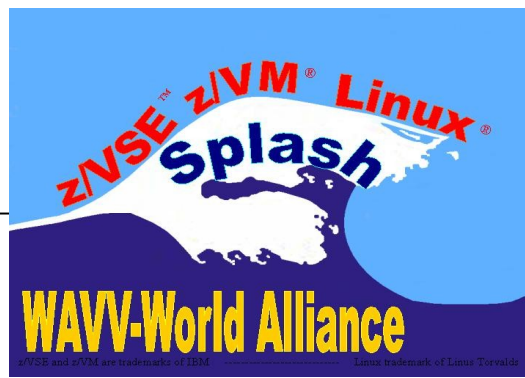


Bruce Hayden

IBM Advanced Technical Skills

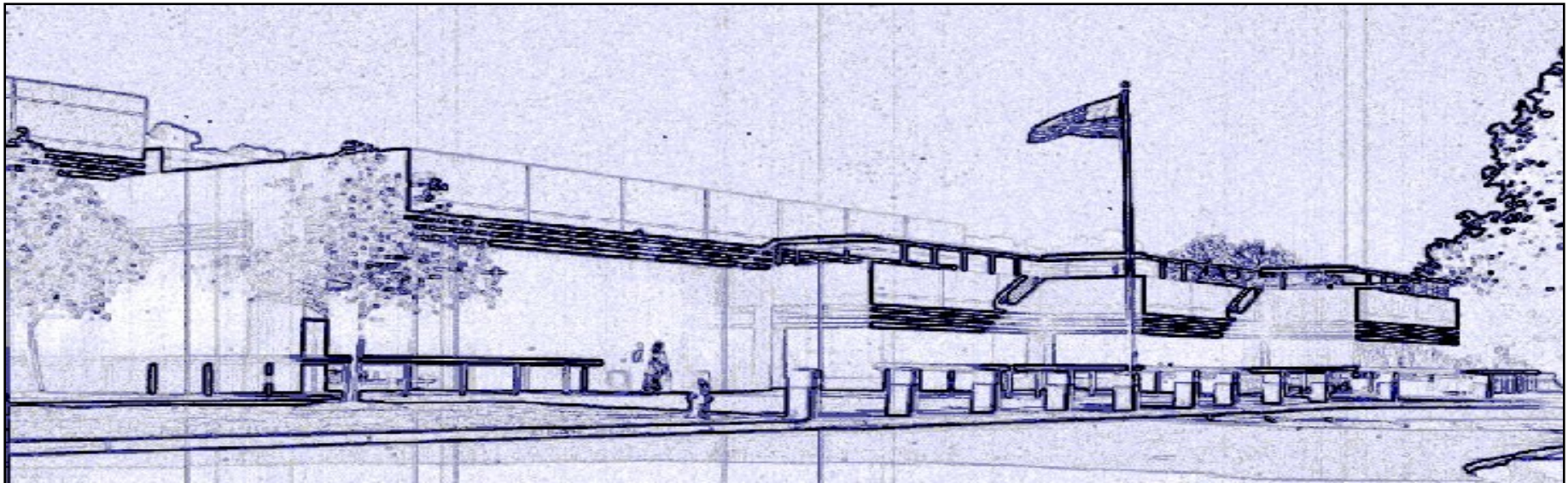
Endicott, NY



# z/VM and Linux on System z Performance “Best Practices”

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  - Steve Gracin (retired)
  - Stephen Kinder

# Agenda

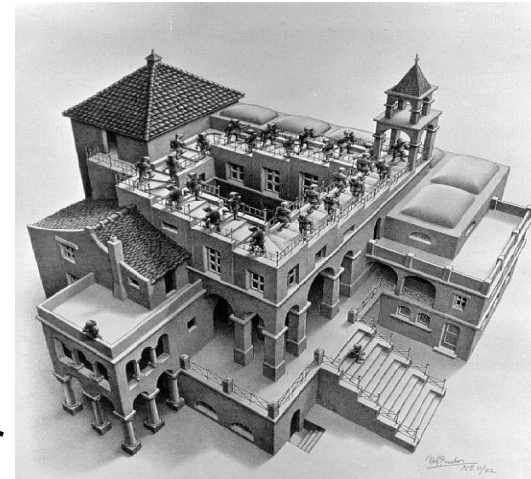
- Installation and Configuration Performance “Best Practices”
  - Introduction
  - Maintenance/Service
  - Processors
  - Memory
  - I/O
  - Virtual Networking
  - z/VM 6.2 Considerations
  
- Reference Materials

# Programmer's perspective on the “real server” world



Get programmers  
to change their perspective

- On **dedicated** servers it “doesn’t matter” if the application uses all the resources of the server
- “Real” server practices that **hurt** on **virtualized** systems:
  - Extra CPU burned by an idling application, background process, and/or redundant processing isn't wasted because other processes can't use it anyway.
  - Extra memory used because it's dedicated, can't be shared anyway. If the application doesn't use it, memory will just sit there unused.
  - No need to debug mem leaks – just reboot the world daily
    - A twofer!!! extra memory used all day, and CPU burned on restart. Ugh



# Programmer's perspective on the virtualized world

*Kindergarten principles:*



*Share*



*Play nicely with others*



*Speak only when spoken to*

- Gone are the days of unlimited CPU and memory dedicated to a single application.
- Applications need to be concerned with the impact on their hypervisor neighbors.
- Virtualized Systems have cost advantages
  - efficient use of CPU and memory, faster server provisioning, easier disaster recovery, administration, lower power, space, cooling consumption
- SysAdmins will pack as many guests as possible into a single hypervisor instance.
- See “*Java Design and Coding for Virtualized Environments*”
  - <http://www-03.ibm.com/support/techdocs/atmastr.nsf/WebIndex/WP102089>

# MAINTENANCE / SERVICE



## z/VM Service Level

- Recommend maintaining a policy or schedule for software currency
  - 6 months to a year schedule recommended
- Apply Recommended Service Upgrade (RSU):
  - Released every 3-6 months
  - Contains cumulative service including all pre and co-requisites in a pre-built format
  - Includes service for all integrated components and pre-installed program products
  - Available on 3590 tape, DVD, or electronically (servlink envelope)
  - Includes service required by most customer installations
  - Pre-tested by development
  - Easy to install:
    - SERVICE
    - PUT2PROD
  - Easy to remove or back out
    - SAPL – IPL from CPLOLD MODULE
    - VMSES/E - VMFREM
- Check the following urls for important z/VM service topics:
  - <http://www.vm.ibm.com/service/news>
  - <http://www.vm.ibm.com/service/redalert>
  - <http://www.vm.ibm.com/service/rsu>





## Linux Kernel Level

- Recommend using the most current distribution/version that has been tested and officially supports required hardware, middleware, and/or applications for target workload
- Recommend maintaining current service pack level via:
  - **SLES** > YaST Online Update (YOU)
  - **Red Hat** > Red Hat Network (RHN)
- Distribution service pack updates include:
  - **Security Fixes**
  - Other Fixes
  - Performance enhancements
  - New function
- Kernel level easily identified by “uname” command



# CPU / PROCESSORS



## Physical/Logical Processors

- Physical Processors (hardware limits):
  - zEC12: 101
  - z196: 80
  - z10EC: 64
  
- LPAR Logical Processors same as hardware limits
  
- Logical Processors (supported by z/VM LPAR)
  - z/VM 5.4 and newer support up to 32 logical processors
  - POK recommendation, maximum 4:1 logical to real ratio
    - Real life experience, 3:1 is about the maximum
  - Recommend defining reserved processors in the LPAR Activation Profile
    - Permits non-disruptive activation of engines to the z/VM LPAR at a later date



# Guest Virtual Processors

- Virtual Processors
  - Maximum Per Virtual Machine (architected): 64
  - Various guest operating systems and workloads scale differently
  - Recommendations:
    - Configure the number of virtual processors per guest for peak workload, no more
    - Do not define more virtual processors to a guest than logical processors defined to the z/VM LPAR
  - High diagnose x'44' or x'9C' rates (spinlock) may be an indication of too many virtual processors
    - Perfkit report - FCX104 (Privileged Operations)
    - Thresholds to watch for:
      - x'44' > 50,000/sec**
      - x'9C' > 5,000/sec**
  - See the following url for details on diagnose x'9C' support in z/VM:  
<http://www.vm.ibm.com/perf/reports/zvm/html/diag9c.html>



## Beware of “SHARE” of Virtual MP Machines

- The default SHARE setting for all virtual machines is “Relative 100”:
  - VM dispatches users by VMDBK
  - There is one VMDBK per virtual processor defined
  - A users SHARE setting is divided among the defined virtual processors
- Recommend the initial SHARE of Virtual MP Machines:
  - Set SHARE RELATIVE (100 \* number of virtual CPUs defined)
  - This maintains an initial “level playing field”
- Adjust SHARE of guest virtual machines from this point, as required:
  - Increase SHARE to prioritize
  - Decrease SHARE to penalize
- A virtual machines SHARE only comes into play when there is contention for resources, primarily CPU



## More on SHARE – Excess SHARE Distribution Problem

User ID	Share	Normalized	Wants	Should get	Actually gets
LINUX01	100	17%	100%	24.5%	17%
LINUX02	100	17%	100%	24.5%	17%
LINUX03	200	33%	100%	48%	63%
LINUX04	200	33%	3%	3%	3%

- The relative “excess share” that LINUX04 does not want to use is not distributed proportionally to the remaining user ids that would use it.
- IBM has recreated the problem and is working on a correction.
- Recommendation:
  - Use absolute shares for users with low average usage that require a high share.
  - Examples from the default user directory:
    - TCPIP and its related servers
    - Default SFS servers (VMSEVR, VMSERVS, etc.)



## Quick Dispatch

- Setting QUICKDSP:
  - Bypasses System Resource Management memory controls
  - Places a virtual machine directly into the dispatch list
  - The virtual machine exempt from being placed in an eligible list
- QUICKDSP should be reserved for:
  - Service Virtual Machines performing critical functions on behalf of other guests (i.e. RACF, TCPIP)
  - Select key production (i.e. data base) guests
- SRM values should be used to adjust scheduler/dispatcher behavior for servicing most guests.
- See <http://www2.marist.edu/htbin/wlvtype?LINUX-VM.30359> for an excellent detailed explanation by Malcolm Beattie (IBM)



# Linux Runlevel

- Similar to Microsoft Windows, Linux has different modes of operation or “runlevels”
- When you boot Linux, it will initialize at a predefined default runlevel (this is usually 3 or 5). There are six different runlevels defined by most Linux distributions:
  - 0 - Halt the system
  - 1 - Single-user mode
  - 2 - Multi-user mode (without networking)
  - **3 - Multi-user mode**
  - **5 - Multi-user mode (display manager, GUI)**
  - 6 - Reboot the system
- Most desktop Linux systems boot into runlevel 5 by default and users are presented with a graphical interface
- Most server Linux systems boot into runlevel 3 by default and users are presented with a line mode interface
- Recommend runlevel 3 for Linux guests of VM:
  - X services are costly in terms of cpu cycles
  - Use a lightweight X-server like VNC server, instead of full GUI desktop





## Unnecessary Guest Virtual Machines

- Shutting down unnecessary guest virtual machines helps to improve the overall performance of the system:
  - Linux guest virtual machines almost never go dormant
- Logoff:
  - Golden images used for cloning
  - Test machines and “sand boxes”
- Suspend:
  - Production guests not necessary during POC testing or benchmarking of another application or workload
  - See *Methods to pause a z/VM guest: Optimize the resource utilization of idling servers* at <http://public.dhe.ibm.com/software/dw/linux390/perf/I0wadp00.pdf>
- Reduce “SHARE” setting:
  - For virtual machines running lower priority workloads



## Unnecessary Services/Applications

- There are a number of services in Linux that get started at boot depending on:
  - Distribution
  - Linux kernel level/version
  - Installed software packages
- Shutting down unnecessary services and unused applications helps to improve the overall performance of the system
  - Status of services can be queried/changed with the “chkconfig” command
- The cron daemon is useful for scheduling events to be kicked off automatically at a specific time or at regular intervals
  - Running many guests with identical schedules can cause CPU spikes and stress the z/VM paging subsystem:
    - Remove unnecessary events from cron
    - Stagger scheduled kick-off time of events



# MEMORY



## z/VM Memory Configuration

- zEC12, z196, & z10 Hardware Limits:
  - 1TB Central Storage in an LPAR
- z/VM 5.4 through z/VM 6.2 support up to:
  - 256GB Central, 128GB Expanded Storage
  - z/VM 6.3 preview announcement: 1 TB Central
  - Plan on a virtual to real (V:R) memory ratio in the range of 1.5:1 to 3:1
    - Production systems will typically be closer to the low end of range
    - Development/Test systems may be able to push the upper end of range
- Recommend configuring some processor memory as expanded storage:
  - Serves as high speed cache
  - Increases consistency of response time
  - See <http://www.vm.ibm.com/perf/tips/storconf.html> for details
- Rule Of Thumb - start with 25% of memory configured as expanded:
  - 1GB minimum
  - 2GB to 4GB is sufficient for most workloads
- As of z/VM5.4, STANDBY memory can be added dynamically to central storage:
  - Storage must be defined as “RESERVED” in the VM LPAR Activation Profile
  - Cannot be removed dynamically, only added
  - Central only, dynamic expansion not supported for expanded storage



# Linux Virtual Memory Sizing

- The maximum supported virtual machine VSIZE is 1TB
- The most common mistake made by customers running Linux guests under z/VM is over-configuring virtual memory:
  - In a dedicated server environment, traditional wisdom suggests installing as much memory as possible. Excess memory used as:
    - I/O buffer
    - File system cache
  - In a virtualized environment under z/VM, oversized guests place unnecessary stress on the VM paging subsystem:
    - Real memory is a shared resource, caching pages in a Linux guest reduces memory available to other Linux guests
    - Larger virtual memory requires more kernel memory for address space management
  - Rightsizing Linux memory requirements on z/VM:
    - Is accomplished by trial and error
    - Monitored with the “free” or “vmstat” commands along with /proc/meminfo
  - Reference the following document by Stephen Wehr (IBM):
    - <ftp://ftp.software.ibm.com/common/ssi/sa/wh/n/zsw03049usen/ZSW03049USEN.PDF>



## z/VM Paging Subsystem

- Rule Of Thumb - Plan for a DASD page space utilization < 50%:
  - Page space tends to get fragmented over time
  - Large contiguous free space allows for greater paging efficiency
  - Monitor usage with Q ALLOC PAGE command
  - Block page size is the key performance indicator:
    - Aim for double digits, 10 or more 4K pages per block set
    - Perfkit report - FCX109 (CP Owned Device)
- Use multiple channels to spread out I/O to paging devices
- Do not mix page space with any other space on a volume
- Recommend using devices of the same size/geometry
- EDEVs as paging drives are an option:
  - Have observed 1.6 I/Os per emulated FBA volume
  - At slightly higher CPU costs
- Page space calculation guidelines are located in the *CP Planning and Administration Manual*



## Linux Swap Space

- The traditional recommendation in a dedicated server environment is that swap space should be twice the memory size of a Linux machine
- This should not apply to a z/VM Linux guest:
  - Some swap space should be defined to prevent Linux from hanging and/or a kernel panic during unexpected memory demands
  - Properly sized Linux guests should have minimal swapping under normal load
- z/VM offers multiple options for swap devices
- Recommendation:
  - One or two small V-disks (256MB - 512MB)
  - If necessary, additional minidisk(s) or dedicated volume(s)
    - Set priorities in fstab so that the V-disk(s) are used first
- See <http://www.redbooks.com/abstracts/sg246926.html> for more details and test results for various swap device options



## z/VM Reorder Processing

- *Page reorder* is the process in z/VM for managing user owned frame lists as input to demand scan processing:
  - It serializes the virtual machine
  - It includes checking/resetting the hardware reference bit
  - It is done periodically on a virtual machine basis
- The cost of reorder processing is proportional to the number of resident frames owned by a virtual machine:
  - Roughly 130ms per GB of resident memory
- Recommendation:
  - Turn reorder processing “off” for Linux guests  $\geq$  8GB
  - Things to watch for:
    - Resident page fields (R<2GB & R>2GB) on Perfkit report - FCX113 (User Page Data)
    - Console Function Wait field (%CFW) on Perfkit report - FCX114 (User Wait States)
  - See the following url for additional details on Reorder Processing:
    - <http://www.vm.ibm.com/perf/tips/reorder.html>
- Page reorder has been eliminated in z/VM 6.3.





## z/VM SRM Settings

- Tuning knobs that influence the z/VM scheduler and dispatcher behavior
- Default values are an artifact from the past:
  - Interactive CMS virtual machines
  - Small memory footprints
- **STORBUF**
  - Defines amount of memory to be used in scheduler algorithms
  - Recommend modification to over-commit central storage
    - Old Default values - STORBUF 120 105 95
    - Recommended starting values (new default in z/VM 6.2) - STORBUF 300 250 200
- **LDUBUF**
  - Defines amount of paging “capacity” to be used in scheduler algorithms
  - There are conflicting opinions on a recommended setting:
    - Default values - LDUBUF 100 75 60
    - Default values may be “OK” as a starting point depending on:
      - Number of page volumes defined
      - Number and size of active Linux guests
- **DSPBUF**
  - Defines number of guests allowed in the dispatch list:
    - Default values - DSPBUF 32767 32767 32767
    - Not recommended to adjust these settings unless directed by development



## z/VM Minidisk Cache

- z/VM minidisk cache is a write-through cache:
  - Improves read I/O performance, but It's not free
- Not recommended for:
  - Memory constrained systems
  - Non-shared Linux file systems
  - Linux swap file disks
- Default system settings are less than optimal
- Recommended settings:
  - Disable MDC for non-shared Linux minidisks
    - Code **MINIOPT NOMDC** operands on the MDISK directory statement
  - Eliminate MDC in expanded storage
    - **SET MDC XSTORE 0M 0M**
  - Limit MDC in central storage, amount depends on usage
    - **SET MDC STORE 0M 256M**
  - Monitor with Q MDC command and/or a performance monitor
    - Perfkit report - FCX103 (Storage Utilization)



# DASD I/O



## Disk Performance

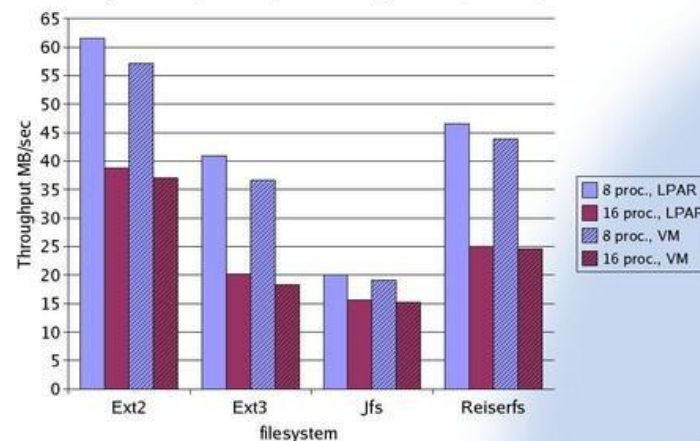
- Hardware connectivity choices:
  - ESCON 17MB
  - FICON available in 1Gb, 2Gb, 4Gb, & 8Gb channel speeds
- SCSI verses ECKD/FBA recommendations:
  - ECKD or FBA for z/VM and Linux “/” file system
  - SCSI LUNs for application data and databases
- Maximize hardware performance:
  - Use maximum speed channels
  - Configure maximum number of channel paths
  - Spread disks over multiple ranks within a storage subsystem
  - Use logical volumes with striping
  - Consider exploiting PAV or HyperPAV to prevent queuing
- References:
  - <http://www.vm.ibm.com/perf/reports/zvm/html/scsi.html>
  - [http://www.ibm.com/developerworks/linux/linux390/perf/tuning\\_diskio.html](http://www.ibm.com/developerworks/linux/linux390/perf/tuning_diskio.html)



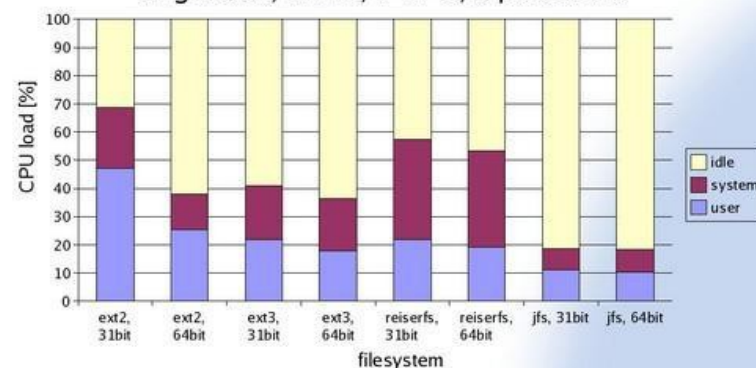
## Linux File Systems

- EXT2 - most widespread Linux file system.
- EXT3 - evolved from ext2, adds journaling features.
- JFS - a port of OS/2 Warp Server jfs to Linux.
- Reiserfs – journaling behavior is comparable to ext3 in order mode.
- XFS - the IRIX file system, which was released in 2000 as open source.
- Recommend using xfs or ext3 because of their journaling capabilities and reduced cpu load compared to other journaling file systems.
- EXT4 – Now available...
- See performance reports at:
  - [http://www.ibm.com/developerworks/linux/linux390/perf/tuning\\_filesystems.html](http://www.ibm.com/developerworks/linux/linux390/perf/tuning_filesystems.html)

single disk, LPAR/VM comparison, 31bit, 4 CPUs



single disk, LPAR, 1 CPU, 8 processes



## z/VM Dump & Spool Space

- Dump Space
  - Ensure there is sufficient dump space defined to the system
  - Recommend defining dedicated dump volumes
  - Dump space requirements vary according to memory usage
    - Q DUMP – identifies allocated dump space.
    - Calculation guidelines are located in the CP Planning and Administration Manual
  
- Spool Space
  - Various uses:
    - User printer, punch, reader files (console logs)
    - DCSS, NSS
    - System files
    - Page space overflow
  - Spool Management:
    - Monitor with Q ALLOC SPOOL command
    - Use the SFPURGER utility:
      - Rule based tool to clean up spool space
      - Included in z/VM



# Virtual Networking

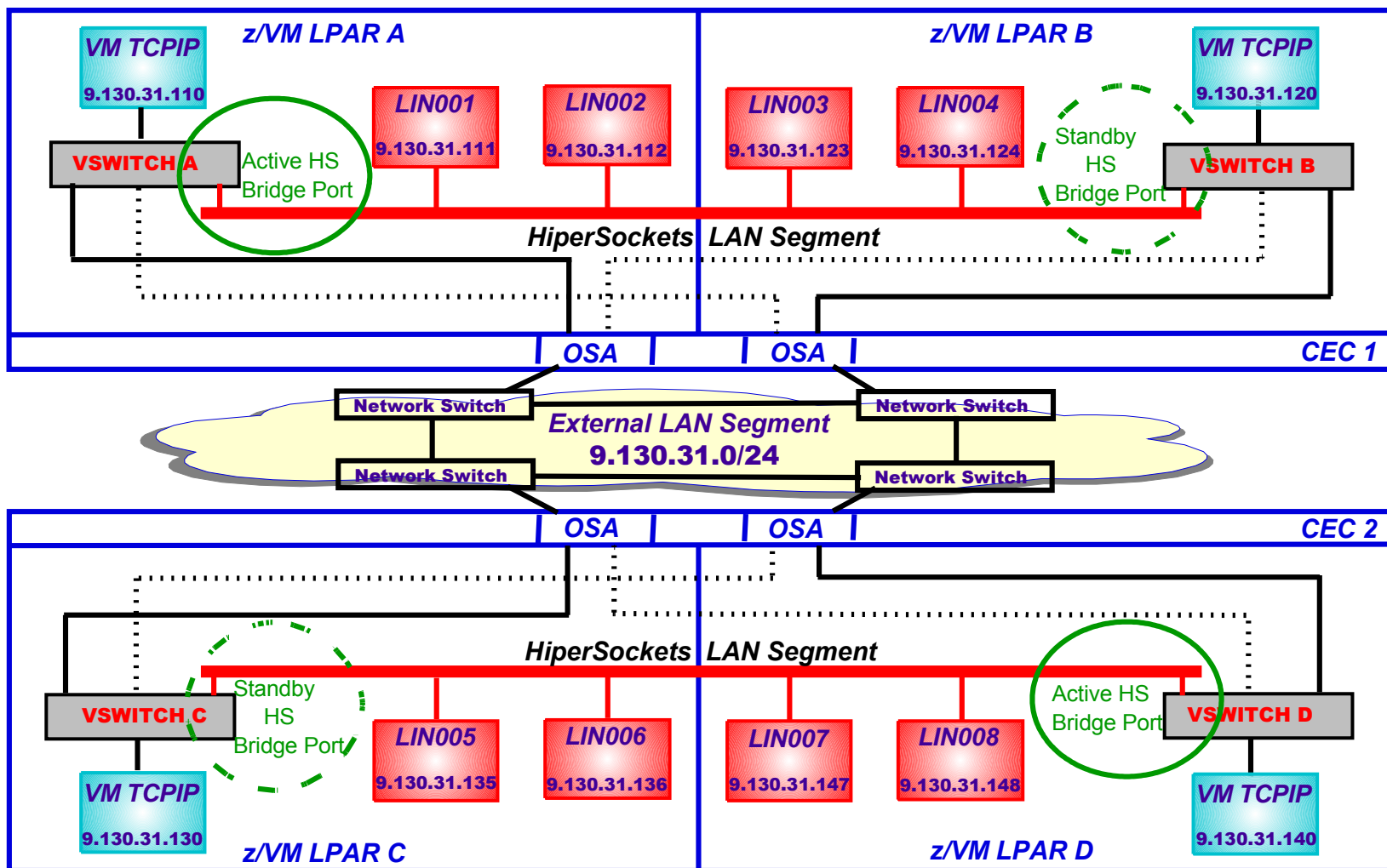


# Networking Configuration Options

- Three basic configurations for external network connectivity:
  - Dedicated OSA
  - Routed LAN
  - VSWITCH (recommended)
    - Lower cpu costs
    - Built-in failover
    - Operates in Ethernet or IP modes
    - Supports 802.1q VLANs (by port or by user)
    - Supports port isolation
    - Supports 802.3ad link aggregation
  
- Cross LPAR network connectivity:
  - Shared OSA Express
  - HiperSockets
  - HiperSockets Bridge (z/VM 6.2 & zEnterprise)
  
- References:
  - z/VM Connectivity Manual (SC24-6174-03)
    - <http://publibz.boulder.ibm.com/epubs/pdf/hcsc9c11.pdf>
  - Linux on System z Tuning Hints and Tips for Networking
    - [http://www.ibm.com/developerworks/linux/linux390/perf/tuning\\_networking.html](http://www.ibm.com/developerworks/linux/linux390/perf/tuning_networking.html)
  - Advanced Networking Concepts Applied Using Linux on IBM System z
    - <http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/Redbooks.nsf/RedbookAbstracts/sg247995.html?Open>



# HiperSockets Bridge - Cross CEC



## MTU Size Matters

- Set MTU to the maximum size supported by all hops on the path to the final destination to avoid fragmentation:
  - Use **tracpath destination** to verify the path MTU size
  - If the application data is  $\leq 1400$  bytes, use an MTU size of 1492
  - If the application is able to send larger chunks of data, use an MTU size of 8992
- TCP uses the MTU for the window size calculation, not the actual application send size
- For VSWITCH, an MTU size of 8992 is recommended:
  - OSA card is optimized for use with an 8992 MTU
  - Synchronous operation, SIGA required for every packet
  - No packing like a dedicated OSA card
- For HiperSockets, select an MTU size to suit the workload:
  - If the application is capable of sending large packets, a larger MTU size will increase throughput and decrease CPU cycles
  - An MTU size of 56K is recommended only for data streaming workloads with packets  $> 32\text{KB}$

## Inbound QDIO Buffer

- The QDIO inbound buffer queue can be increased for high volume workloads:
  - The default is 16
  - Valid range is 8–128
  - QDIO OSA buffer size is 64K
  - IQDIO HiperSockets buffer size is equal to the HiperSockets MFS (16K, 24K, 40K, 64K)
- Current buffer count can be displayed with the **lsqeth -p** command
- A QDIO OSA buffer count of 128 equates to 8MB locked memory:
  - 128 x 64KB = 8MB
- Set the inbound buffer queue size in the appropriate config files:
  - SUSE SLES 10: **/etc/sysconfig/hardware/hwcfg-qeth-bus-ccw-0.0.F200** add:  
**QETH\_OPTIONS="buffer\_count=128"**
  - SUSE SLES 11: **/etc/udev/rules.d/51-qeth-0.0.f200.rules** add:  
**ACTION=="add", SUBSYSTEM=="ccwgroup", KERNEL=="0.0.f200", ATTR{buffer\_count}="128"**
  - RedHat RHEL 5&6: **/etc/sysconfig/network-scripts/ifcfg-eth0** add:  
**OPTIONS="buffer\_count=128"**

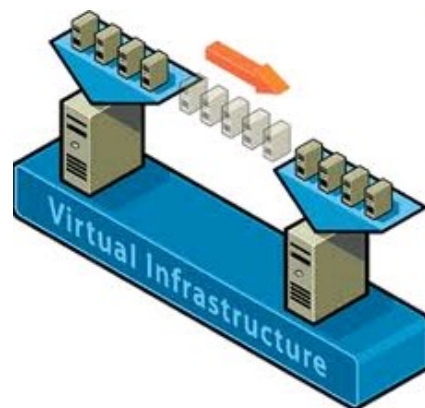
# Checksumming

- HiperSockets doesn't require checksumming because it is a memory-to-memory operation protected by ECC:
  - The default setting is `sw_checksumming`
  - Turning off checksumming for HiperSockets can save between 7%-13% in CPU costs
- Recommendation:
  - Switch checksumming off for HiperSockets:
    - SUSE SLES 10: `/etc/sysconfig/hardware/hwcfg-qeth-bus-ccw-0.0.F200` add:  
**`QETH_OPTIONS="checksumming=no_checksumming"`**
    - SUSE SLES 11: `/etc/udev/rules.d/51-qeth-0.0.f200.rules` add:  
**`ACTION=="add", SUBSYSTEM=="ccwgroup", KERNEL=="0.0.f200", ATTR{checksumming}="no_checksumming"`**
    - RedHat RHEL 5&6: `/etc/sysconfig/network-scripts/ifcfg-eth0` add:  
**`OPTIONS="checksumming=no_checksumming"`**

## SYSCTL Settings

- The following system wide sysctl settings can be changed temporarily by the sysctl command or permanently in the config file:
  - **/etc/sysctl.conf**
- The processor input queue length should be increased from the default size of 1000 to at least 2500 using sysctl:
  - **sysctl -w net.core.netdev\_max\_backlog =2500**
- Adapt the inbound and outbound window size to suit the workload
  - The following values are recommended for OSA devices:
    - **sysctl -w net.ipv4.tcp\_wmem="4096 16384 131072"**
    - **sysctl -w net.ipv4.tcp\_rmem="4096 87380 174760"**
  - System wide window size applies to all network devices
  - Applications can still use setsockopt to adjust the window size
- As a general rule of thumb, the default send/receive window size should be at least twice the MTU size
  - The SAP Enqueue Server requires a default send/receive window size of four times the MTU size

# z/VM 6.2 SSI and LGR Considerations

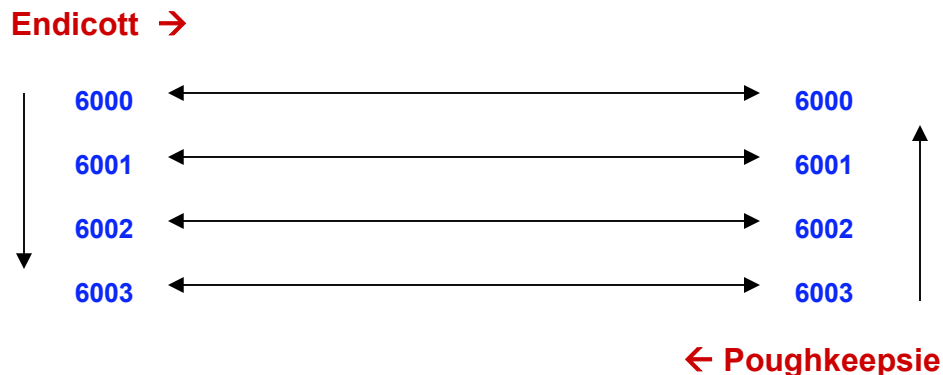


## SSI Cluster Configuration

- Suggested configuration for 4-member cluster is 2 LPARs on each of 2 CECs
- Guest relocation time can be impacted by several key factors:
  - Number of ISFC Links (1 – 16)
  - Speed of ISFC Links (1Gb – 8Gb)
  - Size of guest virtual machine
  - How active the guest virtual machine is
  - Resource contention/availability on destination member
- Recommendation:
  - Minimum 4 CTCs between each cluster member
    - 2 FICON CHPIDs, 2 CTCs per CHPID
  - Maximum 16 CTC's between each cluster member
    - 4 FICON CHPIDs, 4 CTCs per CHPID
  - Testing has shown that 4 CTCs per CHPID provides the most efficient data transfer rates
    - Performance begins to degrade as the number of CTCs are increased beyond 4 per CHPID

## CTC Subchannel Addressing

- Recommended practice: Use the same real device number for the same CTC on each SSI cluster member
  - Potential performance impact
    - Algorithm does not use Round Robin
    - The more CHPIDs the greater the impact
  - ISFC communications between two cluster members is done by:
    - Member name first in alphabet uses lowest subchannel address to highest
    - Member name second in alphabet uses highest subchannel address to lowest





## Guest Relocation

- To qualify for relocation, a guest virtual machine must meet eligibility requirements, including:
  - It must be logged on, but in a disconnected state
  - The architecture and functional environment on destination member must be comparable to origin member
    - A relocation domain defines a set of members among which virtual machines can relocate freely
  - Destination member must have the capacity to accommodate the guest
    - CPU
    - Memory
    - Paging Subsystem
  - Devices and resources needed by guest must be shared and available on destination member
    - Network Connections
    - DASD
- Use VMRELOCATE command with TEST operand
- Recommend relocating guests serially (do not use asynchronous option)
  - Quiesce time is shorter

## Virtual MAC Addressing in an SSI Cluster

- MAC address assignments are coordinated across an SSI cluster
  - VMLAN statement
    - MACPREFIX must be set to different value for each member
      - Default is 02-00-00 for each member
      - Recommend last two bytes be replaced with the "system number" of each member
    - USERPREFIX must be set for SSI members
      - Must be identical for all members
      - Must not be equal to any member's MACPREFIX value
      - Default is 02-00-00
    - MACIDRANGE is ignored in an SSI cluster
      - Because MAC assignment is coordinated among members
  - Example:
    - **VMSYS01: VMLAN MACPREFIX 021111 USERPREFIX 02AAAA**
    - **VMSYS02: VMLAN MACPREFIX 022222 USERPREFIX 02AAAA**
    - **VMSYS03: VMLAN MACPREFIX 023333 USERPREFIX 02AAAA**
    - **VMSYS04: VMLAN MACPREFIX 024444 USERPREFIX 02AAAA**

Thank You

Enterprise

Questions?

# Reference Material



# Technical Assessments, Sizing, & Capacity Planning

- **Techline Services** - <http://w3-03.ibm.com/support/techline/global/index.html/>


The screenshot shows the IBM Techline Americas website. The browser title is "IBM GTSS | Techline Americas - Mozilla Firefox". The address bar shows "http://w3-03.ibm.com/support/americas/techline/". The page features a navigation menu on the left, a main content area with a Techline logo and various service links, and a right sidebar with "What's New", "Phone", "Email", and "Request Forms" sections.

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# Server Consolidation Application Assessment for Linux on System z

## What is it

IBM's Server Consolidation application Assessment for Linux on System z enables you to identify workloads, within your organization, to take advantage of the IBM System z capabilities. Businesses today use The IBM System z because of attributes including reliability, capacity, scalability, and availability. They also enjoy the integrity, security, and Autonomic capabilities. These attributes, combined with its system management strengths, make it a Powerful Linux platform. Using a consultative methodology we assist you in selecting application candidates for Linux consolidation on System z.

## Why Do It

Applications are the lifeblood of the business. Users expect reliable and predictable application performance regardless of the platform they are on.

## An IBM System z Linux Application

### Assessment helps clients:

- Quickly identify application that are highly qualified for Linux on System z
- Move quickly and confidently to a Proof of Concept.
- Minimize impact to revenue and productivity.

## How We Do It

An IBM System z Linux Application assessment is a four-step process utilizing a team of IBM specialist's, on-site for one week.

### The four-step process:

#### **1. Kickoff Mtg and Whiteboard Session**

Overview of our consultative methodology used during the assessment. Open format white board session including discussions of the System z Linux virtualization solution - z/VM.

#### **2. Application Assessment**

Review applications and application architectures to fully understand your environment. Determine what kind of service level expectations are in place for your application.

#### **3. Analyze**

Analyze the information and apply best practices, pinpointing workloads for your System z Linux environment. Generate findings and recommendations.

#### **4. Communicate Results**

Create a summary presentation, including a list of 2-5 potential workloads for the System z Linux Proof of Concept. Discuss next steps and getting started with a Proof of Concept.



## How to get started

### Contact:

**Tim Hayford**  
**Mgr, Technical Sales**  
**Specialists**  
**Linux on System z**

**thayfor@us.ibm.com**  
**713-940-2533 (w)**  
**832-425-7581 (c)**

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## Installation, Planning, & Administration

- The following documentation can be extremely helpful for Installation, Planning and Administration:

- z/VM CP Planning and Administration (SC24-6178-03)

- <http://publibz.boulder.ibm.com/epubs/pdf/hcsg0c11.pdf>

- Getting Started with Linux on System z (SC24-6194-02)

- <http://publibz.boulder.ibm.com/epubs/pdf/hcsx0c11.pdf>

- Virtualization Cookbooks by Michael MacIsaac and friends:

- <http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/>

z/VM and Linux on IBM System z: The Virtualization Cookbook for SLES 10 SP2 (SG24-7493-00)

z/VM and Linux on IBM System z: The Virtualization Cookbook for RHEL 5.2 (SG24-7492-00)

z/VM and Linux on IBM System z: The Virtualization Cookbook for SLES 11 SP1 (SG24-7931-00)

z/VM and Linux on IBM System z: The Virtualization Cookbook for RHEL 6 (SG24-7932-00)

- <http://www.vm.ibm.com/devpages/mikemac/>

z/VM and Linux on IBM System z: The Virtualization Cookbook for z/VM 6.2, RHEL 6.2, and SLES 11 SP2

z/VM and Linux on IBM System z: The Cloud Computing Cookbook for z/VM 6.2, RHEL 6.2, and SLES 11 SP2





## Additional References

### ▪ Web Sites

- <http://www.vm.ibm.com/perf/>
  - z/VM Performance Web Site
- <http://www.ibm.com/developerworks/linux/linux390/perf/index.html/>
  - Linux on System z Performance Web Site
- <http://www.linuxvm.org/>
  - Linux on System z interest site maintained by Mark Post of SUSE

### ▪ Redbooks

- <http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/>
  - An Introduction to z/VM SSI and LGR (SG24-8006)
  - Linux on IBM @server zSeries and S/390: Performance Toolkit for VM (SG24-6059)
  - Linux on IBM @server zSeries and S/390: Performance Measurement and Tuning (SG24-6926)

### ▪ z/VM Library

- <http://www.vm.ibm.com/library/>
  - z/VM Performance (SC24-6208-03)
  - z/VM Performance Toolkit Guide (SC24-6209-02)
  - z/VM Performance Toolkit Reference (SC24-6210-02)