EPV Technologies

Newsletter

February 2026

THIS MONTH HIGHLIGHTS

- **Measuring disk storage usage - Part 2**
- **IBM CICS corrections**

Measuring disk storage space usage - Part 2

The usage of disk storage continues to grow at a very robust pace, driven by the adoption of Generative AI, which shows no signs of slowing down.

To be able to effectively manage this growing volume of data, organizations must

regularly measure and report storage allocation and utilization.

This is an essential step to:

- Optimize storage allocation and utilization;
- Analyze trends in used/free space to predict future needs;
- Allocate storage costs by understanding system and application usage.

In this paper we will discuss the required input data and what you must do to collect them.

We will also show some examples of reports which can be useful to analyze disk storage usage by volume, storage group and globally.

Finally, we will focus on datasets most relevant metrics, showing what you could do to analyze disk storage usage by system function and application.

If you want to receive this paper, you can reply to this e-mail writing **"Measuring disk storage usage - Part 2"** *in the subject.*

IBM CICS corrections

PH68124: REDUCE OVERHEAD OF RUNAWAY DETECTION OF TASKS RUNNING ON T8 TCBS
CICS' runaway detection mechanism uses the z/OS STIMERM macro to periodically check if a task may be looping. On idle systems with thousands of T8/threads in Liberty JVM server thread pools
this may cause a noticeable CPU overhead. This APAR will reduce the frequency at which CICS checks if a task may be looping when running on a T8 TCB.
More details at: https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/apar/PH68124

PH66279: SMF 110 TYPE 2 RECORDS CONTAIN STID 82 DATA
STID 82 data is appearing in SMF 110 type 2 records. This statistics ID is not referenced in the DFHSTIDS copybook.
This data is getting written to the SMF 110 records as a result of a TCT LINE entry being installed in to the region.
More details at: https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/apar/PH66279

Customer question

We use an IBM 6xx model.
The model never changes but the normalization factors in SMF 30 (SMF30SNF) and SMF 72 (R723NFFS) which are normally set to 440, in some intervals are equal to 256.
What can be the reason for that?

EPV Technical Support answer

On an IBM 6xx model the values of the SMF30SNF and R723NFFS fields, used to normalize zIIP and CPU seconds, should be higher than 256 (e.g.440) because 256 indicates full speed and so it is only possible with 7xx models … unless when system recovery boost is in place.

When system recovery boost is active all processors run at full speed even on an IBM 6xx model and so SMF30ZNF and R723NFFS become 256

Please check if this is the case.

Log task utilization due to I/O suspensions

The QJSTIOTOTSUS SMF metrics provide information about the total time spent suspended for I/O when one or multiple Control Intervals (CI) are written to each log.

The same metric is provided in 4 record sections so in EPV we call them:

- QJSTIOTOTSUS-11, suspend time when writing one CI to log 1;
- QJSTIOTOTSUS-21, suspend time when writing one CI to log 2;
- QJSTIOTOTSUS-1M, suspend time when writing multiple Cis to log 1;
- QJSTIOTOTSUS-2M, suspend time when writing multiple Cis to log 2.

The log task utilization due to I/O suspensions can be estimated as:

(Max 1 CI + Max M CIs) / interval

where:

Max 1 CI = Max(QJSTIOTOTSUS-11, + QJSTIOTOTSUS-21)
Max M CIs = Max(QJSTIOTOTSUS-1M, + QJSTIOTOTSUS-2M)

Normally the log task utilization due to I/O suspensions accounts for most of the log utilization (see January 2026 newsletter). So, they should be very close.

If the log task utilization due to I/O suspensions is much lower than the log task utilization, it indicates an external problem penalizing the log task performance. Most of the time it is due to delays in accessing the CPU.

Quotes

"If you want something said, ask a man;
if you want something done, ask a woman."
Margaret Thatcher

puts them in charge of "what", "where" and "how" information is shared.

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