

EPV User Group 2009 reports

The VII EPV User Group has been held in Rome on 27th October 2009.

About 40 people, belonging to 15 different companies, take part to the conference making it a very interesting and useful day.

Presentations

- Groupama Italia – User Experience
- UGIS – User Experience
- EPV for z/OS V9 - New EPV Products release
- EPV for Unix V8 - New EPV Products release
- WLC & Cost Accounting: old procedures, new challenges - Methodologies
- Capacity Management Issues in 2010 (Part1) - Methodologies
- Capacity Management Issues in 2010 (Part2) - Methodologies

User presentations

Two users discussed EPV implementation at their companies and highlighted some of the benefits provided.

Groupama Italia focused on the high flexibility of EPV for z/OS that allowed them to answer to questions coming from Management:

- Could we integrate another company in our IT ?
- Which additional resources will we need ?
- It will be any impact on our current production applications ?

As always, they had just few days to answer so they had to collect measurements from the new company, create an historical database, analyze them and produce reports. Thanks to EPV they were able to complete all these activities on time. EPV implementation required less than one day.

UGIS presented their experience managing more than 500 Unix systems (most in AIX partitions) by using EPV for UNIX.

"EPV for Unix is now a reference tool both for the analysis of system administrators and for the activities of capacity planning, thanks also to the possibility to be accessed by all the users who have access to the corporate portal."

"With the integration of systems of HVB-IS the product is activated on all the AIX LPARs located in Germany, enabling a global view of the entire AIX environment and part of Sun Solaris environment regardless of their location with a few mouse clicks."

UGIS also discussed how easy it was to implement an installation package in AIX bff format (like all system packages) which includes all the "manual" activities needed to activate EPV data collection on a new system.

Finally they described two "Real events of practical use":

- the migration from P5+ to P6
- a critical application deployment.

In both situations EPV allowed them to manage the upcoming issues and solve them.

New EPV Products release

EPV developers presented the new versions of EPV for z/OS and EPV for Unix.

EPV for z/OS V9 presentation showed the following major enhancements:

- a Management Summary view providing a synthetic manager oriented view of most relevant metrics
- Fast Path functionality providing predefined paths by activity
- a full set of IBM VTS (Hydra) views allowing to analyze the most important metrics by grid, cluster, hnode and vnode

Additional views designed to support the new functions of the most recent z/OS versions such as High Performance FICON, HyperPAV and Group Capacity has been discussed.

New GUI functions to improve product usability and effectiveness such as *customizable combo-box* and *automatic empty views detection* have also been presented.

EPV for Unix V8 presentation showed the following major enhancements:

- A brand new Exceptions vision, including 7 views which are a “must” for an effective control of any UNIX environment
- Multiple benchmark support, the possibility to use different benchmarks on different servers
- A more usable GUI, including all the new functions already designed for EPV for z/OS

The presentation focused on the most relevant Exceptions views which allow an automatic detection of very important events such as:

- Missing Systems; systems not providing performance data and making historical statistics unreliable;
- Suspected Looping Processes; processes wasting CPU resources that, if not detected, could cause an undesired increase of costs when doing Capacity Planning studies;
- Suspected Memory Leaking Processes; processes that don't release storage and, if not detected, could cause system degradation and also system crashes.

Methodologies

As in all editions the User Group includes technical presentations of general interest (not product based).

WLC & Cost Accounting: old procedures, new challenges depicted a very clear picture of Cost Accounting tools and procedures used at most z/OS sites. It also showed how the new technologies released in the last years (such as WLC, zAAP and zIIP) made these tools and procedures obsolete. The aim of the intervention was to highlight how in many cases Companies are still using old methodologies, trying every month to provide explanations to the numbers produced, instead of focusing on the new available ways to reduce software bills.

EPV for Windows data collection discussed the possibility to use WMI to put in place a light and efficient data collection process able to control hundreds or thousands Windows systems. Pros and Cons of agent and agentless data collection has also been discussed. A solution designed to provide input to EPV for Windows (but quite general as approach) and

allowing to implement both agent and agentless data collection using WMI has been presented in detail.

Capacity Management Issues in 2010 (Part1) showed how current mainframe technologies made Capacity Management activities much more complex than in the past. This presentation focused on: zAAP and zIIP contribution to MP effect, Service units instability, z10 capacity variability and expected impacts on Capacity Planning activities due to the new zAAP on zIIP technology.

Invited speaker

DBA Sistemi, distributor of Neon products in Italy, drove the last presentation of the day.

Capacity Management Issues in 2010 (Part2) was in fact dedicated to the zPRIME "issue". Technical elements related to the way zPRIME works and what you have to do to install it has been presented but the most interesting part was the one related to legal and commercial.

- What could IBM do towards Neon ?
- What could IBM do towards customers exploiting zPRIME to shift consistent amount of workload to zAAP and zIIP in order to reduce costs ?
- It will be possible for IBM to change the system code to prevent zPRIME to run ?

These are just some of the questions raised up and discussed during the presentation.

Conclusions

Based on participants feedbacks, it has probably been the best EPV User Group ever. This is the reason why EPV Technologies decided to repropose most of the content in a new event to be held in Milan: the EPV Performance Day.

See more details in this newsletter