Z/JOURNAL

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Workload License Charges:

I/S Management Strategies, Ltd. Presents:

LCS — From I/S Management Strategies
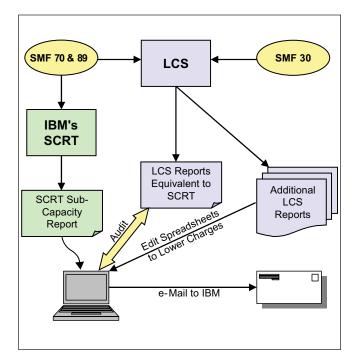
Revealing the True Cost of zSeries Software

By Al Sherkow

LCS — From I/S Management Strategies

Revealing the True Cost of zSeries Software

It's time to really think about the ramifications of using IBM's new mainframe pricing model, Workload License Charges (WLC). Originally introduced to help IT organizations understand and evaluate workload license charges, WLC contains some limitations that, without a method to properly analyze machine usage, could cause software costs to increase substantially — and unnecessarily.

Helping organizations to understand WLC as well as the ramifications of implementing the technology is the new LPAR Capacity and Software Usage Analysis (LCS) product from I/S Management Strategies, Ltd. LCS assists installations in planning for, implementing, and migrating to IBM's WLC. Ideal for system administrators, asset managers, data center directors, and capacity planners, LCS supplements IBM planning tools by operating on the newest hardware and software (z900, z800, and z/OS) as well as pre-z900 hardware, and on OS/390 software. LCS provides the CEC Views used by WLC and the Parallel Sysplex view needed to assist for capacity planning. LCS provides a single report that shows all the LPARs on a single machine along with the LPARs' parameters. The "CEC View" reveals the entire zSeries computer, including all its LPARs, parameters, Integrated Coupling Facilities, and so on. It automates the process of collecting LPAR parameters and generates LPAR configuration recommendations. Additionally, LCS automates the process of building a matrix of LPARs and the software products used within each LPAR, detects which LPARs are running the COBOL and PL/I compilers — something IBM's SCRT is unable to detect. Equally important, while IBM does not provide any WLC pricing tools to customers, LCS provides pricing of the key components of IBM software products. And it provides Simultaneous Four-Hour Rolling Averages critical to planning for "Defined Capacity," and generates an analysis of the Simultaneous Four-Hour Rolling Average utilization for LPARs running a product.

HOW LCS WORKS

LCS has two parts, the analysis spreadsheets that can be used on a PC, and a series of mainframe-based SAS programs that work with Merrill Consultants' MXG software to provide automated assistance in building the spreadsheets. The LCS analysis spreadsheets can be used with or without the SAS programs.

Decisions regarding software usage or upgrades can be made by creating a matrix of the IBM software products running in the various LPARs of the enterprise, a feature unique to LCS. Once a matrix is developed, an analyst can combine the information with a capacity plan to develop growth scenarios and evaluate software charges for these growth scenarios. LCS provides this capability by including a price table for the Variable WLC products. This is crucial functionality due to the fact that the previous pricing scenario cannot be reinstated once the decision is reached to place a zSeries machine on WLC.

Leveraging WLC may provide additional savings. Once an understanding of LPAR configurations and software configurations is gained, analysts can develop "what-if" scenarios with the LCS analysis spreadsheets. Companies can evaluate different software pricing options and changes in machines or configurations. And different scenarios can be used to compare PSLC with WLC for the key Variable WLC products. Additionally, LCS provides detailed reports for auditing SCRT. LCS requires base SAS and can be run on the mainframe or on a PC. It extracts data from MXG or SAS/ITRM. For the "what-if" analyses, LCS generates standard comma delimited files that are compatible with Microsoft Excel and Lotus 123.

LCS software is available from I/S Management Strategies, Ltd., 4942 N. Hollywood Ave., Whitefish Bay, WI 53217-5935. Voice: 414-332-3062; Fax: 414-332-8771; Website: www.sherkow.com/lcs.html. **z**

— By Ellen J. Silverman