

Measuring WebSphere MQ - Part 1

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1 Introduction

WebSphere MQ (WMQ in the following) is a powerful message-oriented middleware which is playing an increasing fundamental role in most current z/OS environments.

WMQ provides a layer of abstraction between its infrastructure components and the applications using those components. This provides the ability to develop and integrate new applications, even when running on different platforms, focusing only on the business logic.

The advent of the Service Oriented Architecture (SOA), where WMQ is a key component providing the universal messaging backbone across many different platforms, has made WMQ even more important.

Nowadays it is therefore very common that many business critical applications in any z/OS environment rely on WMQ to work and perform as expected.

WMQ is normally very stable and provides good performance, however the impact of a badly performing WMQ infrastructure can be so dramatic that it is critically important for any performance analyst to be able to understand, measure and tune both WMQ components and workloads.

After a short introduction to WMQ concepts and architecture, we will discuss the most important metrics provided in the SMF records to control and tune WMQ performance.

Real life examples will also be discussed.

If not explicitly stated everything in this document refers to WMQ V7.0.