

From SMF to Excel: graphs and reports in one click - Part 2

Massimo Orlando – EPV Technologies

Fabio Massimo Ottaviani – EPV Technologies

July 2013

1 Introduction

z/OS performance analysts love numbers, the more they have the better it is. The reason is that numbers allow us to clearly understand an issue in all its detail.

Managers, on the other hand, are ardent supporters of Napoleon's quote: "*Un bon croquis vaut mieux qu'un long discours*" (A good sketch is better than a long speech). Like Napoleon, they love graphs; they leave the tactics (the detailed analysis) to their generals.

How to reconcile these different attitudes?

As my ancestors used to say: "*Ubi maior minor cessat*"; so performance analysts have to spend part of their time transforming their much loved numbers into graphs when they have to discuss or report something to their managers.

Preparing graphs on z/OS is possible but it requires specific tools which are normally expensive, not easy to use and produce low quality results. This is the reason why most of z/OS sites produce their graphs and reports using MS-Excel.

However producing MS-Excel graphs starting from z/OS data is not really straightforward; it requires a process which is mostly manual and time intensive.

In this paper we show how to save a lot of time and effort by exploiting EPV HTML pages and DBs to produce MS-Excel graphs and reports in a single mouse click.