

Metron News Release

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY FOR GLOBAL LOGISTICS COMPANY

24th September 2007, Taunton, Somerset, UK: Metron has undertaken a capacity planning consultancy assignment for a leading global logistics organisation. Working at the company's European offices, Metron's role was to assess potential over sizing of a number of HP servers and to predict when any upgrades would need to be implemented.

The client had taken the decision to rationalise its HP-based global data centres to three locations – Europe, the USA and the Far East. Metron's consultants, using the company's Athene capacity planning product, were commissioned to assess whether the servers for one of the company's core applications was currently over-sized and to predict at what point in the future the hardware resources would become stretched.

Metron's consultants collected data from six HP servers in Europe over a six week period. The data was extensively analysed in order to allow Metron's team to identify one single representative day in which a 'normal workload' would be processed. This day was used for modelling purposes. Data relating to the future growth of the business and hence the predicted impact on the servers was taken primarily from the business growth plan for the system. This indicated that users were planned to increase from their current level of 1,020 to 3,500 by the end of the period, representing a 240% increase. Metron's consultants applied the incremental growth to both the WebLogic and Informix workloads on each of the servers to see how well the planned growth could be supported.

The results of the capacity planning exercise indicated that, in fact, the servers were running at approximately 10% CPU utilisation, and that this would only increase to 30% once the anticipated growth in the number of users had been taken into account. Metron predicted that there would be minimal effect on response times after the growth period. Metron concluded, based on the detailed data from Athene, that the applications were oversized by twenty-four processors. They recommended substantial downsizing and predicted that the hardware would not need to be increased until the number of users on the system exceeded 5,000.

Many organisations have purchased hardware resources in excess of requirements as a form of insurance against hitting capacity thresholds. With Athene, however, one gets the same insurance but without having to spend money that might be better used elsewhere. When more resource is subsequently needed it is then cheaper to purchase due to improvements in price/performance of IT hardware over time. The implications of providing over capacity are significant. For example, if an organisation buys twice as much processing power as it needs a year before it is required (at a cost of several hundreds of thousands of pounds), the 50% power that they should have bought a year later will typically cost them just 70% of the amount they've paid, given the consistent and considerable decrease in hardware prices over time. The use that the money could have been put to – if it had not been spent on over-capacity - also needs to be taken into account. The ability to correctly size servers for specific periods of time results in considerable savings in hardware maintenance, licence fees and system management.

Notes for editors

About Metron Technology Ltd.

Metron Technology was founded in 1986 and is Europe's leading Performance Management and Capacity Planning specialist. At Metron we are committed to continue developing products to provide IT users the maximum benefits at the least cost. We are delivering this by creating automated products that embody an increasing level of intelligence to address the continuing evolution and complexity of hardware environments and software applications.

Metron's Athene performance management software is the most cost-effective product in its class providing fully integrated ITIL-compliant capacity management with automatic performance analysis and reporting for UNIX, Linux, Windows and Mainframe Servers. In Europe Athene is installed for clients such as T-Mobile, WH Smith, O2, Nestle, LloydsTSB, and a number of government agencies. The company works in partnership with leading IT suppliers such as Hewlett Packard, Microsoft Systems, VMware, Computer Associates, IBM, Capgemini, and Oracle. The world's leading outsourcing companies and half the UK's top 100 companies are now using Athene combined with expert ITIL consultancy and training services as a key element of their Service Management and Delivery.

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Paul Shimell (Marketing Director). 01823 259231 paul.shimell@metron.co.uk or
Maggie Templeman (Press Officer). 01494 483674 mtempleman@easynet.co.uk

Metron Technology Ltd | Osborne House | Trull Road | Taunton, TA1 4PX
Phone: 01823 259231 | Fax: 01823 334502