

IBM Rolls Out New Mainframe

26 February 2008

IBM today announced the System z10 mainframe to help clients create a new enterprise data center. The system z10 is designed from the ground up to help dramatically increase data center efficiency by significantly improving performance and reducing power, cooling costs, and floor space requirements. It offers unmatched levels of security and automates the management and tracking of IT resources to respond to ever-changing business conditions.

In addition to the z10, IBM also announced it has invested \$300 million in architects, technical skills, as well as design and benchmarking centers to help clients transform to a new enterprise data center. Qualified clients can receive free assessment services to prioritize and take action to implement a more efficient, shared and dynamic IT infrastructure.

IBM's next-generation, 64-processor mainframe, which uses Quad-Core technology, is built from the start to be shared, offering greater performance over virtualized x86 servers to support hundreds to hundreds of millions of users.

The z10 also supports a broad range of workloads. In addition to Linux, XML, Java, WebSphere and increased workloads from Service Oriented Architecture implementations, IBM is working with Sun Microsystems and Sine Nomine Associates to pilot the Open Solaris operating system on System z, demonstrating the openness and flexibility of the mainframe.

From a performance standpoint, the new z10 is designed to be up to 50% faster and offers up to 100% performance improvement for CPU intensive jobs compared to its predecessor, the z9, with up to 70% more capacity. The z10 also is the equivalent of nearly 1,500 x86 servers, with up to an 85% smaller footprint, and up to 85% lower energy costs. The new z10 can consolidate x86 software licenses at up to a 30-to-1 ratio.

Hewitt Associates, one of the world's foremost

providers of human resources outsourcing and consulting services, uses z10 mainframes as a cornerstone of its operations. "We've implemented z10 systems in our parallel Sysplex environment, which is running live, mission-critical benefits applications for the world's top employers -- so availability, performance, and reliability are of utmost importance," said Sandee Kotowski, manager of mainframe infrastructure, Hewitt Associates. "The IBM mainframe has been a key part of our IT infrastructure over the years, with clear cost benefits, but this new system takes that value proposition a leap ahead. The capacity and scale of this system changes the economics of the mainframe and is a significant step forward in addressing our constantly evolving technology needs."

Source: IBM

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