



WLM and Container Pricing - Part 1

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1 Introduction

In the last years WLM has been more and more involved in the many mechanism invented by IBM marketing people to provide ways to mitigate the z/OS environment software costs.

They started with the specialty engines (zAAP and zIIP) where WLM was marginally involved. The next steps were the 4-hour rolling average mechanism and the soft capping technique implementation where WLM started playing a fundamental role in major software (e.g. z/OS, CICS, IMS, and Db2) cost control.

In 2014, IBM introduced Mobile Workload Pricing: a new pricing model designed “to mitigate the impact of mobile workloads on sub-capacity license charges and provide a more cost-competitive software”.

The initial implementation was too complex for the customers to manage so it was not very successful. After a couple of years, IBM provided a much easier implementation of this pricing option involving WLM.

At the end of 2017, IBM announced Container Pricing.

“Container Pricing makes pricing simpler and more economical for qualified solutions. It's a framework for hosting simplified and flexible software pricing for qualified solutions running on the z13 and z14 IBM processors, and allows specific workloads to be metered, reported on, and optionally capped, whether on a dedicated LPAR or colocated with existing workloads on an existing LPAR with no direct impact on your 4 Hour Rolling Average.”

The last part of the above sentence is the real innovation. With Container Pricing you may run qualified solutions, inside a logical container in the same LPAR where traditional workload run, and have a separate, lower price for the workload inside the container, without any direct impact on traditional workload pricing.

The burden of managing co-located qualified solutions is again charged to WLM.

Unfortunately, the technical implementation in WLM is, in this case, more complex and invasive.

In this paper, after a short description of the Container Pricing options, we will focus on the new WLM definitions required to manage and measure co-located workloads and on some issues that customers should be aware of.

Finally, we will discuss the most relevant new metrics available and some examples of the modifications to the existing reports that will be needed.