

Case Study:

Sort Swap Saves \$ for This Mexican Bank

Challenge

A careful analysis performed for this Mexico-based banking and financial- services firm indicated that the routine batch processing of sort functions in the mainframe environment was costing about \$1 million annually just in the consumption of CPU time.

Equally concerning was how the CPU time for sort jobs was encroaching on the 11 a.m. to 5p.m. period when getting CPU time was critically important for vital business applications like transaction processing, CRM, and others. At stake were customer satisfaction, service- level agreements, and similar matters.

These two factors prompted a search for a DFSORT substitute, as DFSORT (IBM's standard-issue mainframe sort utility) wasn't providing what they needed. The bank's mainframe IT group knew there were faster sort utilities out there, but which one was best? And how much difference would it make in terms of time saved and lower CPU usage charges?

Solution

An extensive search brought up one product that offered the Through its relationship with Devant Mexico, an IT and management consultancy in Mexico City, the bank became aware of Precisely and of its flagship sort utility, Syncsort MFX. The bank's IT team was impressed enough with the joint Devant - Precisely presentation of potential CPU-time savings that they asked Precisely for a Proof of Concept (POC) exercise using portions of their actual banking workloads.

The POC confirmed expectations, so the customer licensed Syncsort MFX and began testing it in their own mainframe environment. Two months later they began running Syncsort MFX in their production system.

Results

Once Syncsort MFX was in the production environment:

- The customer saw approximately a 40% savings in CPU time for sort/copy/merge processes and a 10%-to-15% reduction in elapsed time
- Sort-processing encroachments on interactive applications was eliminated.
- Potential compromises with customer service and response times in critical business applications were reduced.

Several months after Syncsort MFX implementation, Precisely performed a workload optimization analysis for this customer over a 21-day period. Extrapolating results out to a full year from those 21 days, and using the industry-standard estimate of \$0.12 per CPU second for mainframe sort processing, it was estimated that the customer was spending roughly \$785,000 annually on its sort/copy/ merge tasks. This compares to the approximately \$1 million before Syncsort MFX implementation. While the comparison is rough —as it is based on extrapolating out to a year from a three-week time period — it suggests a better than 20% drop in CPU charges for sort processes following Syncsort MFX implementation. Given this experience, the customer is considering adding Syncsort ZPSaver to the equation. Syncsort ZPSaver extends Syncsort MFX by offloading a higher percentage of eligible workloads from the general - purpose processor(s) to the zIIP processor(s) installed on IBM z machines. Because the pricing on zIIP processors is not usage-based, as it is on the general-purpose processors, this can mean a further reduction in CPU usage costs.

