

BMC: Delivering Consistent Enterprise Capacity Optimizat

Virtualization and cloud-based computing hit IT and business operations as a massive wave of opportunity to leave behind decades of underutilized capacity on distributed systems, as well as a way to more effectively leverage mainframe capacity. Virtualization was viewed as a way to tap nearly unlimited amounts of previously 'hidden' capacity. Cloud environments provided the opportunity to integrate distributed and mainframe systems to the advantage of both. No more being blind-sided by demand spikes, automated monitoring and provisioning freed IT staff to concentrate on creating new services and solving business service problems that never quite made it to the top of the priority list.



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Then, reality hit. 'Virtual sprawl' previously unknown became a problem in the form of a proliferation of virtualized infrastructure, active and inactive, abandoned and out-of-date virtual systems and even 'operations-lock' as overloaded physical resources disrupted service delivery. Comprehensive management and capacity planning are necessary to control operations and manage capital expenses to fully achieve promised benefits. Licensing, compatibility, compliance, performance, data integrity, etc. - every aspect of system and service management needed to be adapted and applied to these new environments. This came as no surprise to mainframe operators and administrators used to monitoring and managing shared computational power and systems.

BMC has a solid history of providing well thought through and effective capacity management for mainframe, distributed and cloud environments. To date, there are three independent, stand-alone, offerings to the market:

1. BMC Capacity Management for Mainframes – for sophisticated in-depth modeling of the Mainframe platform,
2. BMC Capacity Optimization for Mainframes – combining business aware services, with analytics and reporting of the Mainframe, systems, subsystems and application's key performance indicators, all on a common BCO infrastructure, and
3. BMC Capacity Optimization – delivering for distributed environments the same functions as BCO for Mainframes with the goal of providing a single look and feel for Enterprise-wide capacity optimization.

As IT service delivery and the data center have evolved, the previous, apparently impervious barriers in operations, communications, etc. between the mainframe and distributed computing are falling apart. Today, it is common for mainframe records and files to be accessed by applications running on Smartphones, iPads, etc. Isolated islands of applications and infrastructure are fast being replaced by fluid, interoperating and communicating resource pools.

In response, both enterprise IT and business staff want infrastructure operation and management simplified and integrated. They want to be able to plan and manage any

platform, any application, any service whether it is based on the mainframe, on a distributed server, in the cloud or from a pool of virtualized resources. They want the ability to optimize the capacity available to reliably deliver services across the total collection of resources. They want all the existing capabilities in terms of modeling, what-if and predictive analysis and resource analytics that helped them to get the most from what they had in place. And, they want to be able to do it with their current staff without having to completely retrain them.

BMC decided to repackage and restructure its three products into a package of modular solutions built on an integrated architecture. Each module includes KPIs and best practices that support the implementation of business-aware and oriented capacity management for physical, virtual and cloud-based applications and infrastructure resources. They include automated analytics and capabilities for analysis, forecasting, reporting and planning.

This latest offering by BMC builds on their history of close interaction and communication with customers to identify ways to incrementally improve and enhance their solutions. Once the trend was on feature-function creation – trying to define new extensions to the base product; today the focus has shifted to helping to improve the usability and effectiveness of the tool. The goal is to help the customer get the maximum benefit from the tool and its application in operations. To provide easy and fast access to more efficient operations by fully leveraging and exploiting the data, analysis and reporting to quickly get the information and insight IT needs to assure optimal operations for service delivery. Based on customer reactions and comments, BMC is doing the right things.

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About the Author

Richard Ptak has over 30 years' experience in systems product management working closely with Fortune 50 companies in developing product direction and strategies at a global level. Previously Ptak held positions as senior vice president at Hurwitz Group and D.H. Brown Associates. Earlier in his career he held engineering and marketing management positions with Western Electric's Electronic Switch Manufacturing Division and Digital Equipment Corporation. He is frequently quoted in major business and trade press. Ptak holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of Chicago and a Master of Science in engineering from Kansas State University.