decide to also allow ad-hoc tickets.
- Additional permission may be requested in real time
- Ticket is opened for the current job or for the current user.
- Ticket opened for the current user, allows updates by batch jobs as well.
- Ticket becomes automatically invalid after a few minutes of inactivity.
- Manages the full history of the activities.
- Creates full trace of updates even when the file is not journaled.

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