

## Understanding XCF groups and members activity - Part 2

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April 2024

### 1 Introduction

The Cross System Coupling Facility (XCF) component of z/OS plays a fundamental role in a Parallel Sysplex. It enables the communication between programs residing on the same system or, more importantly, on a different system.

XCF signalling is used by many IBM and non-IBM software products. The IBM list includes CICS, Console, Db2, DFSMS, DFSMSHsm, GRS, IMS, IRLM, JES2, MQ, OMVS, RACF, RMF, WLM, zFS and many other system components.

XCF signalling paths must be defined to allow the communication between systems in the same sysplex. They can use either dedicated Channel To Channel (CTC) devices or signalling structures in the Coupling Facility (CF).

The majority of customers uses signalling structures in the CF which normally provide the best performance even if CTCs can also be used in some special cases.

Unserialised list structures dedicated to XCF signals must be allocated in the CF.

Important XCF concepts are group and member:

- a group is the set of related members defined to XCF by a multisystem application in which members of the group can communicate (send and receive data) between z/OS systems with other members of the same group in the sysplex;
- a member is a specific function (one or more routines) of a multisystem application that is defined to XCF and assigned to a group; a member resides on one system in the sysplex and can use XCF services to communicate (send and receive data) with other members of the same group.

In this paper, we will discuss which measurements and tools are available to analyse the XCF activity of all the group and members defined in the sysplex.