EPV for Db2
IT Cost under Control

Question	Answer
Q1) Why do we need EPV for Db2 when we already have monitors for Db2 subsystems ?	EPV for Db2 is a post processing solution. It's not an alternative to online monitors but the perfect complement to them.
Q2) Why aren't online monitors sufficient?	Monitors allow you to react when there are critical conditions, a post processor allows you to understand why the critical situation happened in the first place, and also to detect and avoid potential problems in the future.
Q3) We already use SAS/MXG (or SAS/ITRM). We also can analyze SMF records using other tools. Why do we need EPV for Db2?	Some tools provide you with lots of data; others require you to do some work when you realize there is a problem. EPV provides you with ready-to-use information with no effort. EPV for Db2 provides a comparison on how your systems are working compared to the theoretical best use, thus highlighting abnormal behavior. In this way it is much easier to manage even very complex installations.
Q4) Does EPV for Db2 require SAS?	No. EPV for Db2 has two versions: one requiring SAS and the other with no pre-requisites. Both produce exactly the same information and reports. If you already have a SAS based solution it is easy to put EPV on top of that. In the future if you want to replace SAS, with EPV you'll still get exactly the same results.
Q5) What is the difference between EPV for Db2 and EPV for Db2 (SAS based)?	EPV for Db2 is the same product as EPV for Db2 (SAS based). It is developed in Perl and uses a SQL Database instead of using SAS.
Q6) Which DMBS can EPV for Db2 run on?	EPV for Db2 supports MySQL and MS SQL server DBMS.
Q7) Where does EPV for Db2 get its input?	EPV for Db2 runs stand alone taking input directly from SMF and other required data sources. EPV for Db2 (SAS based) runs on top of SAS/MXG or SAS/ITRM, taking input from their Performance Data Bases (PDBs).
Q8) Does EPV for Db2 need to run on z/OS?	No. EPV for Db2 can run on any platform where Perl and supported DBs run. EPV for Db2 (SAS based) can run on any platform where SAS/MXG or SAS/ITRM runs.
Q9) Are there technical pre-requisites on z/OS or Db2 (such as APF libraries, exit modifications, etc), to run the EPV for Db2 solution?	There are no pre-requisites.
Q10) Is it possible to completely eliminate SMF processing on the mainframe using the EPV for Db2 solution?	We suggest that you manage your SMF processing off the mainframe. Today there are many techniques that allow you to do that. EPV for Db2 can process the SMF

	produced every time a SYS_.MAN_ dataset is cleared. This guarantees that even huge sites with many LPARS have all their reporting ready early in the morning.
Q11) Is it possible to do a trial? How many days will take to install EPV for Db2?	We can either take a subset of your SMF data from a few hours of your SMF data to produce a meaningful demo, or manage a complete trial installation, which generally only requires a couple of days.
Q12) We don't have the time to study another product. What is the effort needed to use EPV for Db2?	EPV for Db2 is straightforward to install and immediately useful. All the reports provided have help screens describing the metrics and the meaning of the various views. Fast navigation paths help the user get the best out of the product without any training.
Q13) Why should my organization adopt the EPV for Db2 solution; what are the short-term & long-term benefits?	Our experience is that when you install EPV for Db2 a lot of tuning opportunities are revealed. The long term usage lies mostly in capacity planning activities and in spotting anomalies as soon as they start to appear. Additionally many areas within the Company soon rely on the reports produced by EPV, basing their working discussions on EPV's common "trusted" data.
Q14) What is the typical customer profile for the EPV for Db2 solution?	We have small, medium and large users. The typical clients are very professional people who understand the value of the product and others who have a more basic knowledge. We believe that every Company with a Db2 subsystem should use EPV for Db2.
Q15) What pricing models are available for the EPV for Db2 solution?	EPV pricing is based on the number of Db2 subsystems no matter what is the configuration: there are no pricing increases for MIPS upgrades. Different pricing models can be discussed to manage specific customer circumstances.
Q16) For every IT improvement or product acquisition activity, my department has to build a business plan; how difficult is such an activity for the EPV for Db2 solution ?	It really depends on the situation. Sometimes EPV can replace another tool. Moving SMF processing off the mainframe is another major opportunity. However one of the biggest advantages of EPV is how it increases productivity. You can easily estimate the amount of time saved in performance analysis and capacity planning activities.
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