

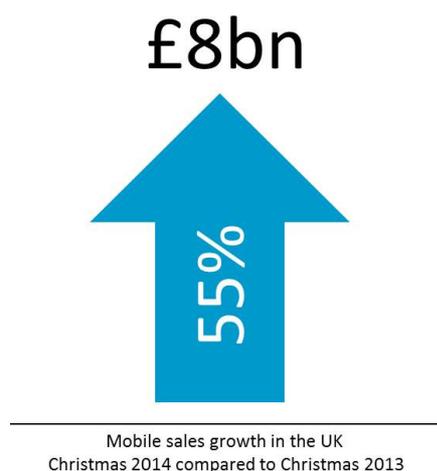
Mainframe Cost Reduction & Mobile Transaction Growth

By Paul Stoker, Director, Triton Consulting Ltd

20 years ago, the Mainframe was the operating system of choice to host applications critical for business operation. And 20 years ago, for the minority of people who had a mobile phone, functionality was limited to, well phone calls (and maybe the Snake game). Even SMS texting was years away for the majority of people. It was early days for the World Wide Web, the first version of Internet Explorer wasn't released until August 1995, and the majority of people had never heard of the internet let alone used it.

Back in 1994 online retail was in its infancy; Amazon and eBay were just starting up. If you wanted to buy something, you would visit the shopping mall or the high street, and the only way to access bank accounts was via a visit to your local branch. So the thought of accessing personal banking information and buying pretty much anything you want, via a mobile phone, was the stuff of science fiction.

Step forward 20 years to today and online retail and management of bank accounts via our mobile phones are common place. And now with more mobile phones on the planet than people, mobile originating retail transactions are expected to increase significantly over the coming years, particularly with the rapid increase in tablet ownership.



40% of UK online retail sales in Q4 2014/15 (November-January) were completed through tablets and smartphones, according to the latest research from IMRG and Capgemini.

25% of mobile sales were completed through smartphones and 75% through tablets.

Sales via smartphones and tablet devices recorded a 55% growth during the 2014 Christmas period compared with the same period in 2013. £8bn was spent via mobiles last Christmas compared to £5.1bn the previous year.*

*Data from IMRG

More Mobile Workload on Mainframe means cost reduction?

“OK I’m with you so far, Mobile transactions are increasing” I hear you say, “but what does this have to do with Mainframe cost reduction?” Well, if your applications servicing mobile transactions are hosted on z/OS then you may be missing out on significant reductions in licence charges. In May 2014 IBM announced MWP (Mobile Workload Pricing) for z/OS, enabling customers utilising CICS, WebSphere, IMS or DB2 for z/OS to reduce cost of mobile transaction growth by mitigating impact of mobile workload on peak capacity related licence charges. Eligible software is also known as Mobile Workload Pricing Defining Programs or MWPDs for short.

Sounds too good to be true? Well there are a few requirements...

- Must have a zEC12, zBC12 or z13 within the mainframe estate
- Implemented Capacity pricing metric of AWLC or AEWLC (Advanced/Entry Workload Licence Charges)
- Be current with supported versions of MWPDPs

If you pass these requirements, then there are a few further actions needed before reductions can be realised

- Replace SCRT (Sub-Capacity Reporting Tool) reporting with MWRT (Mobile Workload Reporting Tool)
- Capture General CPU consumption by Mobile originating transactions, and import into MWRT
- Import of SMF Processor & usage data used for SCRT reporting into MRWT
- Submit MRWT report to IBM on a monthly basis instead of SCRT generated report

So, How does MWRT reduce cost?

"MWRT will calculate the rolling 4-hour average (R4HA) of the reported mobile transaction general purpose processor time consumed by the Mobile Workload Pricing Defining Programs and subtract 60% of those values from the traditional sub-capacity MSUs for all sub-capacity eligible programs running in the same LPAR(s) as the mobile workloads, on an hour-by-hour basis, per LPAR. MWRT will determine the billable MSU peak for a given program on a machine using the adjusted MSU values"

The key to this is a customer generated csv file that reports the Mobile Transaction CPU and is imported to the MWRT tool. Capture of General CPU consumption by Mobile originating transactions, for all eligible MWPDPs, by hour.

Example csv:

```
"Product", "5655-S97", "5655-M15"  
"Date", "2827-0F4D7:SYSE", "2827-0F4D7:SYSG", "2827-0F4D7:SYSH"  
"2014-03-02T00:00:00", 3026, 4103, 229  
"2014-03-02T01:00:00", 1954, 3582, 257  
"2014-03-02T02:00:00", 2444, 3876, 262
```

The CPU seconds reported in the csv file are used to calculate the reduction to the Peak R4HA for the reported LPAR(s). The reduction is seen in the reported MSUs for that LPAR and therefore the associated software running on that LPAR.

The reporting of Mobile Transaction CPU requires these transactions to be flagged, which might involve a Server application identifying mobile transactions sent to the mainframe. Flagging could mean extra information sent within the message, special transaction id's, or special userids...

The generated csv file, along with the SMF 70 and 89 data must be input to the MWRT Tool to obtain the discount.

Your current Mobile Transaction workload running on the mainframe could provide a worthwhile MLC software discount. Moreover, with Mobile Transactions set to grow over the coming years, it's worthwhile investigating how to flag and report Mobile Transaction CPU now and even promote application access to Mainframe data from Mobile devices.

About Triton Consulting

Triton Consulting specialises in Data Management and has been an IBM Premier Business Partner since 1998. Specialising in DB2 for both the mainframe and distributed systems, Triton provides a full range of services from consultancy through to education and 24/7 DB2 support.

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