PROGRAMMER'S REQUEST FOR *ALLOBJ SPECIAL AUTHORITY

LOGCMD – An alternative

A programmer's request for *ALLOBJ special authority is probably the most common security question I am asked. The answer is **not recommended**.

 I know that Programmers will tell you they can't do their job unless they have *ALLOBJ special authority, but in a well-run installation there are some alternatives.

*ALLOBJ special authority is very powerful. The *ALLOBJ special authority allows programmers to do _anything_, so I teach that *ALLOBJ is like *GOD. I know programmers think that _they_ are God, but actually most programmers are just humans. As humans, programmers they need to be monitored and their actions subject to review.

Programmers should not have *ALLOBJ special authority on a system with production data.

There are two alternatives.

Test Environment

 Give programmers a test environment separate from development where they can test and debug problems.

This can be a separate machine or copies of the production data libraries in test libraries. The programmers are authorized only to the test data, not production data. This option may require significant effort and cost to set up, but is the most secure.

Temporary use of *ALLOBJ but log actions

LOGCMD is a tool that I developed that gives programmers temporary access to *ALLOBJ. When users run LOGCMD, they are given a command entry screen with adopted *ALLOBJ special authority, but every command they enter while running with *ALLOBJ authority is recorded in the audit journal. You can control what users are allowed to run LOGCMD which shouldc be carefully limited to only the "trusted" individuals wirh a justifiedc use

I have installed LOGCMD for many of my clients, and programmers are allowed to do their work, but there is an audit log of their activity. A short description of why LOGCMD isc used is recored After programmers get used to LOGCMD, they appreciate that they do not have *ALLOBJ authority and can accidentally modify or delete production objects.

You can get a detailed write up and copies of the LOGCMD code from my Web site, www.woevans.net. There is no charge, but I do request that you make a donation to charity if you find the tool useful. I recommend LOGCMD to my clients because it allows programmers to do their job but has a method to audit their activities.