

# EPV Technologies

## Newsletter



**16 april 2005 - Number 4**

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## Presentation

In this number we are proud to publish a Mark Friedman paper discussing a “hot” IT topic.

**When does decommissioning the mainframe make sense ?  
Which points have to be considered to evaluate the real advantages of such a decision in terms of costs and benefits ?**

Mark Friedman has been a mainframe performance and capacity planning “guru” for many years. About ten years ago he founded Demand Technology Software and dedicated all his efforts to the development of the Performance SeNTry product, a “must to have” tool to control and tune Windows performance.

Mark is probably the major expert in this area; he works together with Microsoft labs to improve the quantity and quality of performance metrics available on the Windows platforms and is co-author of a very successful book “Windows Performance Guide” (O’Reilly).

We think that Mark unique professional skills and experience allowed him to make a very clear and fair analysis; so we think this is a paper that everyone involved in IT, not only the mainframe people, should read.

**Many thanks to Mark Friedman for granting us to publish this abstract and to distribute the paper to our customers.**

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## In this number

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**Wrong values in the Service Units per second coefficient after maintenance MCL089**

**Wrong values in the number of low, medium and high impact pages (SMF 71)**

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This message contains news related to EPV products produced and distributed by EPV Technologies.

The EPV products suite answer problems such as **Managing Performance, Tuning and Capacity Planning** on the most common platforms, **allowing huge savings on HW and SW costs.**

Greater details and information on EPV products and solutions can be found at <http://www.epvtech.com> or writing to [epv.info@epvtech.com](mailto:epv.info@epvtech.com).

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## 1) Tech Papers

### **When Does Decommissioning the Mainframe Make Sense?**

Mark Friedman, Demand Technology Software

*Is your z/OS mainframe a dinosaur, a relic of the past? Is it ready to be consigned to the dustbin of IT history? Should you consider migrating all your current mission-critical applications that rely on IBM's robust, but proprietary, hardware and software technology to an apparently lower cost platform like Linux or Microsoft Windows?*

*This article considers both the feasibility and advisability of an IT strategy that seeks to de-emphasize z/OS in favor of some "new technology" alternative to mainframe reliability and service. It tries to provide a knowledgeable perspective and an objective cost-benefits framework for the decision to decommission your mainframe, if that is something your IT organization is seriously considering today. It attempts to help you assess the risks -- and these are usually considerable -- associated with what one major vendor of mainframe application migration tools calls "lift and shift" of your current mainframe-centric application suite so that it can be hosted on an alternative platform.*

*If you want to receive the EPV paper you can reply to this e-mail writing **"When Does Decommissioning the Mainframe Make Sense?"** in the subject*

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## 2) Tech Notes

### **EPV for zLINUX 1.0**

The version 1.0 of the EPV for zLinux product is available.

This version includes:

- z/VM environment configuration analysis
  - Resource analysis (CPU, memory, page and spool, channel, disks)
  - Workload (guests) analysis
  - Linux Workload (inside guests)
  - Trend Analysis (by system, function, guest at daily and monthly level)
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### 3) Tech Support

#### **Wrong values in the Service Units per second coefficient after maintenance MCL089**

IBM APAR II14006 describes a serious problem on 2084 and 2086 machines, introduced by maintenance MCL089. After applying the maintenance the SU\_SEC (service units per second) value is about 1/4 of the correct value. This impacts SRM/WLM activities, SMF records and RMF reports.

The major impacts are on the service class period duration (and consequently on the transaction classification), and on the resource accounting and service levels applications. The APAR describes the patch to apply to correct the problem. To make the patch work you need a POWER-ON-RESET of the machine.

Before the power-on-reset, you can circumvent the problem using a SLIP. In multi-processor systems to set the correct SU\_SEC value in memory you need also, after the SLIP, to config offline and online at least one CPU.

Details at:

<http://www-1.ibm.com/support/docview.wss?uid=isg1II14006>

#### **Wrong values in the number of low, medium and high impact pages (SMF 71)**

SMF 71 fields recording the number of low, medium and high impact pages contain wrong values (until 3 times the installed memory).

There is an open problem (OA11469) at IBM labs.

The problem has been verified in z/OS 1.5.

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