



PDM - Rapid File Access

Rapid File Access

Overview

Rapid File Access is an optional component in the Parallel Data Mover (PDM) suite of solutions. It provides high-speed, production quality access to z/OS VSAM and Sequential files from programs running on Linux, UNIX or Windows (LUW) Systems.

LUW programs can call the Rapid File Access Application Programming Interface (API), to sequentially read or write z/OS VSAM or standard sequential files. Additionally, the full range of access options are available for VSAM that provides the same set of record-level keyed access support as provided on z/OS.

A key ingredient of this solution is Alebra's innovative z/OpenGate transport. The z/OpenGate replaces conventional TCP/IP cross-platform communications with high-speed, highly efficient FICON/Fibre Channel connectivity between platforms. The results are higher bandwidths, lower latency and reduced processing overhead as compared to utilizing TCP/IP as your transport.

Benefits

The key benefits of Rapid File Access are the following:

- Fast and efficient access to z/OS data files.
- Adherence to z/OS data security and data integrity features as if the LUW program were actually running on z/OS.
- Production quality I/O response times.
- Scalability to meet high volume and response time critical requirements.
- Low z/OS CPU consumption

These benefits allow customers to deploy large, mission-critical applications on LUW systems that meet response time and throughput requirements in a cost effective manner while adhering to the high security and data integrity standards of z/OS.

Usage

Some of the potential usages of Rapid File Access are the following:

- Host new or modernized applications on LUW platforms while maintaining centralized data stores on z/OS.
- In conjunction with the Micro Focus Server Enterprise Edition, migrate existing z/OS CICS transactions or batch jobs to LUW for lower costs and improved performance.

Performance

For record-level VSAM requests, Rapid File Access will satisfy I/O requests at performance levels approaching native z/OS I/O speeds. In-house tests show that the additional time to satisfy the requests will be typically be within .3 to .5 milliseconds per I/O as compared to native z/OS. For sequential access of files, Rapid File Access will typically complete I/O data transfers to applications programs on LUW faster than if the program ran natively on z/OS. This improvement in I/O speeds is due to the advanced buffering techniques deployed with Rapid File Transfer. In-house studies have shown that up to 50% reduction in total elapsed time of batch workloads are possible.

Restrictions

Data conversion between z/OS and LUW data formats can be provided for files that contain only text data. When files contain numeric fields, the program should perform data conversion.

Summary

The fast and efficient access to z/OS sequential and VSAM files from Linux, UNIX and Windows platforms that Rapid File Access provides gives customers expanded flexibility in using LUW platforms to host large mission-critical applications. Accomplish more, in less time and at a lower cost – a winning combination.

Additional Information

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