Dynamic Platform Optimizer

DPO

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Agenda

- My headline comments to the developers
- Motivation
- What is DPO
  - What does it do and how does it do it?
- Our testing
- Our recommendations

My headline comments to the developers


- EMEA ATS received a Power 760
  - on loan from Austin, Texas in November 2012.
- The product was not announced till 5th February 2013
- I was really keen to test DPO
- I gave feedback to the developers and the following slide shows my headline comments.
- The presentation I sent, (pre-announce) was of course, IBM Confidential, but this one is not.
- It was internal IBM communication, so I could be blunt!

Observations

- Working on DPO has been like reading one of those books that you can't put down!
- Shuffling the VMs (LPARs) by hand, checking the affinity and then watching the optimiser fix it all; has been great.
  - I have certainly consolidated my understanding of POWER7 and POWER7+ LPAR placement and affinity implications
- As the system used for testing is not yet announced, this document is IBM Confidential.
  - And that's the only reason that I haven't been tweeting hard about this technology too – **it is really great!**

Now released so no longer confidential!

@power_gaz

Motivation

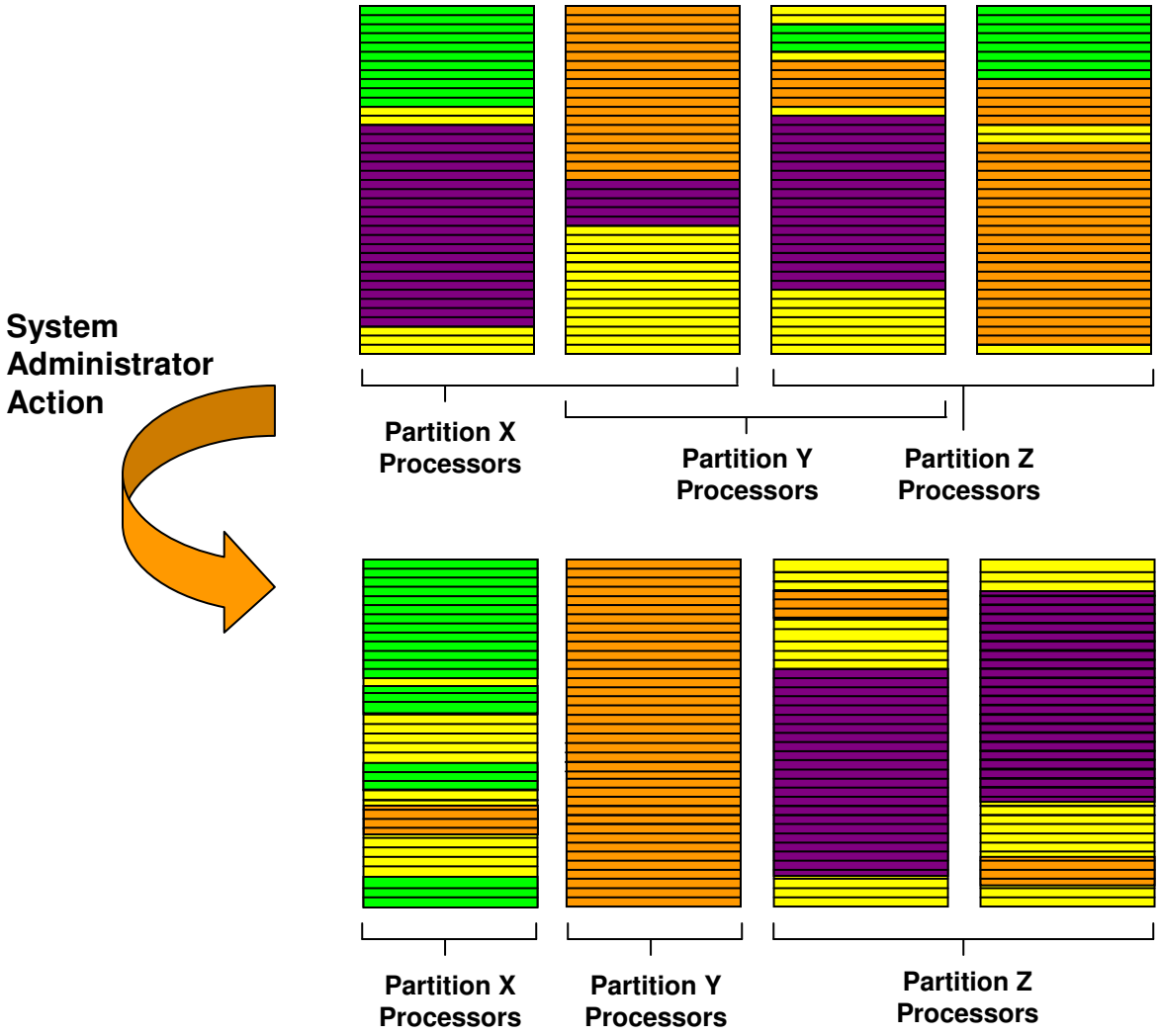
- Partition placement can become sub-optimal
  - Dynamic creation and deletion of partitions
  - DLPAR operations
  - Partition Mobility
  - Hibernation

- Platform will provide a mechanism to optimize partition placement dynamically

- Benefits include
  - Improved performance in a cloud environment
  - Dynamically adjust topology after mobility
  - Simple to use and predicted “score”

Think of it as 52 card pickup - and sort

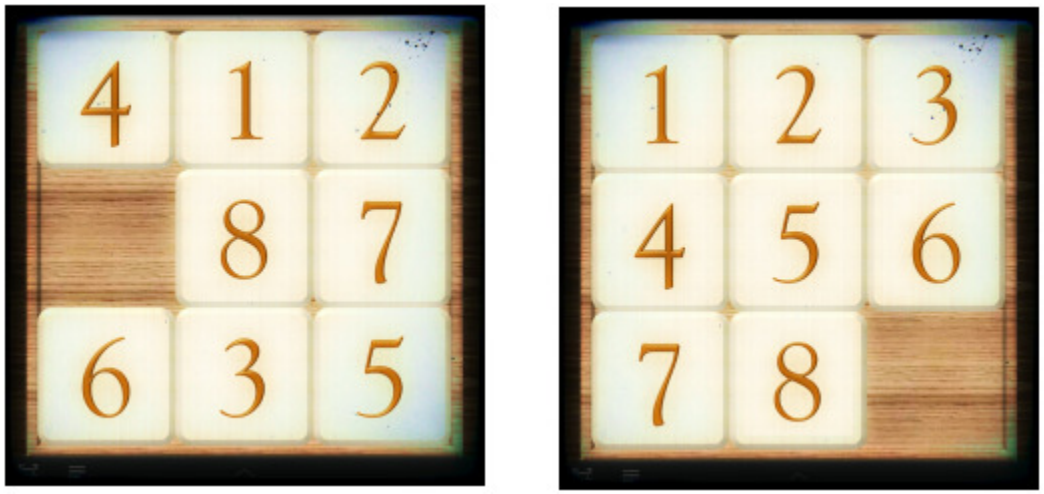
Dynamic Platform Optimizer



Legend

- Partition X Memory
- Partition Y Memory
- Partition Z Memory
- Free LMBs

Solution Similar to Solving a Tile Puzzle



- More free blocks make it easier (and quicker)
- More non-relocatable blocks make it tougher
- At least one free memory block required
  - Hypervisor will use unlicensed memory for the purpose of relocation

Additional Details

- Optimizer is launched via HMC command-line interface
- Requested/protected partition lists
  - Sets of partitions can be prioritized or protected (untouched) by the DPO operation
- Impacted partitions notified at the end of operations
  - Partitions will re-fetch affinity properties in response to notification
- Notion of current and potential “affinity score”
  - Enables system administrator to make decisions about value of running optimizer

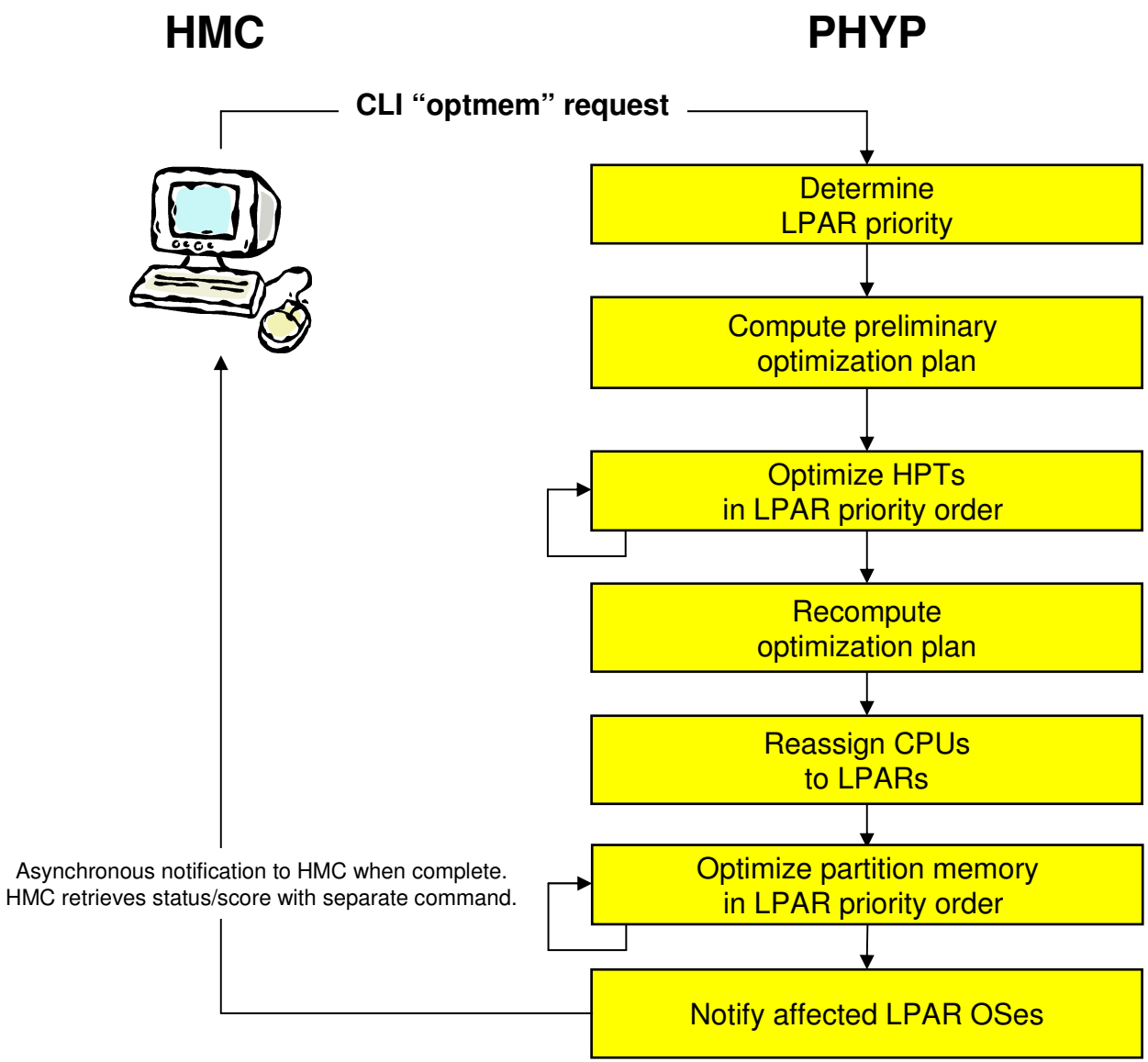
Additional Details

- Hypervisor utilises underlying technology developed for CHARM to relocate memory and virtual CPUs
  - Relocation transparent to partitions

- Enterprise models support CUoD
  - PoD – Processor on Demand
  - MoD – Memory on Demand

Power Systems Capacity on Demand: http://www-03.ibm.com/systems/power/hardware/cod/index.html

Implementation Details – Work Flow



Same high-level flow for optimization and score prediction. No LMBs or CPUs actually moved for prediction. Predicted score based on predicted virtual memory/CPU layout.

HPT objects require contiguous LMBs. Some HPT objects may not be moved to desired location due to fragmentation caused by garded memory, TCE tables, etc.

Based on new memory layout.

One LMB at a time. Atomic units (relocation granules) are 512K.

LMB = logical Memory Block
HPT = Hardware Page Table

Implementation Details -- Misc.

- Optimization Priority Order
  - Primarily based on user-defined affinity group ID (255-1).
  - Otherwise, based on CPU/memory resources (more = higher priority)

- CPU Reassignment
  - Fast operation – not dependent on optimization priority

- Partition LMB moves
  - Planned in partition priority order
  - Higher priority partitions finish earlier
  - Can be long-running operation

- CPU Cycles
  - LMB relocation performed in multiple threads.
  - PHYP dispatcher “steals” cycles periodically to perform work in the background.
  - Cycles not stolen from protected partitions.

- Partition OS Reaffinitization
  - AIX: 6.1 TL8+, AIX 7.1 TL2+
  - IBM i: 7.1
  - Linux: Some reaffinitization in RHEL7/SLES12. Fully implemented in follow-on release.

HMC CLI: Starting/Stopping a DPO Operation

```
# optmem -m managed_system -t affinity -o start
        [--id requested_partition_list]
        [--xid protect_partition_list]
```

- Partition lists are comma-separated and can include ranges.
  eg: --xid 5,10,16-20
- Requested partitions:LPARs that should be prioritized (default = all)
- Protected partitions: LPARs that should not be touched (default = none)

```
# optmem -m managed_system -t affinity -o stop
```

HMC CLI: DPO Status

```
# lsmemopt -m managed_system

in_progress=0,status=Finished,type=affinity,opt_id=1,pro
  gress=100,
  requested_lpar_ids=none,protected_lpar_ids=none,
  "impacted_lpar_ids=106,110"
```

- Unique optimization identifier
- Estimated progress %
- LPARs that were impacted by the optimization
  (i.e. had CPUs, memory, or their hardware page table moved)

HMC CLI: Current and Predicted Affinity Scores

```
# lsmemopt -m managed_system -o currscore
# lsmemopt -m managed_system -o calcscore
      [--id request_partition_list]
      [--xid protect_partition_list]
```

- Currscore computes the current system-wide affinity score (0-100)

- Calcscore computes the predicted system-wide score that would probably be the result of running a DPO operation (includes optional parms just like the actual DPO operation)

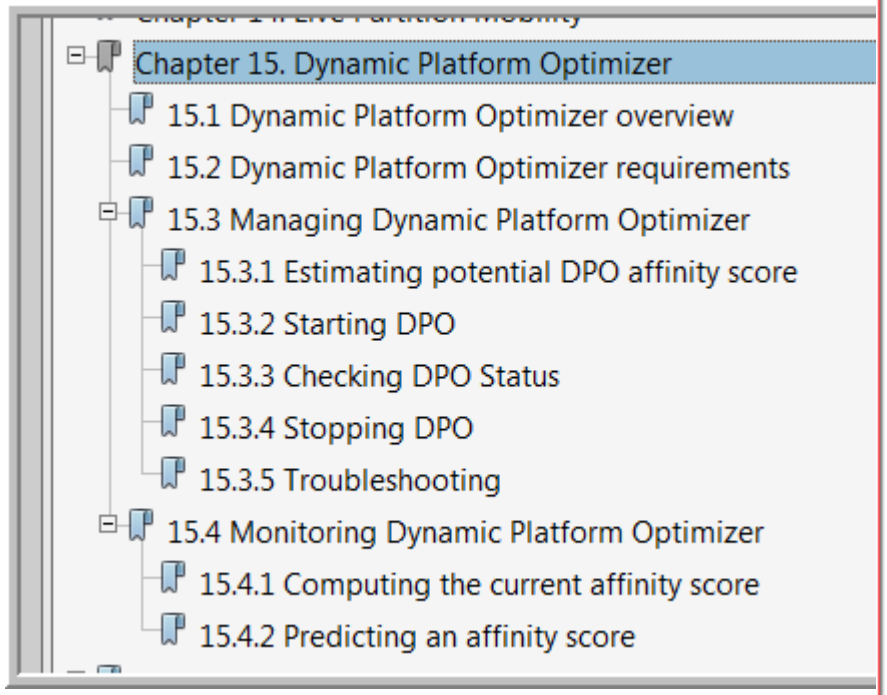
HMC CLI: Example

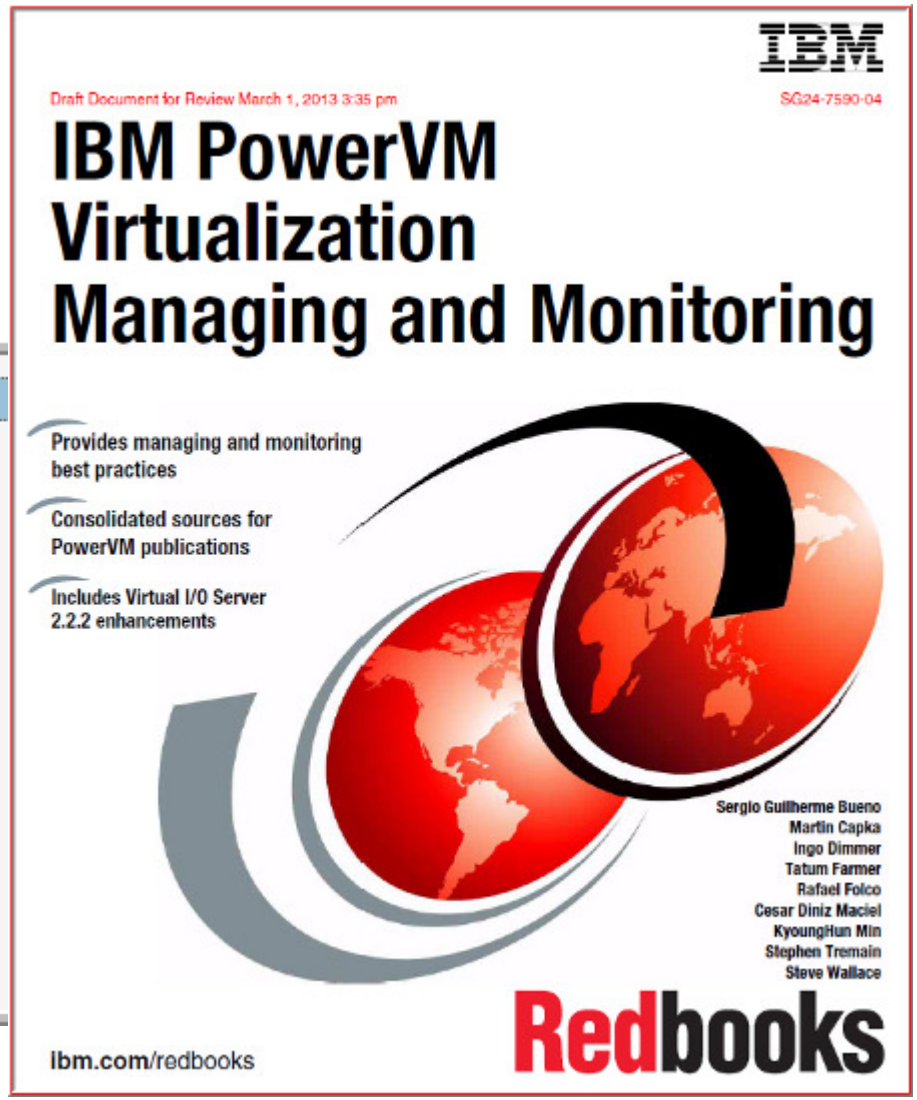
```
# lssyscfg -r sys -F name
zg23ae
zg24he

# lsmemopt -m zg24he -o currscore
curr_sys_score=84

# lsmemopt -m zg24he -o calcscore
curr_sys_score=84,predicted_sys_score=86,"requested_lpar_ids=1,2,17,105,106,107,
  108,109,110,111",protected_lpar_ids=none

# optmem -m zg24he -t affinity -o start

# lsmemopt -m zg24he
in_progress=0,status=Finished,type=affinity,opt_id=2,progress=0,requested_lpar_i
  ds=none,protected_lpar_ids=none,”impacted_lpar_ids=106,110”

# lsmemopt -m zg24he -o currscore
curr_sys_score=86
```

More Information

- http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg247590.html

- RedBook
- March 2013 update





Our Tests

- Type_model
  - 8408-E8D
- 24 POWER7+ cores at 3.136 GHz
- 128GB RAM
- Current hypervisor dispatch wheel time : 10 mS
- LMB= 128MB
- Enable Static Power Saver mode
- Idle Power Saver Enable – defaults
- Tuning Parameters (ASMI and AIX) – defaults
- AME was not enabled in any LPARs

You can change this now
10mS or 50 mS

Keep it the same on all your servers – if not, LPM is not available

LPARs

1	full_system	aixlinux
21	claret-vios1	vioserver
22	claret-vios2	vioserver
31	claret1	aixlinux
32	claret2	aixlinux
33	claret3	aixlinux
34	claret4	aixlinux
35	claret5	aixlinux
36	claret6	aixlinux
37	claret7	aixlinux
38	claret8	aixlinux
39	claret9	aixlinux
40	claret10	aixlinux
41	claret11	aixlinux
99	claret-bigdummy	aixlinux

LPAR usage for this testing

- claret-vios1 and claretvios2
  - Fully redundant no changes to config
  - CE=2.0 VP=2 weight=200

- claret1 through claret10
  - Various changes to config during testing
  - Not all are used in all tests
  - Always uncapped with weight=128

- claret-bigdummy
  - Desires all CPU and all RAM
  - Started to SMS to grab all free resources, then reset

- full_system
  - Full system partition – not used in this testing
- claret11
  - Not used in this testing

Software versions

- HMC V7R770
- VIOS
  - NIM installed VIOS 2222
  - ioslevel reports: 2.2.2.1
- AIX
  - A mix of
    - 7100-00-07-1228
    - 7100-01-05-1228

Tools used

- nmon
  - Native version in AIX
  - Analyser version 34a from https://www.ibm.com/developerworks/wikis/download/attachments/53871868/nmon_analyser.zip?version=18
- nstress
  - A suite of performance utilities written by Nigel Griffiths
  - https://www.ibm.com/developerworks/mydeveloperworks/wikis/home?lang=en#/wiki/Power%20Systems/page/nstress
  - ncpu hammers cpus
  - nmem hits memory (and uses cpu to do so)
- Parallel worms
  - Draws squiggles on the screen and gives an update/s output

General methodology

- We created a number of LPAR and System profiles for easy control of multiple LPARs
- We created a set of scripts to carry out various DLPAR operations
  - Designed specifically to mess up the affinity
  - We avoided “round numbers” like 4 and 16 preferring eg: 11
- We captured resource configurations throughout
- We start some load in the LPARs
- Then we run the optimiser
- Capturing stats throughout
- We looked at resource configurations to see the effect

Load generator and monitor

- nmon data gathering is started
- nmem -m 254 -s 300 -z 20
  - This mallocs 254MB RAM
  - then touches the memory pages at random
- One (or 3) instance is run for each VP configured
- Shortly afterwards the optimiser is started

Pass 17 – Simulate 10 LPARs growing over time

- We ran literally dozens of tests
- This is one example:
- All LPARs except VIOS were shut down
- claret-bigdummy was started and stopped
- `optmem` was run and a dump was taken

The dump RSCDUMP.109D58R.02000006.20130201001519

Domain		Procs		Units	Memory			Proc Units		Memory		Ratio
SEC	PRI	Total	Free	Free	Total	Free	LP	Tgt	Aloc	Tgt	Aloc	
0		1200	0	0	512	1						0
	0	600	0	0	256	0						0
							99	600	600	248	248	
	1	600	0	0	256	1						0
							21	200	200	64	64	
							22	200	200	64	64	
							99	200	200	117	117	
1		1200	0	0	512	0						0
	2	600	0	0	256	0						0
							99	600	600	249	249	
	3	600	0	0	256	0						0
							99	600	600	245	245	

- The two VIOS are nicely positioned
  - with their entitlement of 2.0 and their 8GB RAM
  - 64*128MB (LMB) = 8192MB
  - In one domain
- We don't care that LPAR id 99 is fragmented

Don't ask me how to create these dumps, I am not allowed to tell you – remember, I was Beta testing and using engineering tools.

Start the LPARs

- We started claret1 through claret10 (System profile)
  - Each had CE=1.0 VP=1 1GB
- We ran
  - `lsmemopt -m $CLARET -o calcscore -F "curr_sys_score,predicted_sys_score"`
  - 99,100
- We took a dump

The dump RSCDUMP.109D58R.03000006.20130201004119

Domain		Procs		Units	Memory			Proc Units		Memory		Ratio
SEC	PRI	Total	Free	Free	Total	Free	LP	Tgt	Aloc	Tgt	Aloc	
0		1200	600	0	512	342						1335
	0	600	600	0	256	248						967
	1	600	0	0	256	94						0
							21	200	200	64	64	
							22	200	200	64	64	
							39	100	100	8	8	
							40	100	100	8	8	
1		1200	400	0	512	405						2371
	2	600	100	0	256	196						4593
							31	100	100	8	8	
							34	100	100	8	8	
							36	100	100	8	8	
							37	100	100	8	8	
							38	100	100	8	8	
	3	600	300	0	256	209						2449
							32	100	100	8	8	
							33	100	100	8	8	
							35	100	100	8	8	

- All the LPARs have good affinity

Script

- We ran "dpo_test17“
  - Gathering stats throughout …
  - It adds 1152MB to each LPAR in turn
  - Then goes round the loop 7 more times
  - That gave us: 71,96
  - Then it adds 0.5 to CE and 1 to VP of each LPAR
  - Then adds the same amount again
  - We ended up with
  - CE=2 VP=3 10GB per LPAR
  - No available CPUs, 3.25 GB available RAM
  - Score: 71,99
  - Then it takes a dump

DPO – ATS EMEA

RAM but no CPU

CPUs in multiple domains

The dump RSCDUMP.109D58R.0E000006.20130201011708

Domain		Procs		Units	Memory			Proc Units		Memory		Ratio
SEC	PRI	Total	Free	Free	Total	Free	LP	Tgt	Aloc	Tgt	Aloc	
0		1200	600	0	512	27						632
	0	600	600	0	256	27						632
							31			80	18	
							32			80	18	
							33			80	18	
							34			80	27	
							35			80	18	
							36			80	27	
							37			72	18	
							38			72	27	
							39			23	23	
							40			27	27	
	1	600	0	0	256	0						0
							21	200	200	64	64	
							22	200	200	64	64	
							39	100	100	57	57	
							40	100	100	53	53	
1		1200	400	0	512	0						0
	2	600	100	0	256	0						0
							31	100	100		53	
							34	100	100		44	
							36	100	100		44	
							37	100	100	8	44	
							38	100	100	8	51	
	3	600	300	0	256	0						0
							31				9	
							32	100	100		62	
							33	100	100		62	
							34				9	
							35	100	100		62	
							36				9	
							37				18	
							38				2	

optimiser

- We ran dpo_nmon17
  - Which starts nmon on each client
  - Sleeps for a minute
  - Starts an nmem thread per VP
  - Sleeps for a minute
  - Then optimises

Result

- Final score: 99,99
- It took less than 8 minutes and 16 seconds
- Let's see what it did
  - The dump is on the next foil

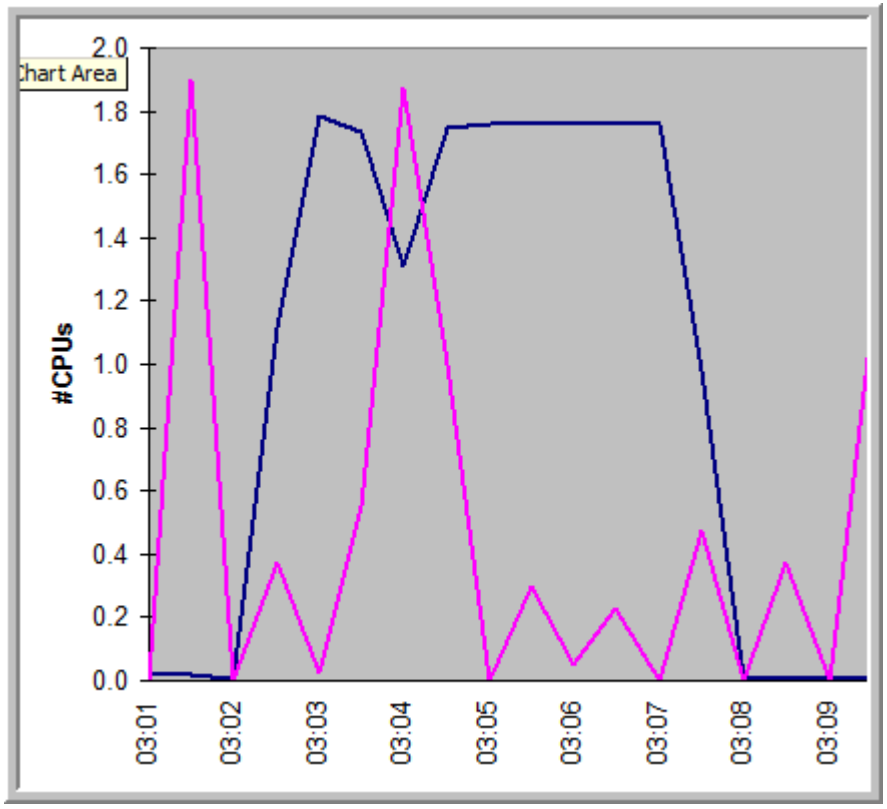
Much better !!!

Dump RSCDUMP.109D58R.0C000007.20130201031958

Domain		Procs		Units	Memory			Proc Units		Memory		Ratio
SEC	PRI	Total	Free	Free	Total	Free	LP	Tgt	Aloc	Tgt	Aloc	
0		1200	0	0	512	26						0
	0	600	0	0	256	0						0
							37	200	200	80	80	
							38	200	200	80	80	
							39	200	200	76	76	
	1	600	0	0	256	26						0
							21	200	200	64	64	
							22	200	200	64	64	
							36	200	200	80	80	
							39			4	4	
							40			4	4	
1		1200	0	0	512	1						0
	2	600	0	0	256	0						0
							31	200	200	80	80	
							34	200	200	80	80	
							40	200	200	76	76	
	3	600	0	0	256	1						0
							32	200	200	80	80	
							33	200	200	80	80	
							35	200	200	80	80	

- Most LPARs are fine, sitting in a single Domain
- LPARid 39 is in two parts
  - In the same Secondary but a different Primary Domain
- LPARid 40 is in two parts
  - In different Secondary Domains

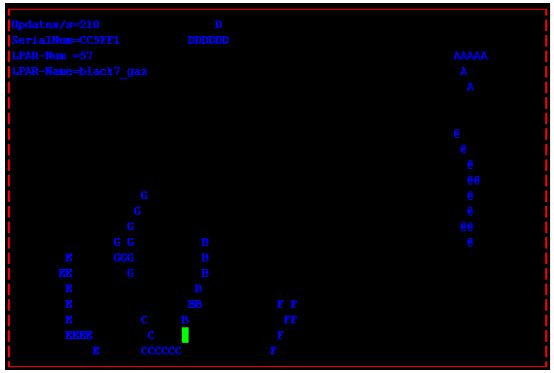
The nmon output



- All the LPARs showed similar results
  - There was a short dip in cpu activity
  - About 1 minute
  - The dips were offset slightly in each LPAR
  - This suggests that PHYP is using cpu cycles so they are not available to the shared pool
  - Which is what we expect
  - This is a good result as we have much better affinity and had only a short and small reduction in performance getting there

Performance impact

- Parallel worms was very useful
  - It clearly showed a drop in activity as `nmem` kicked in
  - And then a further short dip as the optimiser ran
  - A couple of times, it seemed to “block” momentarily, but the responsiveness was still there over a period of say a quarter of a second
  - In other words you wouldn’t be picking up the phones!



Worst case

- Worst score seen during our investigations:
  - curr_sys_score=37
- OK, we were
  - stopping/starting LPARs
  - DLPARing
- As we were carrying out various test on DPO and other features of the equipment
- Such a low score is unlikely in most circumstances
- The optimizer took it to 95 !

Observations

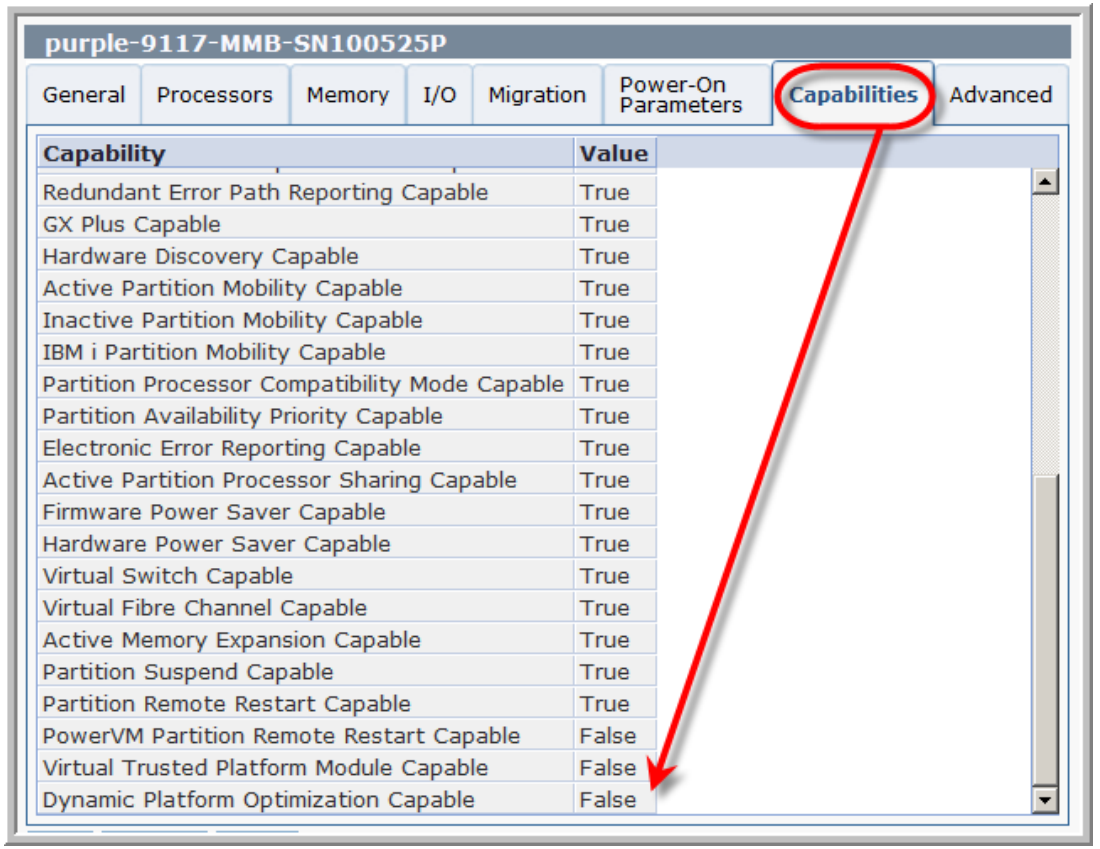
- We noticed that there seemed to be a lag between changes happening on the system and the HMC being aware
  - This is to be expected
  - The HMC needs to refresh from the FSP

Observations

- Try running DPO on a 770 (B)

```
hscroot@hmc11:~> lsmemopt -m $PURPLE
HSCL02D0 This operation is not allowed because the managed system does not support
  Dynamic Platform Optimization.
hscroot@hmc11:~>
```

- Good: correct, and a sensible error message☺



Let's enable DPO on a system

```
hscroot@blackhmc:~> lssyscfg -r sys -F name
black-9119-FHB-02C5FF1

hscroot@blackhmc:~> BLACK=$(lssyscfg -r sys -F name)

hscroot@blackhmc:~> lssyscfg -m $BLACK -r sys -F dynamic_platform_optimization_capable
0
```

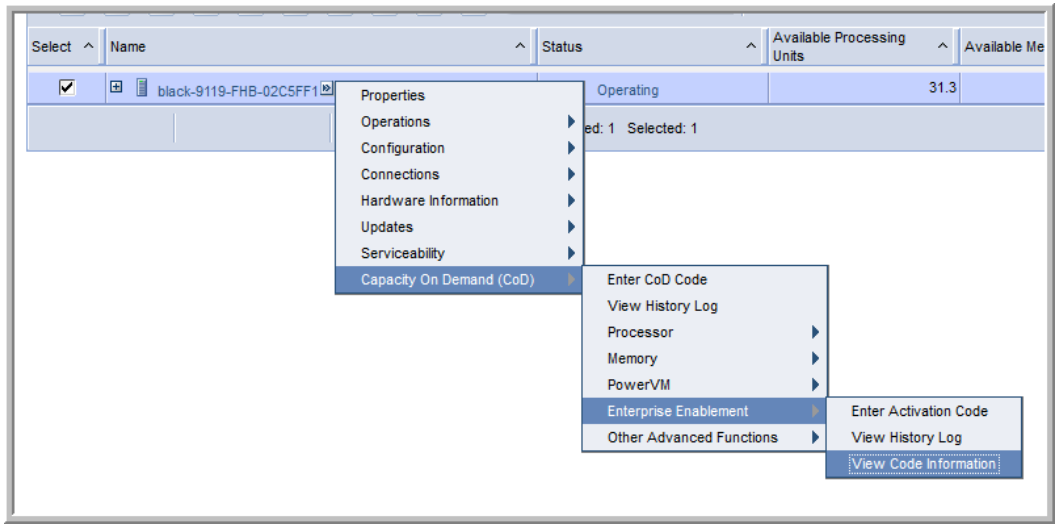
OK as there is only one system. Otherwise try adding a grep or cut'n'paste

- Need to order VET code
  - and you need this information to do so

VET

Virtualization Enablement Technology

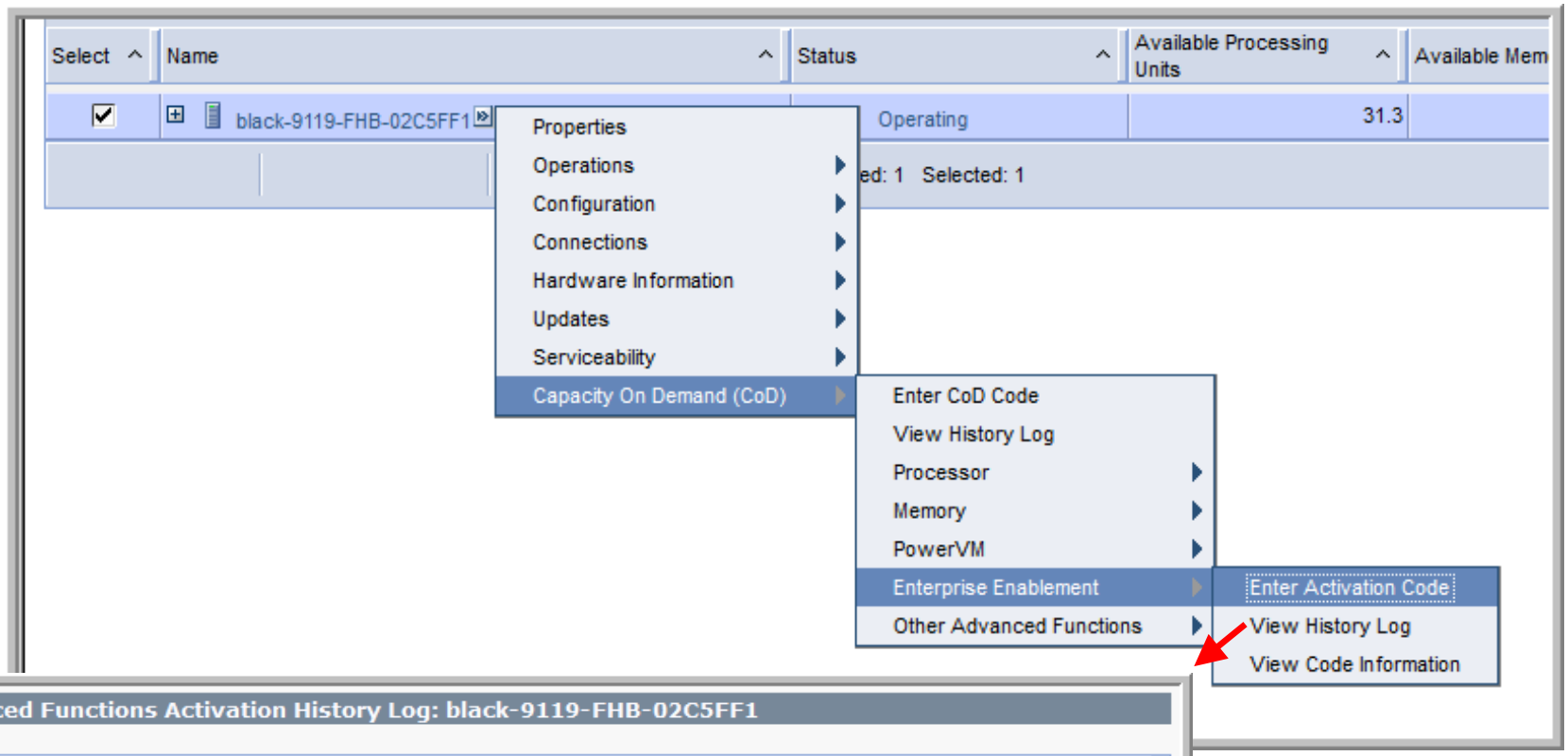
```
hscroot@blackhmc:~> lsvet -t code -m $BLACK | sed -e s/,/\\n/g
sys_type=9119
sys_serial_num=02-C5FF1
anchor_card_ccin=52C4
anchor_card_serial_num=0U-E05E005
anchor_card_unique_id=0208070737773E9F
resource_id=CA1F
activated_resources=0000
sequence_num=0040
entry_check=46
hscroot@blackhmc:~>
```



- You can check codes here
  - http://www-912.ibm.com/pod/pod

Enter the VET code

```
hscroot@blackhmc:~> chvet -m $BLACK -o e -k 3DB5F4F383E1A9A6CA1F00000100004188

hscroot@blackhmc:~> lssyscfg -m $BLACK -r sys -F dynamic_platform_optimization_capable
1
```



CoD Advanced Functions Activation History Log: black-9119-FHB-02C5FF1

Time Stamp	Log Entry
3/19/13 2:51:39 PM GMT	HSCL0400 CoD advanced function activation code entered, resource ID: CA1F, capabilities: 0100.
3/19/13 2:51:39 PM GMT	HSCL0408 Dynamic Platform Optimizer activation code entered.
5/24/12 10:40:16 AM BST	HSCL0424 WWPN renewal code entered.

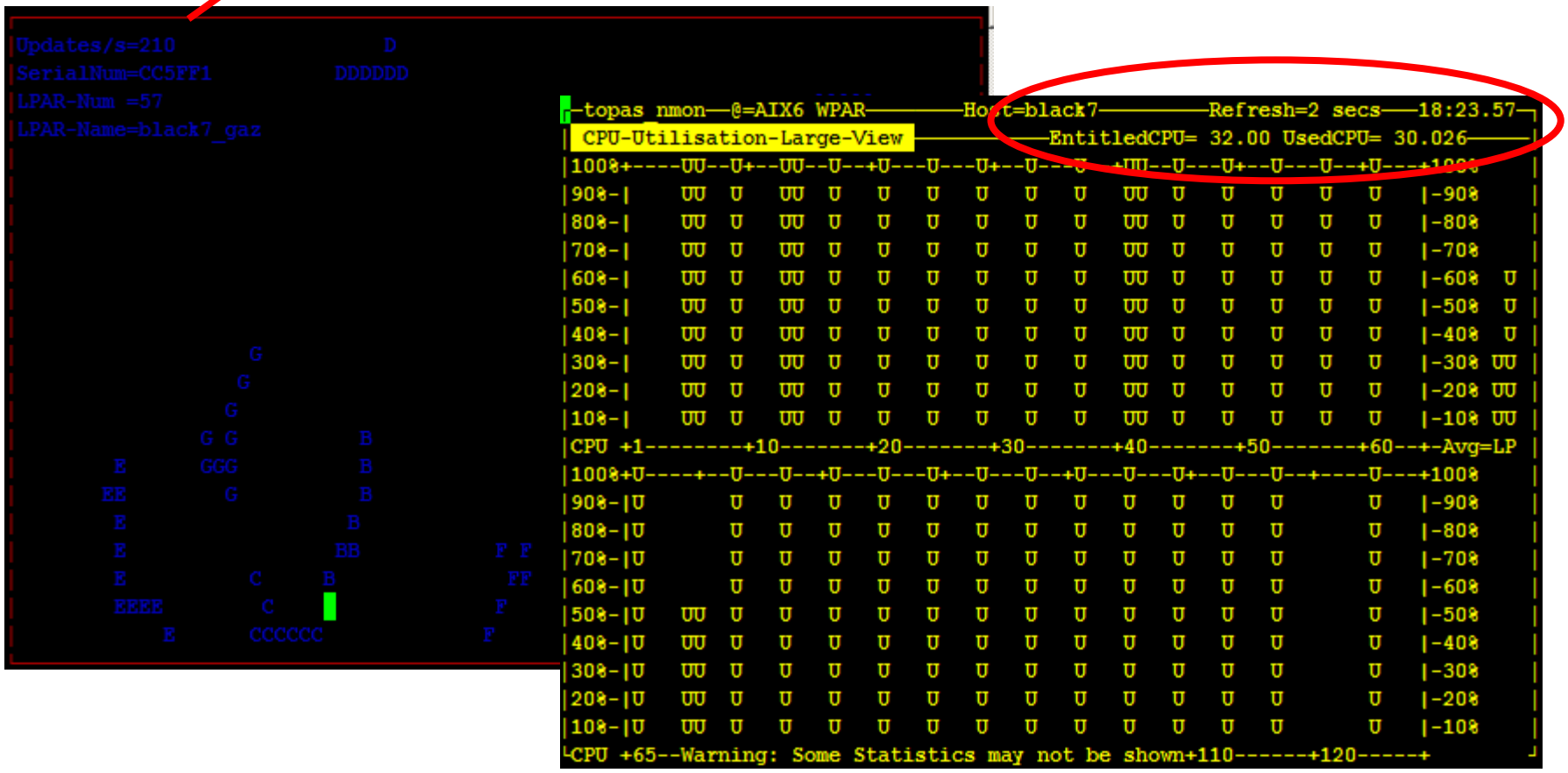
Using it on a Power 795

```
hscroot@blackhmc:~> lsmemopt -m $BLACK -o calcscore
curr_sys_score=60,predicted_sys_score=100,"requested_lpar_nam
  es=jpgtemp,02-C5FF1,02-C5FF1-
  16min,blackvios1,blackvios2,blackhpcvios1,black1_guests,bla
  ck3_ralf,black4_AndyT,black5_watts1t,black6_AIX61TL6,black7
  _gaz,black8_clive,black9-
  andyt,blackhpc1","requested_lpar_ids=1,5,6,31-33,51,53-
  59,61",protected_lpar_ids=none
hscroot@blackhmc:~>
```

```
black7:/# lssrad -av
REF1   SRAD        MEM      CPU
0
          0   12909.88      0-127
          1   17181.00
1
          2   57500.75
          3   61252.75
black7:/#
```

black7:/# ./paraworms 8 32

About 200-230 updates/sec



hscroot@blackhmc:~> optmem -m $BLACK -o start -t affinity

```
black7:/# lssrad -av
REF1   SRAD        MEM      CPU
0
          0   12909.88      56-59 72-75 88-91 104-107 120-123
          1   17181.00      24-27 36-39 48-51 64-67 80-83 96-99 112-115
1
          2   57500.75      0-11 16-19 28-31 40-43 52-55 68-71 84-87 100-103 116-119
          3   61252.75      12-15 20-23 32-35 44-47 60-63 76-79 92-95 108-111 124-127
black7:/#
```

```
hscroot@blackhmc:~> optmem -m $BLACK -o start -t affinity
```

```
black7:/# lssrad -av
REF1   SRAD        MEM      CPU
0
          0   12909.88      56-59 72-75 88-91 104-107 120-123
          1   17181.00      24-27 36-39 48-51 64-67 80-83 96-99 112-115
1
          2   57500.75      0-11 16-19 28-31 40-43 52-55 68-71 84-87 100-103 116-119
          3   61252.75      12-15 20-23 32-35 44-47 60-63 76-79 92-95 108-111 124-127
black7:/#
```

The correct syntax for the `lssrad` command is:

```
man lssrad
```

Scheduler Resource Allocation Domain

Observations

- We do NOT recommend running a cron job, automatically to optimise memory on all systems

- We DO recommend running a nightly cron job, automatically to gather the current and predicted scores from all servers and then mail the sysadmin

- To get the best performance it is recommended to populate all available memory slots

Demonstration

```
lssrad -av

/paraworms 8 32

BLACK=$(lssyscfg -r sys -F name)

lsmemopt -m $BLACK

lsmemopt -m $BLACK -o currscore

lsmemopt -m $BLACK -o calcscore

optmem -m $BLACK -o start -t affinity
while :
do
  date
  lsmemopt -m $BLACK -F in_progress,progress
  sleep 10
  echo
done

lssrad -av
```

Summary

- We ran loads of different tests and the score achieved was always as good as, or better than predicted.
- It requires a little analysis to be sure where the memory actually is.
  - Not that it was ever something for the uninitiated.
- The tool to look at resource locations is `lssrad`
- We think DPO is good and that you, our customers will like it.
- There is a small, noticeable, but certainly tolerable dip while the optimisation runs, but it is worth it!


Thanks !!!
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