

Saving money on the mainframe: the most important things a manager should check - Part 1

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Saving money on the mainframe is still one of the most important goals of companies running z/OS applications.

There are many ways to achieve this: some require a deep technical analysis whilst others can involve complex organizational issues.

However there is something simple and very important that a manager can do to keep the software products bill, one of the biggest components of mainframe costs, under control and hopefully reduce it.

Most of the expensive software products (including z/OS itself) are usually priced with the WLC policy where license fees are determined by the monthly peak of the 4-hour rolling average value of the MSU used.

In an ideal world the monthly peak would:

- occur on business-critical days;
- occur in business-critical hours;
- be due to business-critical systems;
- be due to business-critical workloads;
- be due to workloads which could only run on standard CPUs.

Because of the complexity of current systems, this is not always true in the real world. But by using effective reporting a manager could even perform these checks daily, to make sure that the money needed for software products is minimised.

It's important to note that while ex-post controls can normally only reduce future costs, in WLC it may also be possible to reduce the current month bill.

In this paper we discuss these issues giving examples based on the experiences of some of our customers.