Mainframe Optimisation: Reducing Costs

Achieving more with less

Business and IT managers are under constant pressure to reduce costs and show they're delivering best value for money. How do you achieve this without impacting service levels?

Spiralling software costs

The conventional view is that running costs of a mainframe environment are invariably high, whether an outsourcing partner is used or if the equipment is owned and managed in-house. The reality is that relative hardware costs, both processor and storage, have been steadily reducing. Software costs, however, continue to spiral upwards, increasing costs for all. Once locked into a particular vendor or product, keeping a lid on associated costs can start to feel like an impossible task. But it doesn't have to be that way.

Optimising your mainframe environment

By fully understanding how workloads run, it becomes possible to optimise them, minimising the capacity required. Service levels are maintained or improved. If you complete this type of exercise before negotiating new software contracts, it's possible to take full advantage of all capacity-related incentives from both IBM and Independent Software Vendors. This approach works equally well if you are using an outsource partner: minimising capacity requirements leading to measurable monthly savings.

Cost savings of literally millions can be achieved over the duration of a contract

An example of this is RSM experts analysing mainframe processing on behalf of a leading insurance company. Identified optimisation changes in overnight batch workloads reduced capacity requirements by 18%, with a further exercise decreasing the MIPS needed to support Online Day activities by 22%. This significantly reduced the monthly cost of the mainframe service. RSM's optimisation clients typically see total capacity requirements falling 10% to 20% - with similar reductions in associated costs.

FREE INTRODUCTORY SERVICE

An initial evaluation of one physical mainframe environment. If you supply us the system usage statistics and brief details regarding configuration and workloads, RSM optimisation specialists will analyse this information in our labs and give you a report indicating potential savings (MIPS / percentage reductions) that could be achieved during both the online day and overnight - free of charge. Confidentiality is assured.

Simply call **+44 (0) 1527 837767** or email **info@rsmpartners.com** for details

Cost challenges – and practical solutions

While every engagement is different, RSM's lengthy experience, gained from working with hundreds of clients has revealed a number of common issues and concerns, which our Optimisation Service seeks to address:

How can I manage a growing workload without adding more capacity?

Without regular analysis and tuning, workloads tend to grow organically. RSM optimisation experts can investigate and identify where significant capacity savings can be made, driving down costs, while simultaneously improving quality of service.

My ISV software costs are spiralling: what can I do?

ISVs typically charge based upon the size of the logical partition (LPAR) their software is running on. Careful analysis, planning and consolidation means you can optimise the LPAR configuration so only the capacity required is allocated, helping reduce software costs. RSM can also review your software portfolio, identifying opportunities to swap out, consolidate and/or remove tools, as appropriate.

How can I reduce my IBM software costs?

Key IBM software charges are commonly based on a four-hour rolling average of capacity used. By careful workload management and tuning, we aim to minimise the 4HRA and significantly reduce monthly software charges, with a 10% reduction a typical target. We can also help you explore the IBM option to reduce software bills by offloading certain workloads to specially allocated mainframe processors. These incur reduced or no software licensing costs at all.

How can I ensure my mainframe service remains optimal?

Mainframe settings need regular reviews to ensure you're using these expensive resources in optimal ways. RSM can help you maintain a strong and up-to-date Workload Management (WLM) policy. This will assure Quality of Service, allocating resources to best effect and helping you keep a tight grip on the four-hour rolling average (4HRA), as well as associated costs.

How can I reduce outsourced mainframe capacity costs?

An Outsource Partner will typically charge according to capacity used in the "peak hour" of the month. Careful workload management and tuning means we can help you reduce and control peak activity, lowering monthly costs, typically by 10-20%

There's a major business change looming: will our current mainframe capacity cope?

Ensuring you have sufficient mainframe resources in reserve to cope with both the expected and unexpected is vital to ensuring the uninterrupted availability and quality of the business services you're responsible for. RSM capacity planning specialists will help ensure you approach major change events with confidence.

To learn more call **+44 (0) 1527 837767,** email **info@rsmpartners.com** or visit **www.rsmpartners.com**

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