

Platform Analytics

Most comprehensive analysis tool
for HPC environments



Highlights:

- Comprehensive analytics – rich collection of OLAP cubes and reports provides end-to-end visibility for all activities in HPC environments
- Answers on demand – self-service reporting model for analysts, dramatically shortening time to business results
- Optimized for large data volumes – aggregated automatically, daily, over many years for instant analysis availability
- Optimized for ad hoc query – pre-joined tables automatically optimized for millions of potential query combinations with fast, interactive response-time
- Personalized reports – users can personalize their data models and reports for specific analysis needs

Benefits:

- Provide better accountability and visibility to operations
- Establish baseline metrics for a global organization
- Avoid unnecessary costs
- Collapse cycle time by identifying bottlenecks
- Compare benchmarks to identify and share best practices between teams
- Drive organizational efficiency

Ideal for customers who:

- Capacity planners to visualize hardware and software resource usage trends and make informative planning decisions
- Project planners to conduct root-cause analysis to remove bottlenecks and to ensure projects get a fair share of resources
- Business analysts to correlate activities with service levels and account for resource consumption by business groups through chargeback

Flexible analysis tool for HPC environments

Platform Analytics, is a business decision solution for High Performance Computing (HPC) environments. It provides timely, complete, and trustworthy information to support decisions regarding compute hardware resources, software licenses, capacity planning and resource scheduling across multiple sites, for a business-oriented view of enterprise-wide resource infrastructure utilization and performance.

Using OLAP in Platform Analytics

Platform Analytics provides Online Analytical Processing (OLAP) analysis of long-term historical data for project and capacity planning, resource usage accounting and chargeback. Bundled with IBM Cognos Powerplay, Platform Analytics enables business analysts to “slice, dice, and drill” to quickly get to the “why” behind activities in HPC environments without having to understand the underlying data schema and SQL queries.

Managing service levels

Since internal chargeback amounts are governed by SLA measures, improving achievement of target levels of availability is important to the business. To do this, business analysts must have detailed information about what the systems are doing. Platform Analytics gives near instant access to such metrics, so that business analysts can:

- Pin-point root-causes for low availability
- Compare SLA performance among clusters or machines under different team management
- Drill down into specific cause of downtime i.e. type of hardware and OS
- Assess severity of a problem’s impact on business

Finding and removing bottlenecks

In many corporate environments, a number of project teams share cluster resources. To ensure each team gets the best service levels possible and their fair share of resources, project planners must conduct root-cause analysis to understand how the cluster is being used and tracking key metrics that lead to poor project efficiency. With Platform Analytics project managers can:

- Improve project efficiency
- Remove project bottlenecks and reduce wait times
- Ensure fair resource allocation
- Improve capacity planning and avoid unnecessary costs

Optimizing global resources

Platform Analytics gives capacity planners and business analysts a global view of the cluster environment, automating daily data collection, and consolidating it into OLAP cubes. This simplifies measuring how infrastructure investments support higher level business goals, like eliminating IT silos and conducting corporate-wide resource planning, and makes it easier to find opportunities to improve processes, reduce bottlenecks, and find opportunities for resource sharing and consolidation.

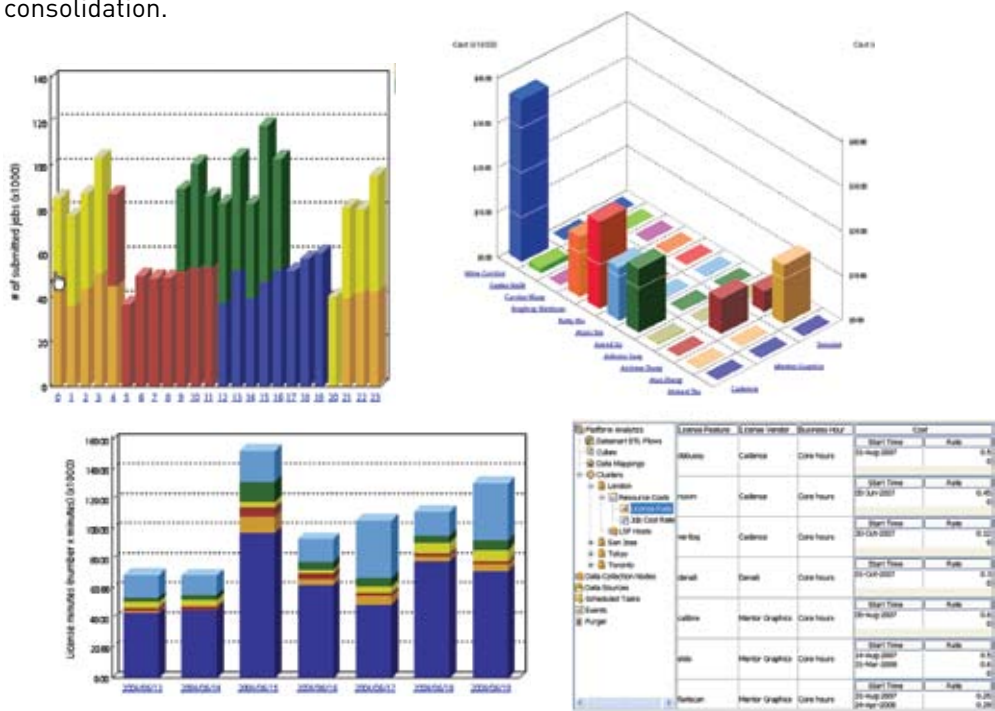
Understanding license usage patterns

Business analysts must accurately account for how licenses are used by HPC jobs down to the individual project and user level in order to identify which project or user consumes the most resources or exhibits abnormal usage patterns. Platform Analytics collects license usage data from FlexLM servers. This allows you to quickly visualize usage and to identify areas for improvement.

Tracking license costs

One way to spread workload to unused capacity, is to assign a lower unit cost for licenses during periods of low utilization. To determine when to offer discounts, and at what cost, business analysts must accurately track license consumption by HPC jobs. Platform Analytics integrates with FlexNet Manager to capture accurate license event data to support:

- License renewal negotiations with vendors
- Justification to business executives for license acquisition
- Chargeback models designed to recover license costs from users
- Incentives to condition more efficient license use



“With Platform Analytics, we have a detailed, enterprise-wide view of IT resource utilization as it relates to individual projects, and therefore corporate objectives. Knowing how our infrastructure is performing over time provides the vital information necessary to add new resources for new projects and maintain maximum efficiency and throughput within acceptable cost limits.”

– Ibrahim “Hoomi” Chadirichi
IT Manager (Engineering), ARM

Examples of easy-to-visualize data presentation



Platform Computing is the leader in cluster, grid and cloud management software - serving more than 2,000 of the world's most demanding organizations for over 17 years. Our workload and resource management solutions deliver IT responsiveness and lower costs for enterprise and HPC applications. Platform has strategic relationships with Cray, Dell™, HP, IBM®, Intel®, Microsoft®, Red Hat®, and SAS®. Visit www.platform.com.

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