

From ICF to zIIP (Why so many specialized processors ?)

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On January 2006 IBM announced the availability of a new processor type called **zSeries Integrated Information Processor (zIIP)**.

Similarly to the already available zAAPs, used by Java code, zIIPs will be much less expensive than standard processors and, more important, their usage doesn't influence the z/OS software license costs.

The bad news is that no specific dates are indicated in the IBM announcement but only a generic available in 2006 statement.

However the availability of these processors can make a difference in Capacity Planning studies forecasting hardware and software costs for 2007 and later.

Unfortunately at the moment there are no technical guidelines or tools allowing to estimate the amount of work that could be served from zIIPs.

This paper will briefly discuss the reasons for the availability of so many specialized processors (from ICF to zIIP), the zIIP design, the hardware and software pre-requisites and the zIIP eligible work, trying to give first indications to estimate the amount of standard processors MIPS or MSU that could be saved using these new processors.