



AutoSoftCapping (ASC)

Managing IBM mainframe MLC (Monthly License Charges) using IBM Soft Capping is a largely manual process that can be both challenging and risky. Often, it is difficult to effectively control MLC without suffering either performance capping or increased monthly costs.

When you optimize MLC with DataKinetics soft capping solution AutoSoftCapping (ASC), you can avoid performance capping while reducing your software costs—by 10% or more.

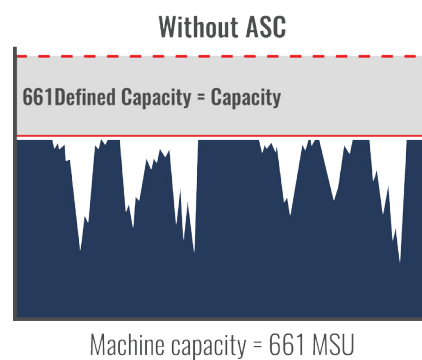
IBM provides powerful cost and pricing control mechanisms to help contain mainframe MLC: sub capacity pricing for z Systems hardware, flexible Advanced Workload License Charges (AWLC) metrics and Country Multiplex Pricing (CMP) / Country Multiplex License Charges (CMLC). These toolsets generate a new set of challenges for the Mainframe Software Asset Manager, ensuring that software costs are optimized while striving to deliver the highest possible Service Level Agreement (SLA) metrics from available hardware resources.

ASC is a systems management solution for IBM z Systems mainframe environments using the AWLC pricing model. With ASC, you enhance IBM Soft Capping flexibility considerably, generating lower costs, improved performance, and increased capacity for new or larger workloads.

Benefits

Take control of your workload license charges With ASC you can control your workload license charges (WLC) by dynamically modifying the LPARs Defined Capacity (DC) limits taking into account the behavior and needs of all your LPARs.

Figure 1 shows a typical scenario when running subcapacity pricing with AWLC. With a given DC, capping will occur when system MSU capacity demand reaches or exceeds the DC limit. This is true even if there is available white space, as shown.



Using ASC, you have far more flexibility. Figure 2 shows how ASC improves on the above scenario. ASC was added to help control the expected increased costs associated with the additional capacity.

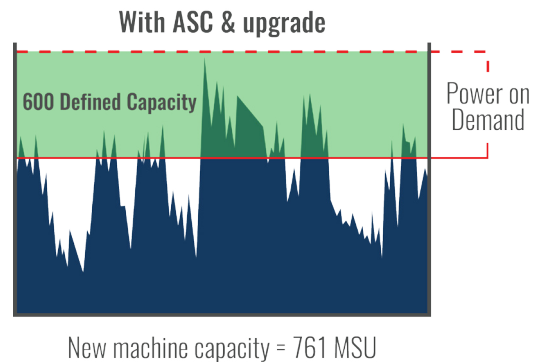


Figure 2 also shows that ASC allows the DC to actually be lowered—extra capacity can now

be borrowed from other LPARs to handle periodic increases in capacity demand. Capacity does not need to be capped, thanks to the ability of ASC to dynamically control the DC, leveraging available white space, and essentially providing power on demand.

The system instantaneous MSU will rise and fall as individual workloads are adjusted by the Workload Manager (WLM), as expected. Additionally, the DC of individual LPARs will be “fine tuned” by ASC, taking into account the capacity needs of all LPARs.

A pre-deployment simulation tool allows DataKinetics to help you to test and accurately predict what your MSU usage results would be within your IT environment based on your selected ASC settings. A comprehensive web reporting tool allows you to visualize activity, monitor your z Systems resources, and help you to more effectively manage your soft capping levels.



Take control of your software costs

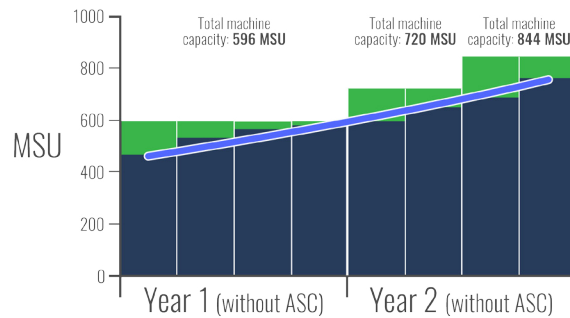
Being able to dispatch additional work on a specific LPAR while operating under the rolling 4-hour average (R4HA) will control your MLC while increasing capacity and throughput for specific needs.

Aside from the benefits of more capacity on demand, ASC has a direct impact on the SCRT which allows you to control software costs. Figure 3 illustrates this. In Scenario #1, a transition from one year to the next shows increased growth in system capacity requirements, with an increase in machine capacity and the corresponding increase in costs. Incremental system upgrades were made to manage increasing costs—both software and hardware costs increase with increased activity.

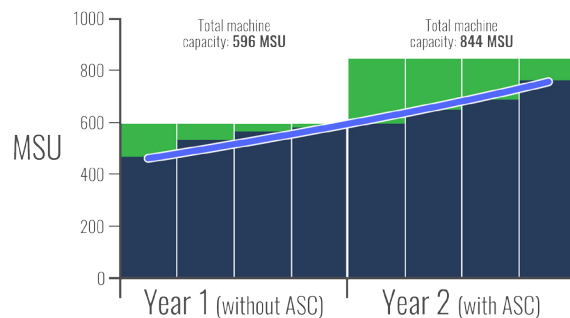
However, Scenario #2 shows a better solution. With ASC introduced, the increase in cost of the hardware upgrade (needed to handle the increased capacity) and the cost of ASC is more than offset by the reduction in software costs. The extra capacity needed is obtained from the available white space, allowing costs to remain flat. In fact, a hardware upgrade was not even needed right away, but clearly would be if growth in demand continued.

Customer results vary, but using ASC in these types of situations can save you 7% to 12% of MSU cost every year. Typically there is a rapid payback of less than 1 year, with a 3-year ROI 100%, which will continue to grow every year.

Scenario #1



Scenario #2



Automation of IBM Soft Capping

Many mainframe operators run IBM Soft Capping, and manually change settings based on their workload needs. Manual interventions are often required several times a day. The challenge is that the expertise needed to do this manual work is rare and expensive. A further challenge is that the process is prone to human error, which can result in large increases in monthly payments.

ASC solves these challenges.

Once installed, these capacity changes can be performed automatically, free from regular manual control, and free from human error. Risk is further mitigated by the ASC simulation capabilities, ensuring proper capacity control operation before deployment.

Audit

ASC has event logging capabilities which help to ensure compliance with Sarbanes-Oxley, as well as SEC and other securities commissions' reporting regulations, where applicable.