

EPV Technologies	Newsletter
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1) Tech Papers

Measuring Ficon Director Performance

Abstract

Fabio Massimo Ottaviani - EPV Technologies

FICON directors (FCD) are key elements in current I/O configurations. For this reason, since some years, the new SMF 74 subtype 7 record can be produced by RMF to provide information on FCD activity and performance.

However these measurements are normally not collected and properly analysed in many sites. This is probably due to the wrong idea that, as for ESCON directors, measuring channel utilization could be enough.

Unfortunately the FICON protocol is completely different from the ESCON protocol. The most significant difference is that FICON uses buffer credits to account for packet delivery. When the number of credits available on a link has been exhausted no new I/O operations can be initiated until some of the running I/Os (open exchanges in FICON terminology) terminates, thus freeing buffer credits. As a result frame transmission is delayed.

The average amount of delay a frame experienced before being transmitted, called frame pacing delay, is the most important metric provided in SMF 74 subtype 7 records.

In this paper, after a brief explanation of how buffer credits work, we present sample reports to analyse FCD configuration and performance.

If you want to receive the paper you can reply to this e-mail writing "Measuring Ficon Director Performance " in the subject.

2) Tech News

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.

Preliminary Agenda (draft)

09:30 Registration

10:00 Welcome and introduction, EPV Technologies

10:15 EPV for z/OS experience, User presentation
10:45 What's new in EPV for z/OS 8.0, EPV Technologies
11:15 Coffee break
11:45 EPV for Unix and Windows experience, User presentation
12:15 EPV Parser for SMF user experience, User presentation
12:45 What's new in EPV for DB2 3.0, EPV Technologies
13:15 Lunch
14:30 Do you really want to save money on the mainframe ?, EPV Technologies
16:00 User Group end

Mark the day in your agenda to avoid missing this event.

3) Tech Support

EPV for z/OS Getting Started

The EPV for z/OS Getting Started manual, supporting EPV for z/OS 7.0, will be available by the end of June.

The manual will be e-mailed to all EPV customers.

About this book

This book is intended for anyone who wants to learn about the EPV for z/OS product but has never used the product or for those people who already use it and are interested in increasing their knowledge.

The book contains examples designed to guide you through the EPV views to perform the most important Capacity Management activities.

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