

Obtaining More Value From IBM Z Investments With ibi™

Summary

IBM client obtains increased value and better performance from its IBM Z by running ibi™ FOCUS®, ibi™ WebFOCUS® and other programs on the zIIP special-purpose processor.

Many companies turn to cloud computing to help reduce costs. But how do you cut expenses when your computing processes require the power of a world-class mainframe?

This was the challenge faced by a major travel technology company. The company worked with IBM and IBM Business Partner ibi to reduce monthly service fees by maximizing the use of the IBM zIIP processors for mission critical workloads being processed with FOCUS® and WebFOCUS®.

Reducing Mainframe Computing Costs

A major B2B travel technology company offers a platform that helps connect travel providers — including massive travel web sites, travel agencies and airlines — with buyers. It wanted to reduce computing costs. Using scalable cloud platforms was not an option. Because reservations and other travel elements can change on a moment's notice, this company requires computing platforms that offer sub-second response time under heavy load conditions.

It also needed to improve system performance and obtain analytical insight and reporting capabilities. It depends on two IBM Z® systems to run operations, and IBM Business Partner ibi's software FOCUS and WebFOCUS for analysis and reporting.

Gaining More Value From IBM Z Investments

IBM and ibi both want to provide significant value for their clients. That's why IBM z Systems® Integrated Information Processor (zIIP) is built into every mainframe. These special-purpose processors relieve IBM Z servers of specific CPU-intensive workloads. These workloads include ibi FOCUS and ibi WebFOCUS, along with IBM DB2®, Java®, Syncsort and other applications and databases.

Offloading these workloads to zIIP leaves the CPU itself more time and power to perform its dedicated tasks of running the operating system, controlling user interactions with it, and handling I/O interrupts and timer interrupts. zIIPs may also help improve overall system performance, and enable client organizations to delay system upgrades.

“Because ibi FOCUS and ibi WebFOCUS have been architected to take advantage of IBM Z architecture — including zIIP processors — we are able to generate analytical insights and reports faster and less expensively.”

*Walter Blood,
Principal Support
Engineer, ibi*

Of particular interest to the travel company, though, was zIIP’s ability to help reduce computing costs it would otherwise incur from both IBM and ibi.

IBM Z users pay a monthly fee to lease the z/OS operating system. This fee varies with system usage. IBM has chosen not to charge this fee for workloads processed via zIIP. While not all processes can be run on the zIIP, the travel company used the zIIP for as many processes as possible, significantly lowering its monthly service fees.

Running ibi FOCUS and ibi WebFOCUS applications on the zIIP also helped the company reduce the TCO of ibi products. ibi developed FOCUS on and for IBM mainframes, and this product has been architected to take advantage of the evolving nature of IBM Z. Working with IBM, ibi has tooled FOCUS and WebFOCUS so that operations that would normally fall into the I/O category are now considered the type of CPU activity that can be completed, without fees, on the zIIP.

In addition, FOCUS is the only business intelligence, reporting, and analytics platform that can intelligently switch processing between the IBM Z mainframe and the zIIP. FOCUS constantly monitors zIIP usage. When it detects that the cost of simply switching modes outstrips the expected savings of using the zIIP, FOCUS dynamically decides against using the zIIP for this task or command.

Like many organizations, this travel company found that working with both IBM and ibi helped to reduce mainframe computing costs while obtaining the type of insight that brings true value to the business.

Results

- **Reduced costs:**
Running roughly 80 percent of the FOCUS code on zIIP significantly reduces TCO for reporting and analytics.
- **Improved mainframe performance:**
This is achieved by offloading CPU-intensive applications and databases to the zIIP.
- **Improved insight and reporting capabilities:**
Capabilities provided by FOCUS and WebFOCUS deliver access to information for decision making.

Learn more about **ibi™ FOCUS®** and **ibi™ WebFOCUS®** now, speak to an expert www.ibi.com

Learn more about **IBM Z**: www.ibm.com



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