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New z800 Targets Mainframe for Mixed Environments and Small Workloads

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With the new eServer z800 0X2, IBM believes it has an ideal configuration for running new applications alongside traditional workloads, providing an optimal environment for mixed workloads. The new 0X2 is designed with two small engines, allowing customers to take advantage of aggressive engine-based pricing for the z/OS.e operating system, while providing the superior manageability and performance of the mainframe environment.

One Size Fits All Not Found Here

There is no doubt that running an application in a mainframe environment has definite benefits. Security and reliability are well-documented, and performance is solid. The architecture provides superior manageability capabilities for data centre needs: clustering and partitioning to the sub-processor level are mature technologies on this platform, and LPARs (as partitioning is known in this universe) have been around for more than fifteen years. IBM has continued to add new operating systems to the platform, including zOS.e and Linux, which allow non-traditional applications to take advantage of mainframe-class computing, and has implemented pricing options that make running mission-critical applications cost-effective as well as safe. In recognition of customers who have smaller workloads that are not justifiable on a larger, higher-cost system, IBM has introduced the 0X2 model, which allows customers to transfer more of their workloads to the mainframe architecture.

The new 0X2 is a two-engine system offering 160 MIPS. This model supports all of the mainframe operating systems, so customers can run traditional workloads on one engine and new applications on a different OS on the other engine. Improved manageability and administration is provided through both clustering and partitioning, as well as through products such as Workload Manager that further optimize system resources. The mainframe architecture offers higher-performance computing when users take advantage of Hipersockets technology. Internal system throughput is noticeably faster between two virtual servers within the mainframe than for two standalone servers residing on a network. Consolidating workloads on this platform can lead to higher performance as well as easier management, which translates to better service levels for organizations. Like other members of the family, it serves as an entry point into the mainframe world. It can be upgraded to any larger model as workloads scale, and larger models can be downgraded to the 0X2 if the IT infrastructure requires it.

The new 0X2 is designed for customers who want to take advantage of mainframe capabilities to reduce the encroaching management and administrative complexity that is a hallmark of much data centre computing today. Users can now consolidate even smaller workloads that used to require very different platforms onto a demonstrably efficient, fast, and reliable system. With the help of IBM pricing, they can do this in a cost-effective manner as well. Mainframe customers who are looking at server consolidation opportunities for mission-critical applications should consider the 0X2 as a base platform for their projects.

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