DATAKINETICS
Z PERFORMANCE & OPTIMIZATION

45 YEARS
SERVING THE GLOBAL
FORTUNE 500

SUCCESS
S T O R Y

DataKinetics helped SunTrust Banks balance mainframe performance and cost.

Based on the actual IBM monthly software licensing charges, SunTrust has saved approximately 6% to 7% every year.

SunTrust Background

SunTrust is headquartered in Atlanta, with branches all over the American South East. As of December 31, 2013, it had assets of US$175 billion. The Bank operates 1,500 bank branches and 2,300 ATMs.

SunTrust uses the most reliable, secure and up-to-date technology to serve its customers, running online transaction processing, batch processing and various business unit processing. It has two large data centers, each running two IBM zEC12 mainframe systems.

Challenge

Controlling costs to benefit both SunTrust and its customers

As SunTrust's IT organization is dedicated to providing the highest-performing computer systems to support customer services, it needs to balance performance and control costs—especially in such a highly competitive industry.

SunTrust was paying for its IBM mainframe systems monthly, while ensuring that production and development environments received the MSUs they required. It found that although its customers' needs were being met, it was costly—there seemed little to be done to balance performance and cost.
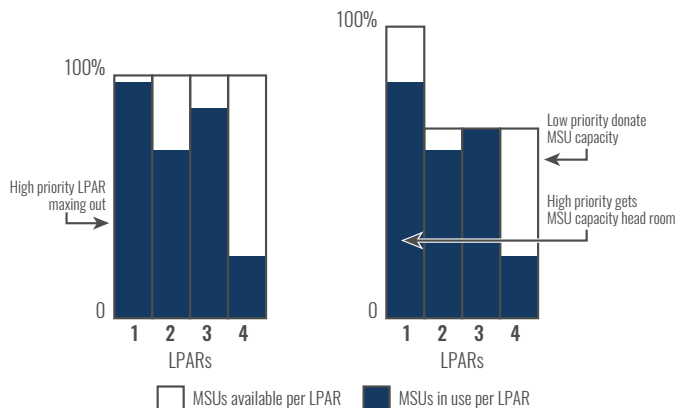
Solution

SunTrust met DataKinetics representatives at a technical conference, and shortly thereafter DataKinetics approached SunTrust with a solution that would maintain SLA response times and throughput, while minimizing costs—reducing costs by 5% to 15%—without performance capping of their production system LPARs.

DataKinetics Solution – ASC

AutoSoftCapping (ASC™) would solve SunTrust's challenge. Therefore, the DataKinetics team started SunTrust with the IBM Soft Capping feature and introduced ASC for soft capping optimization.

The ASC product was trialled through Proof of Concept, proving that the product was the answer and would save more than the cost of the product as it controls costs by setting thresholds by LPAR and by CPC.

This allows ASC to dynamically make changes to the system (Defined Capacity)—faster than is possible making manual changes. Meanwhile, "Donor LPARs" give extra capacity to higher priority LPARs when needed.
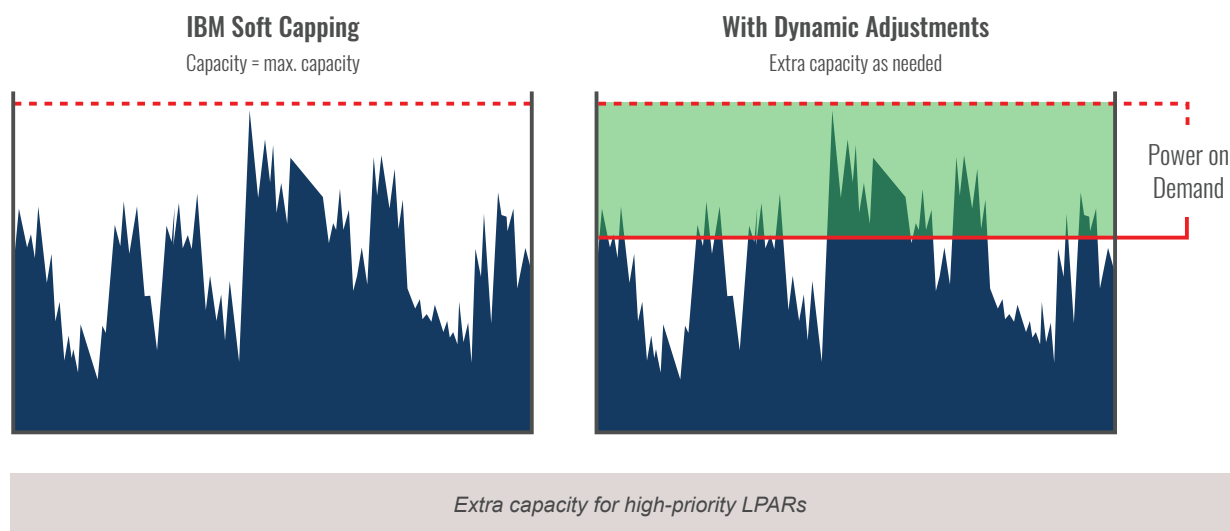
Following are two benefits of the ASC solution:

1. **Helps prevent capping**—If a high-priority LPAR is in danger of being capped, lower-priority LPARs can donate capacity to help ensure capping does not occur to the higher-priority production LPARs.

2. **Lowers Cost**—Before ASC, performance and cost thresholds were high, and costs were not controlled. Now with ASC performance is maintained and high-priority LPARs (production) are not impacted by cost control measures.

IBM Soft Capping
Capacity = max. capacity

With Dynamic Adjustments
Extra capacity as needed

Power on
Demand

Extra capacity for high-priority LPARs

Result

Based on the actual IBM monthly software licensing charges, SunTrust has saved approximately 6% to 7% every year. There was a rapid payback of 1 year, and the 3-year ROI is over 80% and continues to grow every year. It will be effective even when the hardware is upgraded to handle growing workloads.

SunTrust now can save on mainframe computing costs and it does not have to keep performance thresholds excessively high as they are controlled dynamically. Furthermore, performance capping is no longer a daily concern.

By better managing MSU usage, SunTrust has extended the lifespan of its systems—since adopting ASC in 2012, they have increased machine capacity by only 6% over 3 years. This has resulted in spreading out the regular capital expense on an ongoing basis.