

pSeries Partitioning AIX 101

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<http://www.circle4.com/papers/ubaixpart04.pdf>

Agenda

- Partitioning Concepts
- Hardware
- Software
- Planning
- Hints and Tips
- References

Partitioning Concepts

- Logical Partitions
- Full System Partition
- Affinity Partitions
 - CPU and memory resources are allocated in fixed patterns based on multi-chip module (MCM) boundaries
- Managed Systems
 - Partitions
- Profiles
 - Partition Profiles
 - Info on assigned resources for partitions
 - Activating this activates an LPAR
 - System Profiles
 - Collection of partition profiles to be activated at the same time

Dynamic LPAR

- Add processors to partition
- Move processors between partitions
- Remove processors from a partition
- Add memory to a partition
- Move memory from one partition to another
- Remove memory from a partition
- Add a PCI adapter
- Move a PCI adapter
- Remove a PCI adapter

Reasons to Partition

- Consolidation
- Production and Test on same hardware
- Multiple Operating Systems
- Consolidate Applications on different time zones
- Complying with license agreements

Role of the HMC

- Required to partition any box
- Can use HMC to manage systems
- Provides a console to manage hardware
- Detecting, reporting and storing changes in hardware
- Service focal point (requires Ethernet)
- Vterms to partitions

HMC in an SP Cluster 1600

- Shows CWS the LPAR definitions
- Provides hardware status to CWS
- Manages LPAR definitions
- Connects via rs232 to p690
- Connects via Ethernet to CWS

Notes on the HMC

- Required at all times by p655, p670 and p690 regardless of whether they are partitioned
- On some p670 and p690 it may have been ordered as a feature code (#7315)
- 8 port and 128 port async adapters
 - Only 2 serial ports so get at least one of these
- Can order extra Ethernet card for private network if desired
- Make sure the HMC is regularly backed up

HMC Rules

- Taken from p690 Technical Support Certification Guide
- The HMC provides two integrated serial ports.
 - One serial port required per pSeries server
 - One serial port required for modem attachment if the Service Agent Call-Home function is implemented
- 8- or 128-port asynchronous adapter (FC 2943 or 2944) should be used to extend (maximum of 2).
- The first HMC (FC 7315) that was announced with the p690 supported up to four managed systems.
- pSeries 690 can be attached to two separate HMCs for redundancy.
- The 128-port adapter, in combination with a Remote Asynchronous Node, can be used for a long-distance solution between HMC and a managed system. This will provide distances of up to 1100 feet or 330 meters, while normal RS-232 connections allow up to 15 meters.
- An Ethernet connection between the HMC and each active partition on the partition-capable pSeries server is required.
 - This connection is utilized to provide several system management tasks, such as dynamic logical partitioning to each individual partition, and collection and passing of hardware service events to the HMC from the partition for automatic notification of error conditions to IBM.

Using the 128 port

- Each 7040-W42 (p655 rack) requires 2 x RS-422 connections to the HMC for the BPCs
- Only certain RANs support RS-422 (FC 8138 is one)
- FC 2944 is the 128 port card
- FC 8131 is the 4.5m cable to the RAN
- FC 8133 converts RJ45 to DB25 (can be RS-232 or RS-422)
- FC 8136 is a rack mount 16 port RAN
- FC 8137 is a 16 port RAN
- FC 8121 is the cable
- Using p650 as an example:
 - P650 HMC port is 9 pin
 - 8121 cable is 25 pin each end
 - RAN is RJ45
 - Make sure you do not forget FC 8133 – converts RJ45 to 25 pin

Hardware

Product	Max Procs	Max GB Memory	Max I/O Drawers	Max Partitions
P690	32	1024	8	32
P670	16	256	3	16
P655 651	8	64	1	4
P650 6m2	8	64	8	8
P630 6c4	4	32	2	4
P630 6e4	4	32	0	3

Supported Operating Systems

- AIX 5.2
- Aix 5.1
 - Does not support:
 - Dynamic LPAR
 - Memory Capacity Upgrade on Demand
 - Dynamic Processor Sparing
Dynamic CPU Guard
- Suse Linux, United Linux 1.0, Redhat EL AS3, Turbolinux and Conectiva Linux
- No version of AIX prior to v5 will work
- Check required ML levels for each box
- Check required microcode levels on HMC, pSeries boxes and cards, especially fiber cards

Software

- Make sure HMC and all boxes are at the 10/2002 microcode level
- pSeries Microcode can be found at:
 - <https://techsupport.services.ibm.com/server/nav?fetch=hm>
- HMC Corrective Service can be found at:
 - <https://techsupport.services.ibm.com/server/hmc/corrsvr.html>
- Latest HMC Software version is R3v2.6 as of March 2004
- As of March 2004 HMC maintenance is now a customer responsibility.

Planning

- Each LPAR must have the following
 - 1 processor
 - 256mb memory
 - 1 boot disk
 - 1 adapter to access the disk
 - 1 Ethernet adapter to access the HMC
 - An installation method such as NIM
 - A means of running diagnostics

Memory

- In full system partition mode all memory is allocated to the system
- In LPAR mode some memory is reserved for LPAR use
 - Hypervisor - 256mb
 - TCE (Translation Control Entry) – 256mb to 1gb
 - Used to translate I/O addresses to system memory addresses
 - Always 256mb on a p630
 - Page Table Entries (min 256mb)
 - So overhead for the first 256mb partition is 768mb
- For 2 or more LPARS expect overhead to be at least 2gb memory

Real Mode Address Region (RMO)

- Small Real Mode Address Region
 - Allows you to use managed system memory more efficiently
 - Only valid for Linux and AIX 5.2
 - Avoids the memory boundary constraints
 - AIX 5.1 may not boot if you turn this on
- Large Real Mode Address Region
 - Assigns memory on 256mb, 1gb and 16gb boundaries (contiguous real mode memory)
 - Partition \leq 16gb gets 1gb plus the rest in 256mb increments

Memory

TCE 256mb to 1gb
17gb partition aligned on a 16gb boundary – AIX 5.1
Page Tables (multiples of 256mb)
256mb Hypervisor

48gb boundary

32gb boundary

16gb boundary

More on Memory

- Hypervisor fixed at 256mb at address 0
- TCE (top of memory)
 - I/O and DMA translation
 - P630 – always 256mb
 - P650 - 256mb for first I/O drawers, 512mb if five or more drawers
 - P690 – 256mb to 1gb depending on number of I/O books
 - See Redbooks Tips0357 from January 22, 2004
 - Allocated at partition activation
- Page Tables
 - Allocated at partition activation
 - One per partition
 - $1/64^{\text{th}}$ memory for the partition rounded to n^{**2}
 - 1.5gb partition needs 24mb but rounds to 32mb

P690 Reserved Memory

Total Mem GB	Approx Overhead GB	Approx Usable	Max Part pre 10/02 AIX/Lix	Max Part Post 10/02 AIX 5.1	Max Part Post 10/02 AIX 5.2/Lix
4	.75 to 1	3 to 3.25	3 and 0	13 and 0	13
8	.75 to 1	7 to 7.25	6 and 0	16 and 0	16
16	.75 to 1	15 to 15.25	14 and 0	16 and 0	16
24	1 to 1.25	22.75 to 23	16 and 0	16 and 0	16
32	1 to 1.25	30.75 to 31	16 and 0	16 and 0	16
48	1.25 to 1.75	46.25 to 46.75	16 and 1	16 and 1	16
64	1.5 to 2	62 to 62.5	16 and 2	16 and 2	16
96	2 to 2.5	93.5 to 94	16 and 4	16 and 4	16
128	2.5 to 3.5	124.5 to 125.5	16 and 6	16 and 4	16
192	3.5 to 4.5	187.5 to 188.5	16 and 10	16 and 10	16
256	5 to 6	250 to 251	16 and 14	16 and 14	16

Hints and Tips

- Large Real Mode Regions
 - Start all partitions >16gb before smaller ones
 - If all partitions >16gb then start the largest last
- Minimum of 48gb memory needed to start a >16gb LRM partition

Hints and Tips

- `uname -Ls`
 - Shows: 1 lparname
 - 1 = partition number
 - lparname = partition name
 - See Redpiece to get more information
- Resource Allocation
 - Desired
 - Minimum
 - Keep to bare minimum
 - Maximum
 - Set as high as possible
 - Applies to cpus, memory and I/O devices
- Cannot use graphics console to install
- Consider configuring empty slots into a partition

Hints and Tips

- Which LPAR is your service LPAR?
- How will you do installs
 - Allocate cd?
 - NIM?
- Backup Methodology?
- Create a partition layout in advance
 - Include devices, etc
- I/O devices are allocated at the slot level
- Which planar is in the I/O drawer
 - Affects the number of high-speed adapters
- Boot disks –
 - I/O drawer or 2104, Raid, Fiber
- 32bit kernel versus 64bit kernel
 - 32 bit supports up to 96gb memory
 - Need 64bit kernel to have more than 96gb in an LPAR
 - Need 64bit kernel for more than 16 processors in an LPAR

Configuration Info

5 Ipars - 3 x 4way cpus, 2 x 8way, 3 x I/O drawers

Drawer	Disks	scsi	Gb Fiber	Gb Ether
1	4	2	5	2
2	4	2	5	2
3	2	1	5	1
Totals	10	5	15	5

Partition Map

Lpar	Disk Drw 2 disks	CPUs	scsi Drw	scsi #	Gb Fiber Drw	Gb Fiber #	Gb Ether Drw	Gb Ether #
1	1	4	1	1	2,3	2,1	1	1
2	2	4	2	1	1,3	1,2	2	1
3	3	4	3	1	1,2	2,1	3	1
4	1	8	1	1	1,3	2,1	1	1
5	2	8	2	1	2,3	2,1	2	1

Rperfs

- Consolidation Issues

- Math 101

- 4 workloads

- A 6.03
 - B 2.27
 - C 2.48
 - D 4.87
 - Total = 15.65
 - P650 8way 1.45ghz is 16.88
 - Is it big enough to run these workloads in 4 separate LPARs?
 - NO

Rperfs

- 8w 1.45g p650 is 16.88 rperf
- 2w 1.45g p650 is 4.43 rperf
- So 1w is probably 2.21
- Now back to Math 101

▪ Wkld	Rperf Needed	Processors on p650
▪ A	6.03	3 (6.64)
▪ B	2.27	2 (4.42 - 2.27 is > 2.21)
▪ C	2.48	2 (4.42 - 2.48 is > 2.21)
▪ D	4.87	3 (6.64 - 4.87 is > 4.42)
▪ Total =	15.65	10 (22.12)

- Watch for granularity of workload

LPAR Notes – p650

➤ P650

- Internal disks and CD/DVD are on same scsi controller and assigned together
- Above can be moved using DLPAR
- Can order split backplane to split disks into 2 x 2 and then attach 2nd pair to a separate scsi controller
- Split backplane also provides Ultra320 speed
- P650 requires specific PDUs
 - If purchasing without a rack make sure whoever is configuring it checks the rack PDUs
- Boot disks
 - Use internal or disks in I/O drawer or an external 2104 disk drawer

LPAR Notes – p630

- Following must be assigned to a single partition as a group
 - PCI slots 1 and 2
 - Internal Ethernet 2 (U0.1-P1/E2)
 - Internal SCSI (U0.1-P2/Z1)
 - ISA based I/O (serial, keyboard, mouse)
- Dynamic LPAR cannot be used for those devices
- Parallel ports on a p630 are not supported in partitioned mode

References

- IBM Redbooks
 - The Complete Partitioning Guide for IBM eServer pSeries Servers
 - Configuring p690 in an IBM eServer Cluster 1600
 - pSeries – LPAR Planning Redpiece
 - Logical Partition Security in the IBM eServer pSeries 690
 - LPAR for Decision Makers
 - IBM eServer Certification Study Guide – p690 Technical Support
 - IBM eServer pSeries p670 and p690 System Handbook
 - Effective System Management Using the IBM HMC for pSeries
- Find more on Mainline at:
 - <http://mainline.com/ebrochure>

Questions

