

## Collecting SMF data in real time

*Fabio Massimo Ottaviani*

November 2020

### 1 Introduction

Starting from z/OS 2.2, IBM introduced the possibility to enable real-time access to SMF data.

IBM and some ISV have already built many tools based on this new functionality and they are pushing for customers to buy them.

While real-time access to SMF data can be very useful for some activities such as security controls, fraud detection and system anomalies identification, its usefulness for performance analysis needs to be evaluated more carefully.

The introduction of new tools in the z/OS environment needs to be evaluated with care, to avoid a significant increase of costs both in terms of software licenses and resource consumptions.

In this paper we will try to clarify what you need to do and take into consideration if you want to exploit this new z/OS possibility.

We will also briefly present a new feature of the EPV zParser product which can provide real-time access to SMF data while minimizing both costs and performance impacts.