

Abstract

You must prepare your staff and personnel before installing WebSphere® Application Server (WebSphere) for z/OS™ in your environment. This article describes a number of recommendations to assure a successful installation.

Recommendations

Before you begin implementing WebSphere Application Server Version 4 on your z/OS or OS/390 system, you must make sure your people are trained and organized to implement the WebSphere runtime.

Participate in a Solutions Assurance Review

Use the Product Implementation Checklist to ensure a successful installation. IBM personnel can find the sample checklist on the Solutions Assurance web site. Click on "SAPR Guides/Product Checklists" and look under the zSeries and Software category.

This step is extremely important and is easy to conduct. It provides a great opportunity to give the customer and account team "heads-up" information on installing WebSphere on z/OS. It only takes an hour or two to complete the form, and another hour for a conference call with a "Subject Matter Expert".

Ensure you have sufficient Systems Programming Skills and Experience

WebSphere for z/OS utilizes most advanced features and functions within the operating system and are listed on page 9 of the "WebSphere for z/OS V4 Installation and Customization" guide. You will need systems programming skills in all these areas. If you try to set up the WebSphere runtime without good skills or assistance in these areas, you are bound to have many frustrating problems and delays.

The following skill areas are especially critical to a successful installation of WebSphere for z/OS:

- DB2 - to administer, tune, and diagnose WebSphere systems management databases and application tables
- UNIX Systems Services - to set up a functional HFS and UNIX environment
- TCP/IP - to configure connectivity for WebSphere clients and servers
- LDAP - to implement WebSphere naming and directory (JNDI) services
- RACF (or equivalent) - to authenticate WebSphere clients, servers and authorize access to resources
- Logger - to set up logstreams for RRS and the WebSphere error log
- Parallel sysplex - to implement multi-system configurations
- RRS - to implement resource recovery services and support two-phase commit transactions

No one person can possess all these skills. It takes a team of specialists to set up the WebSphere runtime. See the class catalogs at <http://www.ibm.com/services/learning/us/> for specific courses and the "roadmaps" at <http://www.ibm.com/services/learning/roadmaps/> for an organized view of the curricula.

Send your Systems Programmer to the Implementation Workshop (ES680)

It is very important attend the "WebSphere Application Server for z/OS Implementation Workshop" (ES680 - Classroom - 4.5 days). We have many examples where weeks are wasted if you skip this important education.

Identify responsibility for customizing, and managing the WebSphere runtime

WebSphere uses many advanced functions in z/OS and parallel sysplex which must be coordinated for a successful installation. Different systems programming specialties and departments must work together to set up and administer this complex environment. Traditional MVS systems programmers, database administrators (DBAs), security administrators, communications specialists, and administrators of subsystems such as CICS, IMS, and MQSeries are all key to this effort.

It is not so important who "owns" the administration of the WebSphere runtime, but someone (or group) must assume this over-all responsibility.

Review your initial objectives for implementing WebSphere

Are you just installing WebSphere in a sandbox to familiarize yourselves with the installation and customization processes? Do you have applications waiting to be deployed in this new environment? Are there availability, performance, and deadlines associated with this initial installation? Do you have representatives from the application development organization participating in your planning activities? Have you designed your initial configuration with security, network connectivity, availability and performance objectives in mind? These questions should be addressed and understood before setting up the runtime.

Size the right processor for your first test system

As part of planning for your initial installation, your first system should have the binary floating point hardware (9672 G5 or later) and at least 512Mbytes of central storage. (The WebSphere runtime servers can take over 200 Mb of real storage in a testing environment.)

Get some more DASD

You should also increase your paging subsystem capacity to handle the larger working sets. For an existing test or development system, we recommend you increase your paging subsystem by one 3390-3 volume. To store your runtime libraries and HFS files, you should probably add an additional volume. In addition, the use of tracing options in WebSphere to the SYSPRINT DD dataset may cause you to increase your JES spool space.

Know where the most valuable Resources are and how to get them.

❑ Publications

You may download WebSphere documentation in PDF form at the following site:

http://www.ibm.com/software/webservers/appserv/zos_os390/library.html

Publications are updated periodically on this site. (The "Installation & Customization" and "Messages & Diagnosis" books were updated Jan. 2002.)

❑ Support

WebSphere for z/OS Service Level information, and other information sources are anchored off this site: http://www.ibm.com/software/webservers/appserv/zos_os390/support.html

You can also go the official IBM Support site for the most up-to-date information:

<http://www.ibm.com/support/> where you can search the technical support data base (RETAIN) for APARs, PTFs, and other keywords.

❑ Download Site

To download the Application Assembly Tool (AAT), sample client, SMF browser, and more:

http://www.ibm.com/software/webservers/appserv/download_v4z.html

❑ White Papers

The following site contains white papers, FAQs, Hints & Tips, Downloads, etc. from the IBM Technical Support organizations: <http://www.ibm.com/support/techdocs>

❑ RedBooks

There are many technical publications that describe how to install and use z/OS, OS/390, WebSphere and many other products. Their web site is at <http://www.redbooks.ibm.com>

Here are some examples:

- ABCs of OS/390 System Programming (5 vols) - SG24-5597, SG24-5652 thru -5655
- z/OS Version 1 Release 2 Implementation - SG24-6235
- Parallel Sysplex Operational Scenarios - SG24-2079
- Migrating WebSphere Applications to z/OS - SG24-6521

❑ Installation Services

IBM Installation Services for WebSphere® Application Server for zSeries™ can be used to assist you or as an alternative to implementing WebSphere on your own. For more information see <http://www.ibm.com/services/> .