

Managing z/OS costs with capping: what's new with zEC12 GA2 and z/OS 2.1

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1 Introduction

In the current volatile economic environment, companies want more IT support for their operation, but at a lower cost than before. So, even after years of shrinking budgets, there is still a lot of pressure on IT managers to reduce personnel, hardware and software costs.

At any z/OS site hardware costs are mostly driven by installed CPU capacity whilst software costs are mostly driven by installed CPU capacity (OTC) and used CPU (MLC).

CPU utilization measurement and control is therefore the key factor in order to reduce costs.

This is the reason why every company collects a lot of different measurements related to CPU utilization which are the mandatory input to tuning and capacity planning activities.

In addition (and sometimes as an alternative) to tuning and capacity planning, the following control mechanisms can be exploited to manage CPU utilization in order to reduce costs:

- hardware capping;
- software capping (defined capacity and group capacity).

In this paper we will discuss some updates to these control mechanisms, introduced with zEC12 GA2 machines and z/OS 2.1 (partially available through PTF to z/OS 1.13 and 1.12), designed to address important issues of the current hardware and software capping implementation.