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+1.800.267.0730 | INFO@DKL.COM

AutoSoftCapping™ (ASC)

Mainframe Monthly Licensing Charges (MLC) are a major part of monthly mainframe operating costs.

IBM provides powerful cost and pricing control mechanisms to help contain mainframe MLC: sub capacity pricing for z Systems hardware, flexible Advanced Workload License Charges (AWLC) metrics and Country Multiplex Pricing (CMP) / Country Multiplex License Charges (CMLC). But these tools create a new set of challenges for the Mainframe Software Asset Manager – ensuring that software costs are optimized while striving to deliver the highest possible Service Level Agreement (SLA) metrics from available hardware resources.

Many mainframe users also try to manage MLC using IBM Soft Capping. While this does provide some benefit, it is a largely manual process that can be challenging, risky, expensive and prone to human error. Often, it is difficult to effectively control MLC without suffering performance degradation, increased monthly costs, or both.

Introducing AutoSoftCapping™

ASC™ is a systems management solution for IBM z Systems mainframe environments that enhances IBM Soft Capping flexibility considerably, delivers improved performance, and increases capacity for new or larger workloads—all while reducing your monthly licensing charges. Most importantly, optimizing MLC with ASC avoids performance capping—ensuring the right MSUs are in the right place, at the right time, and for the right cost.

Benefits:

- **PERPETUAL & ON-GOING REDUCTION IN IBM zSYSTEMS MLC**
- **OPTIMIZE SYSTEM RESOURCES AND GUARANTEE PERFORMANCE**
- **MEET YOUR BUDGET AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT (SLA) COMMITMENTS**
- **REDUCE TECHNOLOGY COSTS BY DELAYING PROCESSOR CAPACITY ACQUISITION OR UPGRADE**
- **REAL-TIME ACTIVITY & BILLING**

Without ASC

Figure 1 shows a typical scenario when running sub-capacity pricing with AWLC. With a given DC, capping will occur when system MSU capacity demand reaches or exceeds the DC limit. This is true even if there is available white space, as shown.

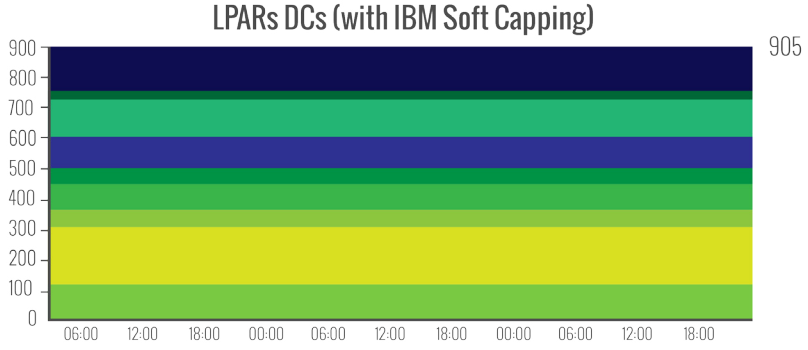


Figure 1: LPAR DC allocation

With ASC

Using ASC, you have far more flexibility. Figure 2 shows how ASC improves on the scenario above. ASC controlling the expected increased costs associated with the additional capacity.

Figure 2 also illustrates how ASC allows the DC to actually be lowered—extra capacity can now be borrowed from other LPARs to handle periodic increases in capacity demand. Capacity no longer needs to be capped thanks to the ability of ASC to dynamically and automatically control the DC, where individual LPARs are fine-tuned to leverage available white space and provide capacity on demand by taking into account the capacity needs of all LPARs.

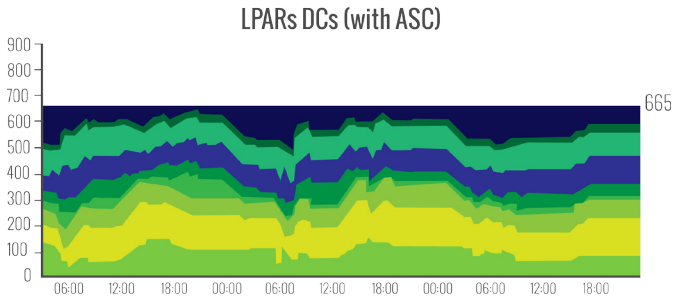


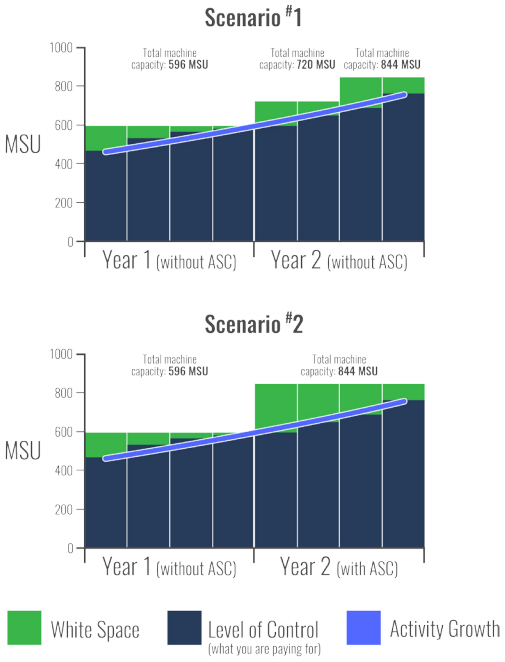
Figure 2: LPAR DC allocation with ASC

Take control of your software costs

Being able to dispatch additional work on a specific LPAR while operating under the rolling 4-hour average (R4HA) will control your MLC while increasing capacity and throughput for all workloads.

Aside from the benefits of more capacity on demand, ASC has a direct impact on the SCRT which allows you to control software costs. In Scenario #1, a transition from one year to the next shows increased growth in system capacity requirements, with an increase in machine capacity and the corresponding increase in costs. Incremental system upgrades were made to manage increasing costs—both software and hardware costs increase with increased activity.

However, Scenario #2 shows a better solution. With ASC introduced, the increase in cost of the hardware upgrade (needed to handle the increased capacity) and the cost of ASC is more than offset by the reduction in software costs. The extra capacity needed is obtained from the available white space, allowing costs to remain flat. In fact, a hardware upgrade was no longer required, but clearly would be if growth in demand continued.



Reporting & Audit

ASC offers a user-friendly and in-depth web reporting function which provides a real-time overview of server performance and billing levels to track activity, and to quickly identify opportunities for improvement. The combination of task automation and detailed activity monitoring frees precious time for your mainframe experts to focus on other, higher value, activities.

ASC also offers extensive event logging capabilities – ensuring compliance with Sarbanes-Oxley, SEC and other securities commissions' reporting regulations, where applicable.

Is It For Me?

A pre-deployment simulation tool allows DataKinetics to help you to test and accurately predict what your MSU usage results would be within your IT environment based on your selected ASC settings. A comprehensive web reporting tool allows you to visualize activity, monitor your z Systems resources, and help you to more effectively manage your soft capping levels.

Customer results vary, but using ASC in these types of situations can save you 7% to 12% of MSU cost every year. Typically there is a rapid payback of less than 1 year, with a 3-year ROI 100%, which will continue to grow every year.