
IBM @server zSeries
Introduction
November 2004

Parallel Sysplex Aggregation
Frequently Asked Questions

Worldwide



Table of Contents

Parallel Sysplex Aggregation	3
------------------------------------	---

Parallel Sysplex Aggregation

Question:

What is a Parallel Sysplex® and why would I build one?

Answer:

IBM's Parallel Sysplex technology enables you to harness the power of up to 32 z/OS® systems, yet make these systems behave like a single, logical computing facility. The underlying structure of the Parallel Sysplex remains virtually transparent to users, networks, applications, and even operations. Some of the key business benefits are:

- continuous availability for both planned and unplanned outages,
- high-performance, scalable, read/write access to shared data across all systems in the Parallel Sysplex
- single-system image for systems and operations management

Customers who build qualified Parallel Sysplexes may receive software pricing benefits through Parallel Sysplex aggregation. Parallel Sysplex aggregation allows software licenses in a Parallel Sysplex to be added together and priced as a single entity.

Question:

What is the purpose of the IBM 2004 Parallel Sysplex Aggregation announcement?

Answer:

To remind customers of the criteria required to build and maintain an 'actively coupled' Parallel Sysplex. A Parallel Sysplex that meets all of IBM's criteria is considered 'actively coupled' and will qualify for aggregated pricing.

Question:

Can you summarize IBM's 'actively coupled' criteria?

Answer:

The criteria fall into three categories: hardware, software and operation.

- In the hardware category, you must have mainframes that are capable of being coupled and coupling links from the mainframes in the Parallel Sysplex to a common Sysplex Timer® and common Coupling Facility.
- In the software category, each image participating in the Parallel Sysplex must run an eligible operating system. There must be an eligible common systems enablement function running in each of the images participating in the Parallel Sysplex.
- In the operation category, the Parallel Sysplex configuration must be the normal mode of operations and, on a given mainframe, the images participating in the Parallel Sysplex must account for at least 50% of the eligible operating system workload on the mainframe.

To see the complete set of criteria, and related details, please visit the Parallel Sysplex Aggregation Web site at ibm.com/zseries/swprice/sysplex.

Question:

Didn't IBM announce aggregation in 1998? Have the criteria changed?

Answer:

IBM initially announced Parallel Sysplex Aggregation in 1994 and then formally defined the criteria for 'actively coupled' in 1998. In 2004, IBM is modernizing some items in the Parallel Sysplex Aggregation criteria to include technologies introduced between 1998 and 2004. For example, z/OS and z/OS.e are now added as 'eligible operating systems'. Another example is the addition of three new eligible systems enablement functions: WebSphere® MQ Shared Message Queues, HSM Common Recall Queues and Enhanced Catalog Sharing.

Question:

Is there anything else new besides modernization in the 2004 announcement?

Answer:

IBM is now offering a no-charge, downloadable tool called the Parallel Sysplex Calculator that can help you assess whether the machines in your Parallel Sysplex qualify for aggregation. The Parallel Sysplex Calculator is designed to analyze Systems Measurement Facility (SMF) data from two or more machines and produce a report describing which Parallel Sysplex each machine belongs to, if any, based upon the 50% criterion.

Question:

Am I required to run the Parallel Sysplex Calculator?

Answer:

Use of the Parallel Sysplex Calculator is optional. IBM developed this tool to help you manage your Parallel Sysplex environment to maintain compliance with the 'actively coupled' criteria.

Question:

How do I obtain the Parallel Sysplex Calculator?

Answer:

Please visit the Parallel Sysplex Aggregation Web site at ibm.com/zseries/swprice/sysplex.

Question:

When I will need to verify that my Parallel Sysplex is 'actively coupled'?

Answer:

Whenever you wish to move a mainframe into an existing Parallel Sysplex or create a new Parallel Sysplex, you will need to verify that your Parallel Sysplex meets the 'actively coupled' criteria. Additionally, for guidance and compliance, IBM may periodically require verification of the 'actively coupled' criteria. These verification activities may be performed using Resource Measurement Facility (RMF™), Parallel Sysplex Calculator, or equivalent reports.



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