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IBM zPCR Version 9.7.5

zPCR 975 Familiarization Exercise 2025e06.docx October 16, 2025

# IBM PCR Capacity Sizing Exercise

# **Objective**

You will use IBM zPCR (**zPCR**) to define a current LPAR configuration and then project the capacity expectation for an upgrade to newer technology. The capacity results will then be used to determine if the upgrade model is adequate to support all of the work, and to determine if the amount of CP resource available to each partition is adequate to support that partition's workload with the anticipated growth applied.

### **Problem**

XYZ Corporation currently has a **z15** (**8561-707**) installed, which based on their last **zPCR** study, as having **12,447 MIPS** of usable capacity. The 8561-707 is currently averaging **100% busy** during peak processing periods. The workload environment includes 8 logical partitions, all running z/OS on General Purpose CPs as shown in the table below.

Partition Name	LP mode	LCPs	Weight	Capped	SCP / Workload
1 CICSA	SHR	7	340	No	z/OS-2.4 Average
2 BATCHA	SHR	7	195	No	z/OS-2.4 Average
3 ВАТСНВ	SHR	2	32	No	z/OS-2.4 Average
4 TESTB	SHR	2	12	No	z/OS-2.4 Average
5 TESTIMS	SHR	5	36	No	z/OS-2.4 Average
6 CICSB	SHR	7	297	No	z/OS-2.4 Average
7 IMSA	SHR	5	73	No	z/OS-2.4 Average
8 TESTCICS	SHR	2	15	No	z/OS-2.4 Average

A plan is being developed to **replace the current z15 with a newer technology IBM z17 (z17) processor**. The specific model chosen must provide at least 34% **additional capacity**, or **16,679 MIPS** (i.e., **12,447 MIPS x 1.34**). The current configuration is to be moved to the new processor with the partitions and their workloads continuing as today. The corporation has turned on **CPU MF** counters and has collected **SMF 113** data. They ran **CP3KEXTR** to create an EDF file for the CICSA partition containing data from 2020-02-03. The data spans from 8:00 AM through 12:00 PM using 15-minute intervals.

In addition, the corporation is looking at adding new workload to IFL partitions running **Linux on IBM Z** under z/VM and associating zIIP CPs with the z/OS CICSA and CICSB partitions. They are considering activating SMT on the z17 for both the IFL and zIIP LCPs.

## **Overview**

Here are the 7 primary tasks that comprise this **zPCR** familiarization exercise, addressing the planned changes described above.

\*\*\* The actual Lab starts on the next page \*\*\*

Note that zPCR version 9.7.5 or later is required for this exercise

## Configure z17 replacement for the current z15

- Task-1: Initialize zPCR.
- Task-2: Create the current LPAR configuration from EDF.
- Task-3: Rename current LPAR configuration and review capacity.
- Task-4: Save the zPCR study.
- Task-5: Find an appropriate z17 replacement processor.
- Task-6: Model the intended z17 upgrade.
- Task-7: Review capacity results and save the study.

## Upgrade z17 replacement

- Task-8: Add zIIP and IFL CPs and configure partitions to exploit them.
- Task-9: Activate SMT for zIIP and IFL logical CPs.
- Task-10: Review final z17 capacity results.

## Additional views of the intended z17 LPAR host

Task-11: Review additional z17 perspectives.

Notes concerning using zPCR:

When instructed to **Return**, the icon should be used.

The **<u>Double Return</u>** icon may be used to close multiple open windows, returning directly to the **Control Panel** window.

If you need help understanding acronyms used in zPCR, press (the Help icon). Go down to the Definition of Terms chapter (next to last one), and browse through the terms.

This exercise has been validated with zPCR 9.7.5, made available 10/28/2025.

## Task-1: Initialize zPCR

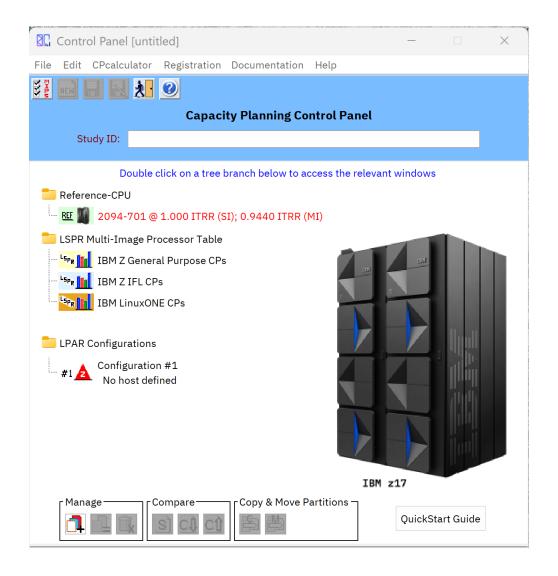
In this task you will set up **zPCR** for this exercise.

Note: **zPCR**'s default **Reference-CPU** setting is the **2094-701 rated at 1.00**. In order to have capacity results represented with typical MIPS values, we need to set the **Reference-CPU** to the **2094-701 rated at 593 MIPS**.

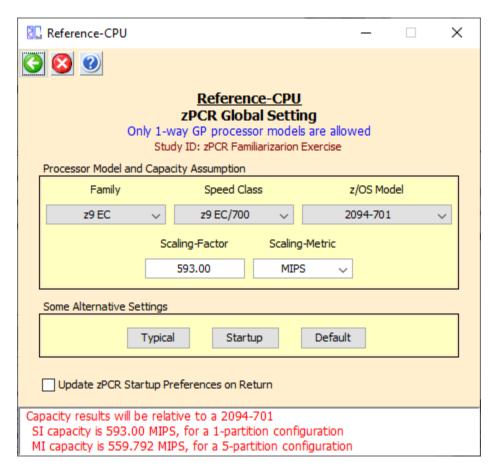
### **Analysis Steps**

1. Start **zPCR**. Once the **Logo** window stages, you will be viewing the **Control Panel** window.

# **Control Panel Window**



2. On the **Control Panel** window double click 2094-701 20 1.000 ITRR (SI). to change the **Reference-CPU** scaling-factor and scaling-metric. The **Reference-CPU** window will appear.

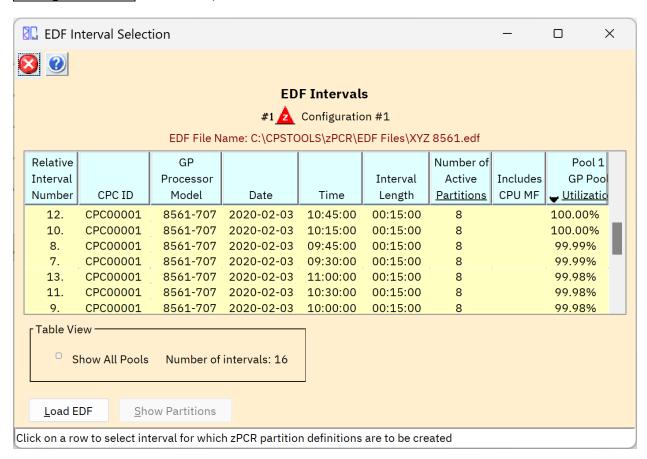


- a) Click <u>Typical</u> to set the *Reference-CPU* to 2094-701 @ 593 MIPS.
  Note: Any IBM Z 1-way processor may be selected with any reasonable scaling-factor/metric. **Typical** establishes the IBM recommended setting which is widely accepted in the Industry.
- b) Check the box named Update zPCR Startup Preferences on Return
- c) Click Return.

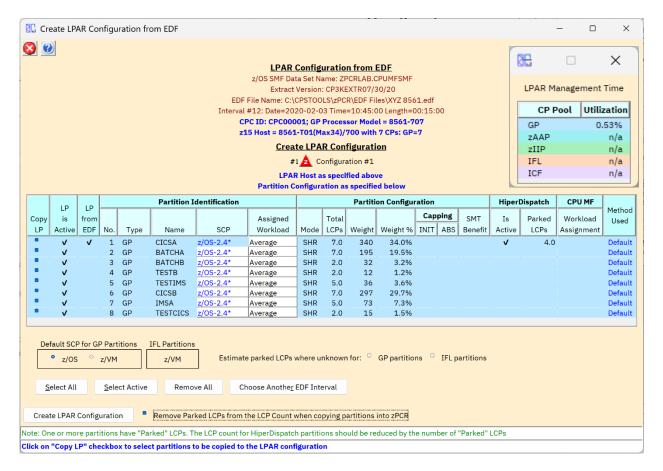
# Task-2: Create the current LPAR configuration from EDF

Load the current z15 LPAR configuration into **zPCR** using the EDF supplied with the tool.

## **Analysis Steps**



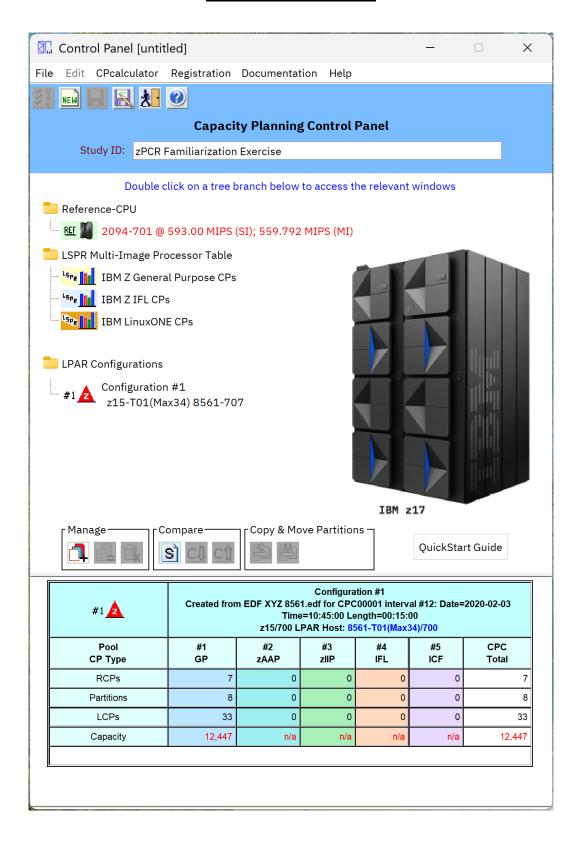
- 2. Sort the intervals on utilization by clicking the **Pool 1 GP Pool Utilization** column header.
- 3. Select Interval #12 and double click to open the *Create LPAR Configuration from EDF* window (close the notice concerning *Estimating Parked LCPs*).



- 4. Check the "Remove Parked LCPs ..." check box at the bottom of the window,
- 5. Click the <u>Create LPAR Configuration</u> button to transfer the LPAR host processor and its 8 GP partitions to the active <u>zPCR</u> study.
- 6. Click **OK** to dismiss the **zPCR EDF Copy Partitions** transfer dialog.

Note: Partition **CICSA** has 7 LCPs defined, but 4 are parked (not active). Therefore, when the configuration is read into zPCR it will be defined with 3 LCPs. Since **CICSA** is the only one with EDF available, it is the only partition where the LCP count will be adjusted.

# **Control Panel Window**



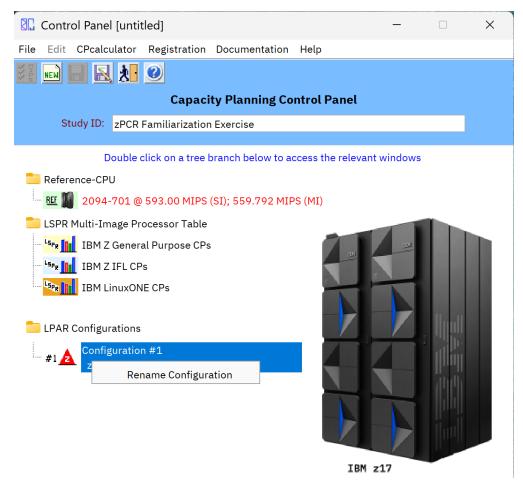
# Task-3: Rename current LPAR configuration and review capacity

Rename the LPAR configuration and review the capacity assessment.

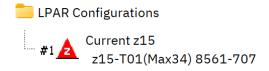
### **Analysis Steps**

- 1. Rename "Configuration #1" to "Current z15". On the Control Panel window, Single-click

  #1 Configuration #1 to select it.
- 2. Right click on the selected area to reveal the **Rename Configuration** popup button.

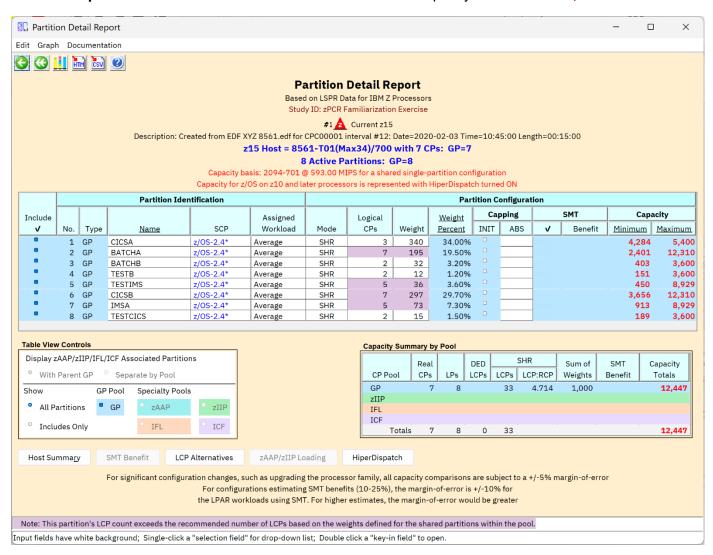


3. Click the **Rename Configuration** button, key in the LPAR configuration name that you wish to use, and press **Enter**.



Note: This rename operation will also be used in subsequent steps.

- 4. Double-click #1 Current z15 to open the LPAR Host and Partition Configuration window for the LPAR configuration.
- 5. Click <u>Partition Detail</u> in the Capacity *Reports* group box to open the *Partition Detail Report* window. This window will reveal the total GP capacity available as 12,447 MIPS.



# Task-4: Save the zPCR study

Save the **zPCR** study for future reference.

#### **Analysis Steps**

- 1. Click **Double Return** to close the **LPAR Configuration** windows and return to the **Control Panel** window.
- 2. From the menu-bar on the **Control Panel** window, click <u>File</u>→<u>Save as</u>, to save your LPAR definitions for the current LPAR host processor (e.g., <u>Lab Task-4.zpcr</u>).

Note: A saved study may be reloaded into a subsequent zPCR invocation. All settings for the Reference-CPU, the LPAR host, and its defined partitions will be restored. The study can serve for future reference or provide an opportunity to consider changes.

## Task-5: Find an appropriate z17 replacement processor

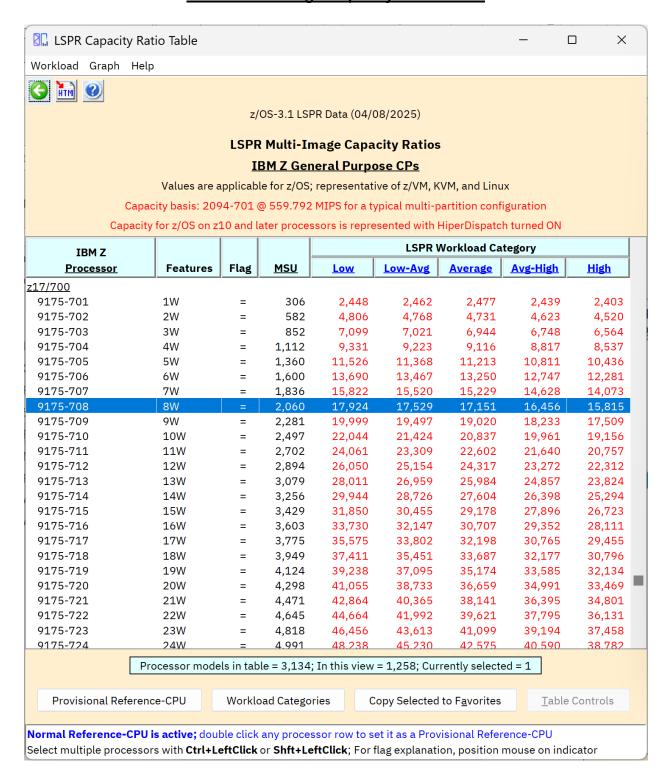
Browse the *LSPR Multi-Image LSPR Capacity Ratios* table to find an **IBM z17** processor that can provide the required capacity increment using the <u>Average</u> workload category.

#### **Analysis Steps**

From the window

- 1. Double click IBM Z General Purpose CPs to open the LSPR Multi-Image Processor Capacity Ratios table.
- Find the smallest IBM z17 processor that can provide the required 16,679 MIPS (tip: right click the table for a list of the *Families*, select *Scroll to IBM*, select z17 (9175), and then select z17/700).
  - For the purposes of this exercise, choose the **9175-708**, which appears to have just a bit more capacity than we require, (e.g., **17,151 MIPS** for *Average*). Remember that capacity values in the multi-image table represent typical (or average) partition configurations, and therefore are only generalizations of capacity.
- 3. Click **Return** to go back to the **Control Panel** window.

## **LSPR Multi-Image Capacity Ratio Table**

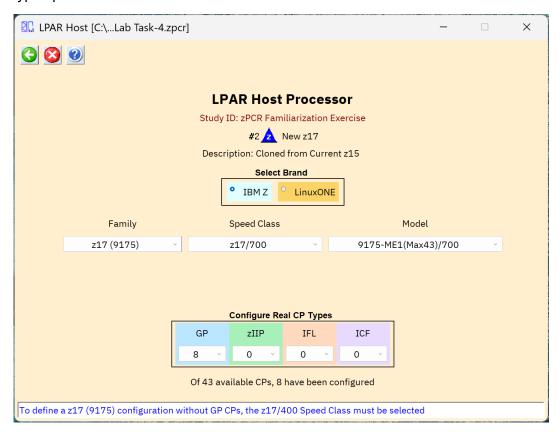


# Task-6: Model the intended z17 upgrade

Using the current z15 LPAR configuration as a starting point, we will transfer it to the new **IBM z17** processor, making any necessary adjustments to the partition definitions.

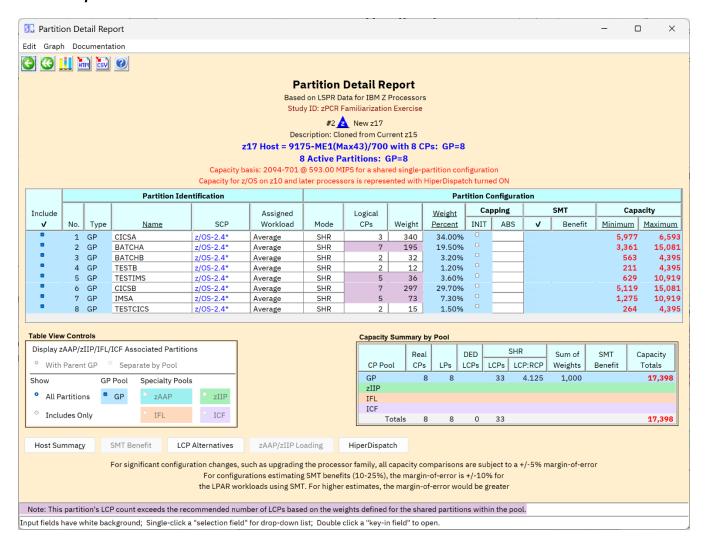
#### **Analysis Steps**

- 1. Single-click #1 Current z15 on the Control Panel window to select it.
- 2. Click the <u>Clone</u> toolbar button. \*2 LPAR configuration is created as an exact copy of the 1st. Rename it to **New z17** (see Task 3 if you need be reminded how to rename).
- 3. Double-click \*\* New z17 to open the LPAR Host and Partition Configuration window for that LPAR configuration.
- 4. Click **Specify Host** to open the **LPAR Host** window.
  - a) In the Select Brand group box, choose IBM Z.
  - b) Set the *Family* to **z17 (9175)**
  - c) Set the Speed Class to z17/700
  - d) Set the *Model* to 9175-ME1(Max43)/700 (this model has a maximum of 43 CPs).
  - e) Set **General Purpose CPs** to **8** (recognized as a **9175-708**). There are no other CP types planned at this time.



f) Click **Return**.

5. Click <u>Partition Detail</u> in the **Capacity Reports** group box to view the *Partition Detail Report* window for the new z17 LPAR host.

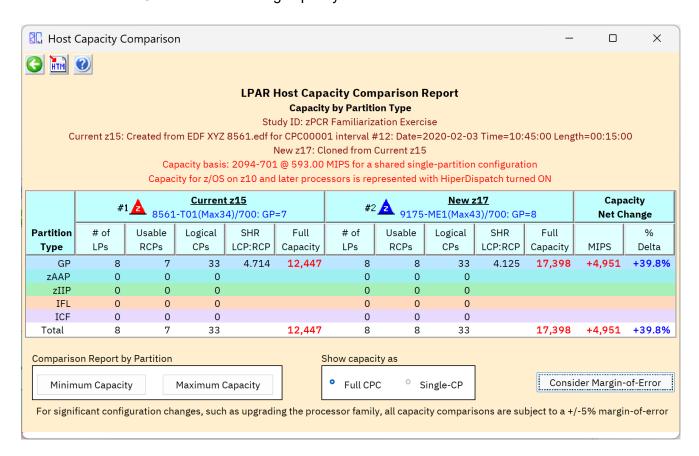


## Task-7: Review capacity results and save the study

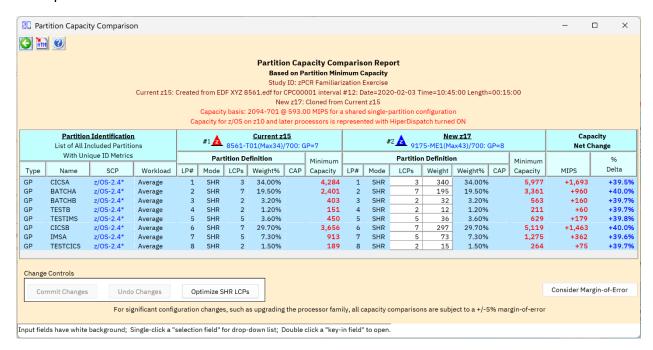
Using the capacity results for this new LPAR host, determine if we realized the desired 34% capacity increase (16,679 MIPS), for the overall host and for each individual partition.

#### **Analysis Steps**

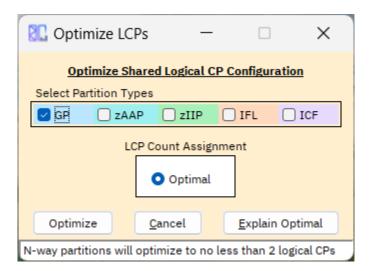
- On the *Partition Detail Report* window, the overall effective capacity for the z17 9175-708 is 17,398 MIPS for this LPAR configuration. The effective capacity for the z15 8561-707 is 12,447 MIPS (see Current 8561-707).
- 2. Click **Double Return** to close the **LPAR Configuration** windows and return to the **Control Panel** window.
- 3. On the **Control Panel** window, select the two configurations. Click on one, press the **Ctrl** key (**CMD** on Mac) and click on the other. Then click the **Compare** tool bar icon. The **Host Capacity Comparison** window presents a CPC oriented summary of the two LPAR host configurations. The first LPAR host is shown on the left, and the second is shown on the right. The partition types (CP pools) are listed in separate rows; the metrics presented are their combined values representing the number of partitions, the number of RCPs, the number of LCPs and the resulting capacity.



4. Click <u>Minimum Capacity</u> in the *Comparison Report by Partition* group box. Note that all of the partitions see an increase of 34% or more.



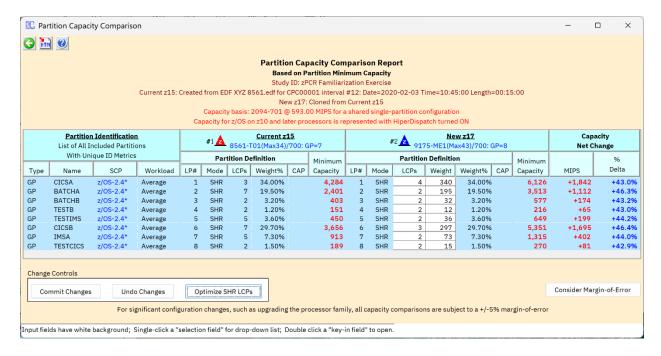
5. Click Optimize SHR LCPs in the Change Controls group box to see if you can improve the results by reducing the number of LCPs assigned to each partition to that required to accommodate its weight.



Using the default setting, **Optimal**, click **Optimize** to reduce the number of logical CPs assigned to each partition. Reducing the number of logical CPs can improve capacity. The partition's weight percent is used to determine the exact number of LCPs (rounded up to the nearest whole number). Click **Cancel** to close the Optimize LCPs window.

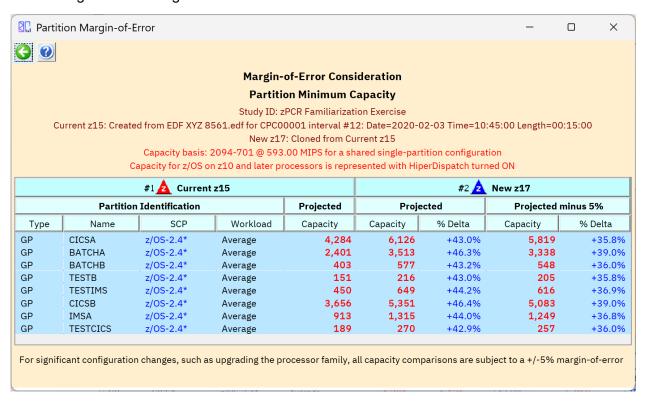
Note: An alternate method to apply these optimization levels is available on the **Partition Detail Report** window by using the **LCP Alternatives** button.

For availability purposes, no less than 2 logical CPs will be assigned to N-way partitions.

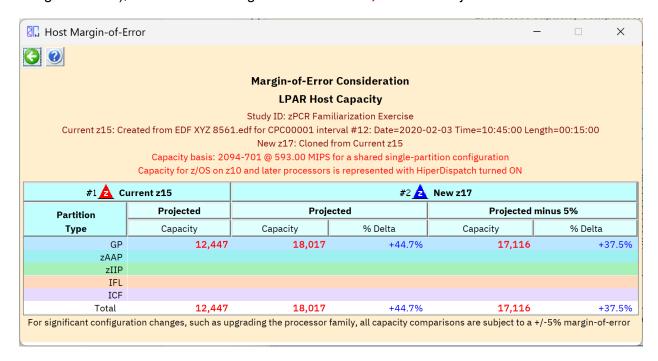


## 6. Click Consider Margin-of-Error

The capacity expectation derived from **zPCR** for a new machine should normally be considered to have up to a ±5% Margin-of-Error. The ±5% Margin-of-Error should be considered whenever the LPAR host processor family is changed, or when very significant changes are made to either the LPAR host CP configuration or to the partition configuration itself. At this point all the partitions realize the intended 34% capacity increase when considering the ±5% Margin-of-Error.



- 7. Close the *Partition-Margin-of- Error* window. Then click <u>Commit Changes</u> in the *Change Controls* group box to change the LPAR configuration to permanently include the modified metrics (from the **Optimize**).
- 8. Click <u>Return</u> on the *Partition Capacity Comparison* window. Then, on the *Host Capacity Comparison* window, click <u>Consider Margin-of-Error</u>. Note that the *Host Margin-of-Error* window now shows we are delivering 18,017 MIPS (17,116 MIPS when considering the ±5% Margin-of-Error), both of which are greater than the 16,679 MIPS objective.



- 9. Close all of the comparison windows by clicking the **Return** toolbar icon on the **Host Capacity Comparison** window.
- 10. From the menu bar on the **Control Panel** window click <u>File</u>→<u>Save as</u>, and save the complete study which will include both LPAR configurations (e.g., <u>Lab Task-7.zpcr</u>).

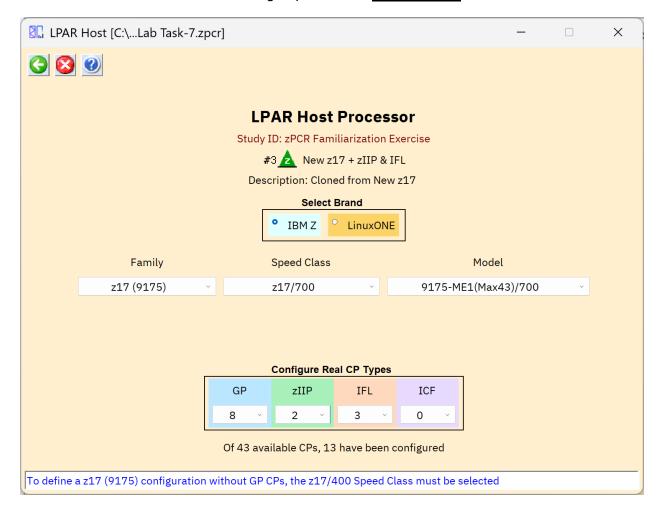
At this point we have met the **16,679 MIPS** overall objective with at least 34% improvement for each partition.

\*\*\* End of Tasks-1 through 7 \*\*\*

# Task-8: Add zIIP and IFL CPs and configure partitions to exploit them

## **Analysis Steps**

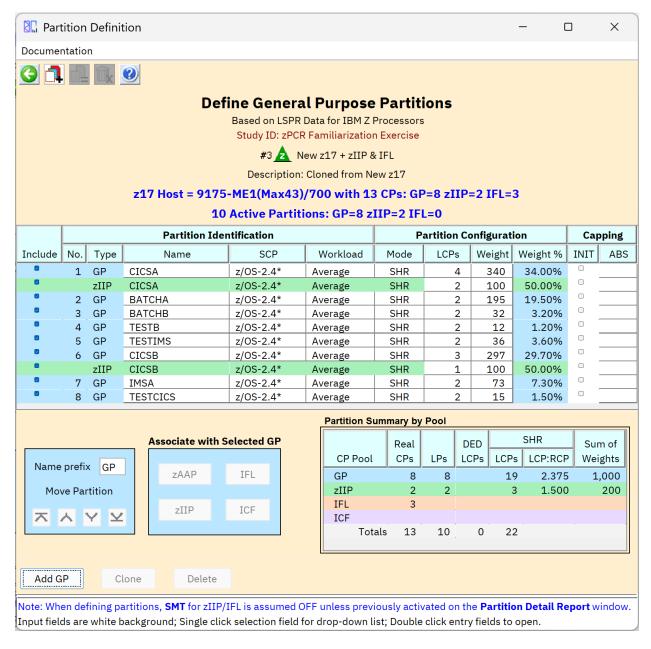
- 1. Single-click \*\*2 A New z17 on the Control Panel window to select it.
- 2. Click the <u>Clone</u> toolbar button. #3 LPAR configuration is created as an exact copy of the 2nd. Rename it **New z17 + zIIP & IFL** (see <u>Task 3 if you need be reminded how to rename</u>).
- 3. Double-click \*\* A New z17 + zIIP & IFL to open the LPAR Host and Partition Configuration window for that LPAR configuration.
- 4. In the **Define LPAR Host Processor** group box, click **Specify Host**.



- 5. Add 2 zIIP real CPs and 3 IFL CPs to the configuration.
- 6. Click Return.

#### Define zIIP partitions to be associated with GP partitions

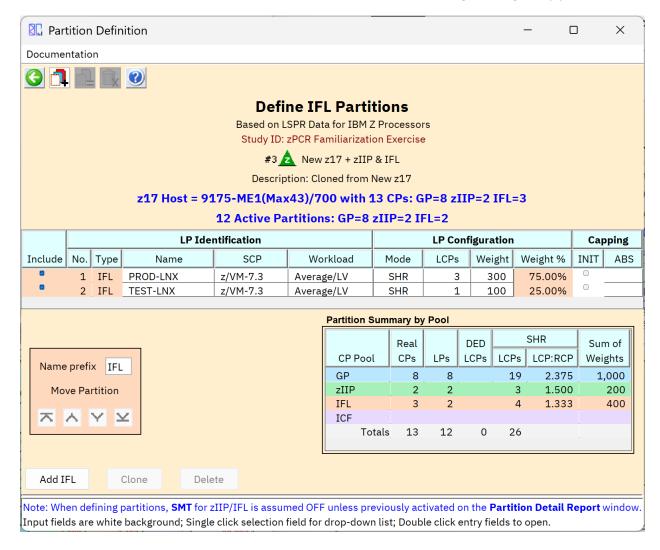
- 1. From the *LPAR Host and Partition Configuration* window, click <u>GP / zIIP</u> in the *Define Partitions* group box.
- From the LPAR Partition Definition select the CICSA partition, then click on <u>zIIP</u> in the Associate with Selected GP group box. This will create the associated zIIP partition for CICSA. Assign 2 LCPs to this zIIP partition.
- 3. Select the **CICSB** partition, then click on <u>zIIP</u> in the *Associate with Selected GP* group box. This will create the associated zIIP partition for **CICSB**. Assign 1 LCP to this zIIP partition.



4. Click Return.

## Define IFL partitions to run z/VM with Linux guests

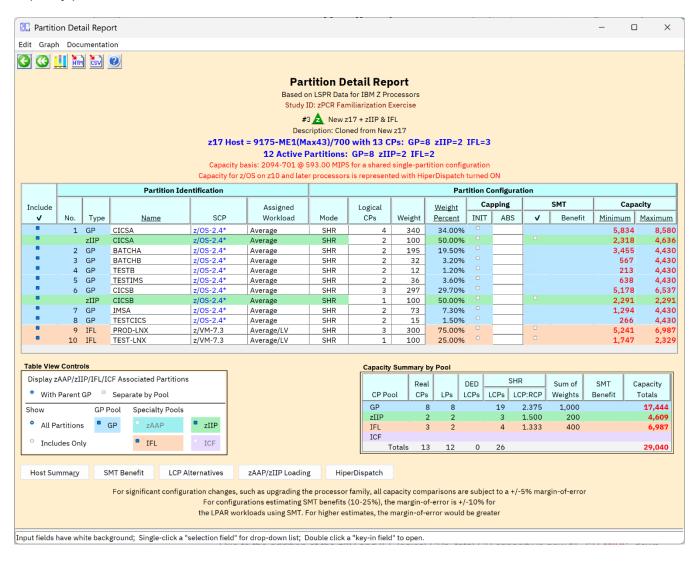
- 1. From the *LPAR Host and Partition Configuration* window, click <u>IFL</u> in the *Define Partitions* group box.
- 2. From the *LPAR Partition Definition* window, edit the partition name (from IFL-01) by double-clicking the name field to open it and entering the text "**PROD-LNX**", and hitting enter. Set the partition's LCPs to 3. The SCP will be z/VM running Linux guest(s).
- 3. Change the weight for the **PROD-LNX** partition to 300.
- 4. Click <u>Add IFL</u> at the bottom of the window. Change the added partition's name to "TEST-LNX" and leave LCPs set to 1. The SCP will be z/VM running Linux guest(s).



5. Click Return.

## **Evaluate the effect on capacity for the enhanced configuration**

From the *LPAR Host and Partition Configuration* window, click <u>Partition Detail</u> in the **Capacity Reports** group box. The **Partition Detail Report** window opens, revealing the new capacity picture.



The 2 zIIP partitions are providing an additional 4,609 MIPS to the overall configuration.

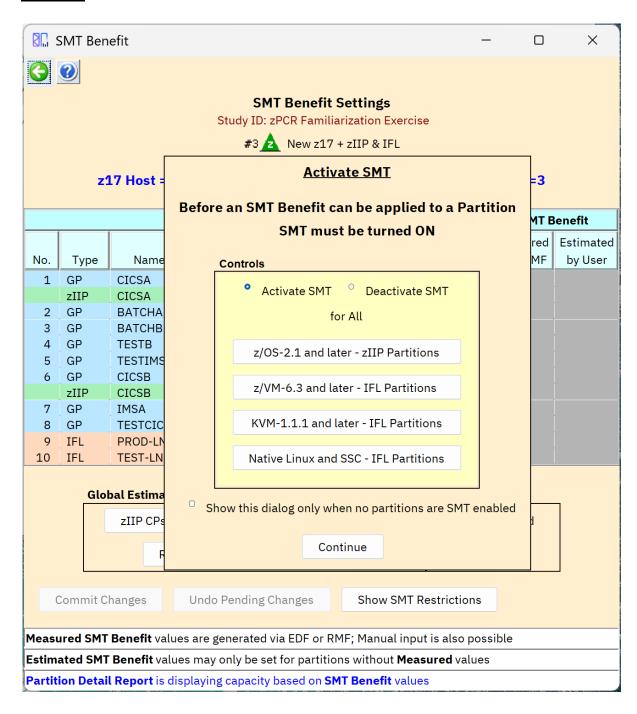
The 2 IFL partitions are providing an additional **6,987 MIPS** to the overall configuration.

Due to the addition of the zIIP and IFL logical CPs, total GP capacity is now **17,444 MIPS**, down ~3.2% from the previous **18,017 MIPS**. GP capacity is reduced due to z/OS having to support the associated zIIP LCPs. However, zIIPs associated with the CICSA and CICSB partitions are expected to take on some portion of the GP workload.

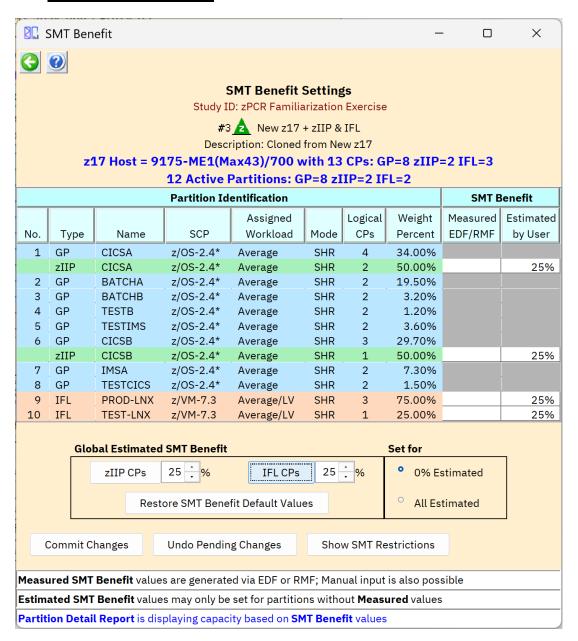
The overall z17 capacity is now 29,040 MIPS.

## Task-9: Activate SMT for zIIP and IFL logical CPs

From the *Partition Detail Report* window, click the <u>SMT Benefit</u> button to open the *SMT Benefit* window. zIIP and IFL zIIP partitions must have SMT activated in order to define an estimated SMT benefit. On the *Activate SMT* pop-up, click the buttons that will activate SMT for the zIIP and for the IFL partitions that were previously defined. Then click <u>Continue</u>.



 On the SMT Benefit window, you'll note that the Global Estimated SMT Benefit defaults to 25% for zIIPs and IFLs. In this case since the corporation has no experience with SMT we'll use the defaults. In the Global Estimated SMT Benefit group box, click zIIP CPs and click z/VM, KVM & Linux IFLs.

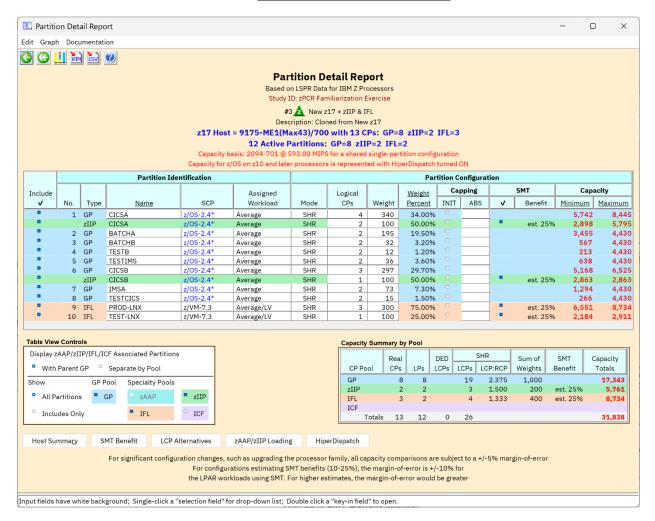


Note: The estimated SMT benefit values can be set to between 0% and 60% by clicking on the field and using the spin button that appears. For this exercise we will leave all the values at 25%.

- 3. Click <u>Commit Changes</u> to permanently apply the estimated **SMT Benefit** to the **Minimum** and **Maximum Capacity** result for the zIIP and IFL partitions.
- 4. Click Return.

# Task-10: Review final z17 capacity results

1. View the *Partition Detail Report* for #3 New z17 + zIIP & IFL



#### With 25% **SMT Benefit** applied:

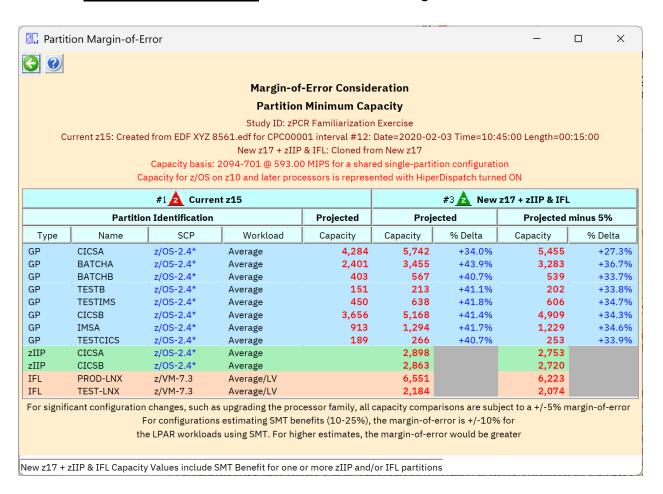
- zIIP capacity has increased by 25%, from 4,609 MIPS to 5,761 MIPS.
- IFL capacity has increased by 25% from 6,987 MIPS to 8,734 MIPS.
- Total capacity has increased by ~10% from 29,040 MIPS to 31,838 MIPS.

GP capacity decreased by ~0.6% from 17,444 MIPS to 17,343 MIPS. While the use of SMT significantly benefits zIIP and IFL capacity, it has negligible effect on GP capacity.

Even with the zIIP and IFL LCPs configured, **17,343 MIPS** GP capacity exceeds the original **16,679 MIPS** requirement that was established.

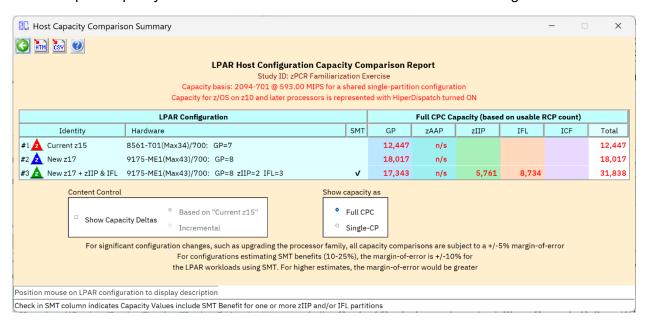
2. Click **Double Return** to close the **LPAR Configuration** windows and return to the **Control Panel** window.

3. On the **Control Panel** window, select both \*\* Current z15 and \*\* New z17 + zIIP & IFL . Click on one, press the Ctrl key (CMD on Mac) and click on the other. Then click the Compare tool bar icon. Click on Minimum Capacity, and then click Consider Margin-of-Error to see the **Partition Margin-of-Error** window.

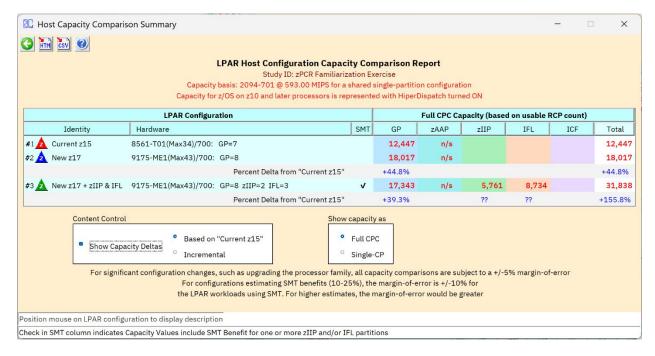


Verify that the z17 partitions will still meet our objective of 34% improvement when the additional zIIP and IFL partitions are included. The exception is the **CICSA** partition, which is only reaching 27.3% capacity improvement. However, since we expect this partition to start routing zIIP eligible work to the zIIP LCPs, 27.3% is likely acceptable (depends on the percent of the workload that is zIIP eligible).

4. Close all the comparison windows. On the *Control Panel* window, make sure that no LPAR configurations are selected. In the *Compare* group box, click the stool bar icon to present the *Host Capacity Comparison Summary* window. This window relates the capacity projections for each defined LPAR configuration by CP pool. The sum of the individual pool capacity values is shown as a total for the entire CPC on the right.



• In the *Content Control* group box, check <u>Show Capacity Deltas</u>. With this view one can easily see the degree to which capacity changes for each successive configuration.

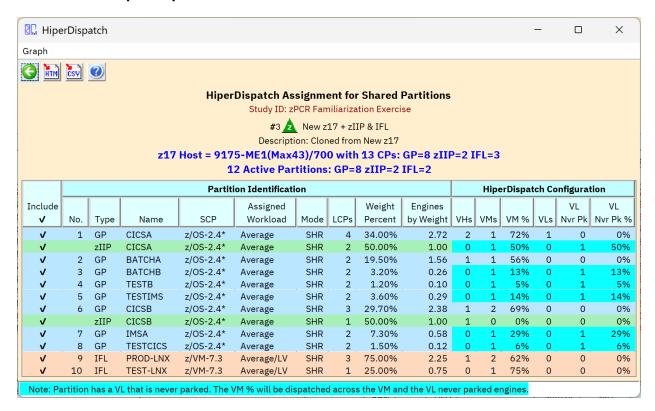


From the menu bar on the Control Panel window click <u>File</u>→<u>Save as</u>, and save the complete study which will include both LPAR configurations (e.g., <u>Lab Task-10.zpcr</u>).

\*\*\* End of Task-8 through 10 \*\*\*

## Task-11: Review additional z17 perspectives

On the *Partition Detail Report* for \*\* New z17 + zIIP & IFL, click the HiperDispatch button to view the *HiperDispatch* window.



This window relates all the defined partitions to how HiperDispatch is expected to manage their logical CPs.

HiperDispatch supports shared logical CPs running:

- z/OS (v1.7 and later) in a GP partition. zAAP and zIIP shared logical CPs associated with the z/OS partition are similarly affected.
- z/VM (v6.3 and later) in a GP or IFL partition. IFL shared logical CPs associated with the z/VM partition are similarly affected.

The **HiperDispatch** function projects the way logical CPs of these partitions will be distributed in three categories:

- 1. **Vertical High (VH)** LCPs are essentially dedicated to the partition. They do not service other partitions. They are fully assigned to that partition's workload demand.
- 2. **Vertical Medium (VM)** LCPs are shared among partitions. The percent of time that a partition is entitled to have their services is depicted on the charts.
- 3. **Vertical Low** (**VL**) LCPs have 0% share but are available to a partition in the event other partitions do not require the level of service specified by their weight. Vertical Lows are provided so a partition may use GP LCP capacity above the amount guaranteed by its LPAR weight. If there is no available GP LCP capacity above the weight, then Vertical Lows are parked.

There is a special kind of Vertical Low processor which is never parked. These are typically used to assure that small partitions always have a second logical engine available. The following note will apply.

Note: Partition has a **VL** that is never parked. The **VM** % will be dispatched across the **VM** and the **VL** engines.

The *HiperDispatch* window reiterates most of the *Partition Identification* information from the *Partition Detail Report* window. The following columns are unique.

- Engines by Weight: Partition Weight % times the number of real CPs in the pool.
- VHs: Number of LCPs categorized as Vertical High.
- VMs: Number of LCPs categorized as Vertical Medium.
- VM %: Percent of time the partition's Vertical Medium LCPs are committed.
- VLs: Number of LCPs categorized as Vertical Low.
- VL Nvr Pk: Number of LCPs categorized as Vertical Low Never Parked.
- VL Nvr Pk%: Percent of time the partition's Vertical Low Never Parked LCPs are committed.

As input fields are modified on the *Partition Detail Report* window, results shown on the *HiperDispatch* window will be updated accordingly. Note that when exiting the *HiperDispatch* window, any changes made to the *Partition Detail Report* window are not automatically reset.

For GP or IFL partitions where HiperDispatch is not supported, only the **VMs** and **VM** % columns apply. For ICF partitions, none of the HiperDispatch columns apply.

Note: Starting with the z16, a new *Topology* window is available. To view this window, a z16 or later configuration must have been generated via EDF for a system with topology data present in the SMF Type 70 records. The *Topology* window portrays how the partition's logical CPs and their classification are distributed on RCPs:

- Across the installed drawers (maximum of 4)
- Across the 4 Dual Chip Modules (DCMs) on each drawer
- Across the 2 chips on each DCM

