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IT Cost
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EPV Technologies

Newsletter

December 2024

THIS MONTH HIGHLIGHTS

- Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
- Compressing SMF data – Part 2

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

The EPV staff wishes a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year to all the newsletter subscribers.



Compressing SMF data – Part 2

For many years EPV customers have been able to compress SMF data, before sending them to EPV zParser running on a non-z/OS systems, by using the EPVzip tool.

EPVzip is a Java tool exploiting the zip compression library and designed to compress SMF and other data by using zIIP engines, as much as possible, to avoid increasing the software costs of z/OS MLC products.

EPV has now made available EPVlzf: a new tool that inherited the EPVzip operational characteristics (JCL, password and parameters) but, exploiting the lzf compression library, it provides different and interesting performance from the point of view of speed, compression ratio, CPU and zIIP consumptions.

We also introduced the possibility, both for EPVzip and EPVlzf, to directly send compressed data by using sftp and SSH keys.

In the first part of this paper, after a brief introduction to EPVzip and EPVlzf, we will show the results of a series of comparison tests performed internally and by two of our most important customers.

In the second part, we will explain what you have to do to directly transfer data, as soon as they are compressed, to the server you use to collect and process them.

If you want to receive this paper, you can reply to this e-mail writing **"Compressing SMF data – Part 2"** in the subject.



Customer question

We run MQ V9.3.3. We activated the class 5 of the statistics trace to get queue statistics and then we collected SMF 115-216 records. Strangely, we found data from only one queue.

Can you help us?

EPV Technical Support answer

To write queue statistics in SMF 115 subtype 216 records activating statistic trace class 5 is not enough. You must also enable queue statistics on the queues.

You have two possibilities:

- set STATQ(ON) in queue parameters;
- set STATQ(QMGR) in the queue parameters and STATQ(ON) in the queue manager parameter; in this case you are delegating STATQ control to the queue manager.

In your case it seems you have STATQ(OFF) in the queue manager and STATQ(QMGR) in all the queues with the exception of the queue you see in

SMF data where the STATQ parameter is set to ON.



QR TCB DISPATCH/INTERVAL ratio

The QR TCB Dispatch / interval ratio is an indicator of how busy a CICS region's QR TCB is.

Please note that this ratio is only of value for the QR TCB and is meaningless for other TCBs.

If the QR TCB becomes too busy, it becomes a bottleneck point that causes transaction response times to increase.

The QR TCB Dispatch/Interval Ratio is calculated by using the following formula which exploits CICS dispatcher statistics:

$$DSGTDT / interval * 100$$

A low ratio is generally desirable but it also depends on application characteristics.

IBM suggests that this ratio should be lower than 50%; this saturation level prevents QR TCB becoming a bottleneck for application performance.

Anyway, as best practice, you should collect measurements to determine the usual range of this ratio for your typical production environment and use these measurements to identify a change from normal behavior.

Quotes



"Do. Or do not. There's no try."
Maestro Yoda - Star Wars

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