

IBM Mobile workload Pricing: Opportunity or Problem ?

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On May 6th 2014 IBM announced Mobile Workload Pricing for z/OS (MWP). This new pricing model is designed “to mitigate the impact of mobile workloads on sub-capacity license charges and provide a more cost-competitive software”. In simple words IBM wants customers to put mobile applications on z/OS and it will make a discount on the z/OS software costs if this additional workload will increase them.

This announcement is part of the IBM CAMS strategy; where CAMS stays for Cloud, Analytics, Mobile, Social which are expected to be the drivers of the IT growth in the next years.

To take advantage of this pricing model a new application, the Mobile Workload Reporting Tool (MWRT) has to be used instead of SCRT, to submit the WLC monthly reports to IBM.

The other key prerequisites for enabling Mobile Workload Pricing (MWP) for z/OS include:

1. Run one or more of the Mobile Workload Pricing Defining Programs (CICS, IMS, DB2, WebSphere and Websphere MQ latest versions) on a zEC12 or zBC12 server that has implemented sub-capacity pricing under AWLC or AEWLC or alternatively, if you install and operate a zEC12 or zBC12 anywhere in your enterprise, when Mobile Workload Pricing Defining Program are running on a z196 or z114 server that has implemented sub-capacity pricing under AWLC or AEWLC;
2. Run z/OS V1 or z/OS V2
3. Agree to measure and provide the required mobile transaction data on a monthly basis, inclusive of CPU seconds. IBM must approve the process used to capture the records for mobile transactions that will be used for monthly reporting.

Unfortunately, as you can see, IBM didn't set any precise rule for customers to identify and measure mobile applications, leaving them with the burden of putting in place a process, that must be approved by IBM, to collect those measurements.

Albert Einstein used to say that in every problem you can find opportunities. We can humbly say that in this opportunity we expect to find a lot of problems. Managers will want to catch this opportunity and the technical and legal teams, both on the customers' and IBM's side, will have to face the problems.

In this paper we will discuss the technical issues you are most likely to have to face if you want to take advantage of this opportunity.