Remove the Complexity of Managing Mainframe Application Performance

Modern applications are more complex than ever as mobile and web applications drive increasing transaction volumes. At the same time, a transitioning workforce is resulting in experienced people leaving IT organizations and inexperienced staff taking over application tuning responsibilities. As a result, when performance problems occur, much time is wasted and productivity is lost in war room discussions. What businesses need is a solution that addresses all of these issues. Enter Compuware Strobe.

Strobe, a suite of performance analysis tools including iStrobe and AutoStrobe, is the industry-leading application performance and analysis solution for z/OS-based applications. With Strobe, IT departments can pinpoint application inefficiencies that cause excessive CPU consumption, while reducing hardware and software costs and increasing customer satisfaction.

Enable the Transitioning Workforce

Compuware Strobe helps your IT department overcome the challenges of a transitioning mainframe developer workforce with its easy-to-use, browser-based graphical user interface (GUI). For example, Strobe makes it easy to quickly find the root cause of the performance problem using charts and graphs. Strobe also provides a GUI for taking measurements. This web-based interface enables you to submit measurement requests without having to use the ISPF “green screen.” Even new or non-mainframe developers will feel more at home in this environment.

Strobe also automatically provides detailed recommendations for critical performance improvement opportunities. Strobe assists in your application performance management (APM) efforts by providing “the answer” up front, supplying the precise, in-depth application performance data needed to locate and eliminate sources of excessive resource demand. This built-in intelligence reduces the reliance on human expertise and experience. Support for COBOL 5.1 tuning and WebSphere MQ is now available as well as the major IBM subsystems.

Strobe’s integration with the Compuware Workbench, an Eclipse-based modernized mainframe development environment, means that both experienced and new-to-mainframe staff can initiate Strobe measurements for both active and future application instances from within that environment.

Proactively Determine What and When To Measure

Strobe makes the measurement process predictable and repeatable. You can create reusable measurement requests and schedule them to run at regular intervals. In addition to scheduled measurements, Strobe can proactively initiate a measurement when abnormal behavior occurs in a program. This feature allows your organization to automatically measure and analyze application performance when problems occur, reaping continual benefits with minimal personnel costs. Third-party monitors and other custom applications can also initiate a Strobe measurement using the Strobe application programming interface.

Advisory features within Strobe provide the answers up front.
Reduce Time and Resources Wasted In War Rooms
Organizations spend too much time and expend too many resources in war rooms, where it may take many hours or days to find the root cause of a critical performance problem. The time it takes for teams to find and resolve these issues negatively impacts customer satisfaction and revenue. Strobe quickly and easily pinpoints the root cause of performance problems, even in complex environments with multiple languages, databases or teleprocessing subsystems. A single Strobe performance profile supplies a comprehensive view of mainframe application performance to quickly and accurately put an end to the finger-pointing and guesswork.

Break Down I.T. Barriers and Solve Problems Faster
A lack of collaboration and the manual sharing of information can prolong resolution times and increase application backlogs. Compuware helps solve this age-old issue by uniting the tools used to find problems with those used to fix them. Using Strobe, operations (or QA) teams can quickly pinpoint the root cause of a mainframe application performance problem or exception. Operations will initiate a “fix request” right from their dashboard, which automatically gathers the contextual insights about the issue. The request is sent to the Compuware Workbench where development teams get a jump-start on re-creating, debugging and ultimately fixing the problem.

Measure and Report APM Success
What cannot be measured cannot be improved. Organizations require objective performance data to track and report successful performance tuning. Strobe provides trend and summary reports for all major subsystem components, including batch, CICS, DB2 and IMS. Performance data can be stored in a Microsoft SQL Server, Oracle or DB2 database. Using the Business Intelligence Reporting Tool (BIRT), you can either view the supplied reports or easily craft new custom reports to view data from a variety of perspectives. This lets you follow trends, identify the best areas for tuning efforts, and isolate response time and CPU consumption problems. Strobe also collects SMF data, allowing you to analyze your system’s health.

Reduce Your Monthly Soft Capacity Charges
IT shops that experience peak usage overruns may end up paying a large penalty for the excess CPU consumption. Strobe Insight now includes a rolling four hour average (R4HA) soft capacity peak time report that customers can use to reduce CPU charges. Using SMF data collected throughout the month, Insight identifies the peak period and exactly what was executed during the peak period. Customers can then determine what workload to migrate to another time, as well as which application components to tune using Strobe, thus resulting in lower licensing charges.

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FACT SHEET: **COMPUWARE STROBE**

**Support For Major IBM SubSystems**
Strobe provides support for the major IBM subsystems: CICS, IMS, DB2 and WebSphere MQ. Unique reports for each subsystem are available, so you can quickly locate application inefficiencies and make the necessary improvements. Information from Strobe for CICS, IMS, DB2 and WebSphere MQ applications is fully integrated into a single Strobe performance profile.

This profile gives you a comprehensive understanding of overall application performance, even in complex applications written in multiple languages and using multiple databases and teleprocessing subsystems.

**Implement APM Best Practices**
Even with the best intentions, organizations without a well-defined, iterative APM process are more likely to face risks that jeopardize their businesses. Avoiding the situation requires implementing a proven APM methodology — and Compuware can walk you through the entire process. Compuware has developed a best practices guide, including a Capability Maturity Model, that you can use to jump-start your APM activities. The Best Practices guide is shipped with Strobe and available to all users.

**Compuware’s Mainframe APM Services**
Our Strobe customers are supported by a unique group of Compuware professionals who deliver a variety of APM services, ranging from simple installation assistance to comprehensive performance tuning projects. They are experts in managing APM projects and are industry leaders in z/OS application or system programming, database administration and/or application performance tuning. Contact your Compuware representative for more information regarding Mainframe APM Services.

**Additional Support**
Both experienced and new staff can benefit from videos featuring valuable tips and techniques, as well as hundreds of integrated online Help entries explaining the execution of a particular z/OS system module.

More information is available at: [compuware.com/wbtrainingmods](http://compuware.com/wbtrainingmods)

To learn more about Compuware Strobe, visit: [compuware.com/strobe](http://compuware.com/strobe).

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The Mainframe Software Partner For The Next 50 Years
Compuware empowers the world’s largest companies to excel in the digital economy by fully leveraging their high-value mainframe intellectual property. We do this by delivering highly innovative mainframe application development and performance optimization solutions that uniquely enable IT to drive business value.

[Learn more at Compuware.com](http://compuware.com).

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