

Bigger Savings using Defined and Group Capacity

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The VWLC policy is the real innovation of the WLC software pricing policy proposed by IBM in mainframe environments. VWLC allows you to pay software license fees based on the CPU usage in MSU (calculated based on a 4-hour rolling average) instead of the CPC capacity.

To guarantee the expected savings IBM introduced the possibility of setting both a defined capacity limit at the LPAR level and a group capacity limit (since z/OS 1.8) at the CPC level.

Aggressive use of these parameters could allow to a further reduction in software costs. However it's important to remember that defined and group capacity limits could be harmful for an application's performance which could be "soft capped" by WLM when the 4-hour rolling average hits those limits. You normally could accept this risk for low importance workload but not for your "loved ones".

In this paper a technique is presented to:

- analyze the 4-hour rolling average by WLM workload importance,
- evaluate optimal "defined" and "group" capacity limits,
- estimate possible MSU savings.