



epv

IT Cost
Under Control

EPV for CICS

FAQ

Question

Answer

Q1 Why do we need EPV for CICS when we already have monitors for CICS and CICS subsystems?

EPV for CICS 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 enough?

Real-time monitors allow you to react immediately when facing critical conditions. A post-processor allows you to understand why the critical situation happened in the first place, then detect and avoid potential problems in the future.

Q3 We already use other tools. Why do we need EPV for CICS?

Most tools provide you with lots of data. Starting from that, EPV provides ready-to-use information. EPV for CICS provides a comparison on how your subsystems 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 CICS require SAS?

No. EPV for CICS has two versions: one requiring SAS and the other with no prerequisites. Both produce 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 the same results.

Q5 What is the difference between EPV for CICS and EPV for CICS (SAS based)?

EPV for CICS is the same product as EPV for CICS (SAS based). It is developed in Perl and uses an SQL database instead of using SAS.

Question

Answer

-
- Q6** Which DMBS can EPV for CICS run on?
- EPV for CICS supports MySQL, Maria DB, MS SQL Server and Impala/Hadoop.
-
- Q7** Where does EPV for CICS get its input?
- EPV for CICS runs stand-alone taking input directly from SMF and other required data sources. EPV for CICS (SAS based) runs on top of SAS/MXG or SAS/ITRM, taking input from their performance databases (PDBs).
-
- Q8** Does EPV for CICS need to run on z/OS?
- No. EPV for CICS can run on any platform where Perl and supported DBs run. EPV for CICS (SAS based) can run on any platform where SAS/MXG or SAS/ITRM runs.
-
- Q9** Are there technical prerequisites on z/OS (such as APF libraries, exit modifications, etc.) to run the EPV for CICS solution?
- No. There are no technical prerequisites.
-
- Q10** Is it possible to eliminate SMF processing on the mainframe completely using the EPV for CICS solution?
- We suggest you manage your SMF processing off the mainframe. Today many techniques allow you to do that. EPV for CICS can process SMF every time a dump is produced. This guarantees that even huge sites with many LPARs have all the reporting ready early in the morning.
-
- Q11** What if I don't want to wait until the next morning to see the EPV reports?
- No problem. EPV for CICS includes a feature called Refresh Mode (RM), which can be run in parallel with standard EPV for CICS. RM can be configured to produce EPV reports whenever you like, thus providing near-real-time analysis (with some delay). The delay depends on the amount of data to be processed, network speed, server CPUs, etc.
-
- Q12** Is it possible to do a trial? How many days will it take to install EPV for CICS?
- We can take a sample of your SMF data (8 hours, 24 hours, etc.) to produce a meaningful demo or manage a complete trial installation, which generally only requires a couple of days.

Question

Answer

Q13 We don't have the time to study another product. What is the effort needed to use EPV for CICS?

EPV for CICS 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.

Q14 Why should my organization adopt the EPV for CICS solution; what are the short-term & long-term benefits?

Our experience is that when you first install EPV for CICS, 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 your organization will soon rely on the reports produced by EPV, basing their working discussions on EPV's common "trusted" data.

Q15 What is the typical customer profile for the EPV for CICS solution?

We serve small, medium and large computing enterprises. The typical clients are skilled, professional people who understand the value of the product along with others who have limited knowledge. We believe that every computing enterprise running a CICS subsystem should use EPV for CICS. The results provided by EPV are useful to technicians, technical managers, with some views designed specifically for IT executives.

Q16 What pricing models are available for the EPV for CICS solution?

EPV pricing is based on the number of CICS subsystems regardless of configuration. There are no price increases for MIPS upgrades. Different pricing models can be tailored to fit the customer's circumstances.

Q17 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 CICS 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.

It's always the right time to switch to EPV



*We are not simply a software vendor.
We will always be at your side helping you reach
your business goals.
EPV: people you can trust.*



epv

IT Cost
Under Control