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1) Tech Papers	Report from the IBM System z Technical Conference
Abstract	Fabio Massimo Ottaviani - EPV Technologies

a) Introduction

The "IBM System z Technical Conference", has been held in Dresden (Germany) on 5-9 May. It is the most important technical event in Europe related to z issues and it's a unique opportunity to get first hand news from the IBM development teams and performance advices from the most famous z/OS performance analysts.

b) Best presentations

There were so many good papers that it's very difficult to choose, but I'll try to give you indications about the most interesting ones:

WLM - Update for z/OS Release 9 and IBM System z10 - *Robert Vaupel, IBM*

A very interesting presentations especially the parts discussing in detail the WLM support for Blocked Workloads and recent changes to the way Group Capacity Limit works introduced by the OA24096 correction which eliminated some undesired behaviors.

Whats New in V1.9 and V1.10 RMF - *Harald Bender, IBM*

The new functionalities introduced in RMF by the RMF development team to report on new z/OS and z10 features. The most interesting part is the one related to HiperDispatch and to some new fields introduced in SMF 70 records to monitor Permanent and Temporary Capacity in Capacity on Demand scenarios. Harald presentation includes also interesting information about Memory Objects and related changes to the RMF Postprocessor Paging Activity report.

Understanding and Managing zAAPs and zIIPs - *Glenn Anderson, IBM*

Glenn is by far my favourite speaker. He is a z/OS guru with the soul of a real showman.

If you want to really understand how exploiting zAAPs and zIIPs you absolutely don't have to miss this presentation. Unfortunately downloading the slides is not enough. Glenn presentation gives you much more than that.

WebSphere MQ on z/OS - Performance Considerations - Peter Enrico, EPS

If you are interested in analyzing WebSphere MQ on z/OS performance this is a perfect starting point. Peter has a great analytic mind; he makes you look things from many different perspectives taking you to a more complete picture of the discussed topic. I really liked his 10 step approach to WebSphere MQ Performance.

IBM System z - The Ultimate XML Processing Machine - Christian Strauer, IBM

As Christian said: "*XML is everywhere!!!*"; so this is a topic for any Performance Analyst. This presentation provides a very good overview of all the z/OS XML technologies with some hint on performance.

IBM System z10 EC Capacity On Demand - Parwez Hamid, IBM

I have to admit that IBM Capacity on Demand proposal has been always been very confused to me. After this presentation I now have a clear idea of what On/Off Capacity on Demand, Capacity for Planned Event (CPE) and Capacity BackUp (CBU) are and how they work.

c) How to get conference presentations

Ask your company GSE representatives or to IBM.

d) EPV Technologies presentations

In the z/OS Performance Track we presented "**Managing Websphere/DB2 transactions with WLM**" and "**Estimating GCP, zAAP and zIIP Latent Demand**" which were well attended and appreciated from participants.

If you are interested in these presentations simply reply to this e-mail asking for one or both of them.

e) Conclusions

There's so much to learn in a conference like this, that I'm surprised to see "only" 400 people. Every z/OS Performance Analyst in Europe should have been there.

I strongly advice all of you to plan to go to this conference next year.

2) Tech News

Upcoming events

CECMG Annual Conference

CECMG 2008 will be held in Hamburg on may 28-30.

EPV Technologies will present the following papers:

- "Managing Websphere/DB2 transactions with WLM"
- "Estimating GCP, zAAP and zIIP Latent Demand"

More details at: <http://www.cecmg.de/>

IT and Telecom Symposium and EuroCMG 08

The conference will be held in Wien (Austria) on October 9-10. The conference will host the 11st edition of EuroCMG.

EPV Technologies will present: "**Bigger Savings Using New z Technologies**".

This presentation has been selected during the last CMG-Italia conference, held in Milan on May 22nd, to represent CMG-Italia at EuroCMG.

More details at: http://www.cmg-ae.at/eng_index.htm

EPV User Group 2008

The 6th EPV User Group will be held in Rome, at the Residenza di Ripetta, on October 21st 2008.

The EPV User Group is a "not to miss" event for all Performance Analysts; it will give you the opportunity to share ideas with qualified experts and to listen to some of the EPV customers experiences.

The User Group agenda will be published in next newsletters.

In the meantime mark the day in your agenda to avoid missing this event.

3) Tech Notes

EPV support of major z10 and z/OS 1.9 enhancements

Some customers asked us information about EPV for z/OS compliance with some major enhancements provided in z/OS 1.9 and z10 machines. Here is the status:

1) Capacity of z10 models

Starting from the EPV for z/OS current version (V7), the AVG and LoIO MIPS tables, provided with the product, include all the z10 models values.

2) EPV Algorithm to estimate CEC capacity

Starting from the EPV for z/OS current version, the automatic algorithm used by EPV for z/OS to estimate CEC capacity, taking into account the MP effect due to specialty processors (zAAP and zIIP), has been empowered to support all the z10 models.

3) Usage of Coupling Facility CPUs by structure

Starting from CFLEVEL 15 and z/OS 1.9, a new metric showing the amount of CF CPUs used by each structure is available; these measurements are already included in the EPV for z/OS V7 performance data base; reports will be available in the Resource Vision starting from EPV for z/OS V8.

4) HiperDispatch

EPV for z/OS V8 will include full support of the HiperDispatch function provided with z10 machines; Configuration and Workload Vision reports will allow to check which partitions are using HiperDispatch and to evaluate its effectiveness through a complete analysis of each processor activity, showing busy and parked percentages, and the assigned processor weight.

5) Memory Objects

Starting from z/OS 1.9 applications can use Memory Objects (1 MB pages); Memory Objects are not pageable so it's important to control the amount of real memory they use to avoid performance impacts on other applications and overall system; EPV V8 will include memory objects support; Resource Vision reports will allow to control the number of memory objects and the amount of real memory they use.

6) Blocked Workloads

EPV V8 will include complete support of Blocked Workloads WLM management; BLWLINTHD and BLWLTRPCT assigned values will be reported in the Configuration Vision; Workload Vision reports will allow to analyze the Blocked AS queue and to evaluate the effectiveness, inside each system, of the assigned parameter values.

EPV for z/OS V8 will include much more enhancements than the ones described here. A complete list will be published in future newsletters. EPV for z/OS V8 will be available in 4th QTR 2008.

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