



The Benefits of Managed File Transfer

IBM Server *Proven*



Moving a single small file using a file transfer method such as FTP can be simple and straightforward. However, as the volume and size of file transfers grow, the issues of file movement become increasingly more difficult and costly. Typical enterprise environments require the movement of hundreds, if not many thousands of files daily. Many of these data movements may be large, mission-critical or time-sensitive. Using a robust Managed File Transfer product like Alebra's Parallel Data Mover (PDM) has many benefits. Below is an abbreviated list of some of those benefits.

Quality Control

Did all file transfer initiate properly? Did they complete successfully? Did they complete within the required timeframe? Using the status reporting and logging capabilities of PDM, these and other critical questions can be answered quickly and completely. When problems occur, the affected transfers can be quickly identified and resolved. The human effort to perform these activities is dramatically reduced over other file transfer methods.

Resource Management

File transfers consume processor, network and storage resources. Often, the amount of resources is difficult to identify. When the quantity of resources is identified, most customers find them surprisingly large. PDM provides a superior set of tools and facilities that allows large enterprises to:

1. Control the number of concurrent file transfers
2. Activate transfers based on priority queuing
3. Report on resource usage for performance, tuning and capacity planning purposes
4. Dramatically reduce processor and network resources using Alebra's z/OpenGate transport

Audit/Compliance Requirements

Regulatory guidelines such as Sarbanes-Oxley Act (SOX), Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) have impact on compliance audit requirements. The reporting and security features of PDM assist customers in meeting these and other audit and security requirements in a comprehensive and cost-effective manner.

Seamless Integration with Application Workflows

While PDM easily accommodates ad hoc file transfers, the major usage of PDM is typically for transfers associated with recurring business application workflows. To insure seamless integration within a customer's environment, PDM provides the following:

1. Numerous methods to invoke a file transfer including:
 - a. Invocation from an existing jobstream or script
 - b. Invocation from the customer's existing automated operations facility
2. Status and condition code reporting so that subsequent processes can check for successful completion of file transfer operations or invoke error recovery processes
3. The ability to "pipe" data directly to/from programs on all platforms, including z/OS.
4. Facility to start new processes once data transfer is complete

The user may select from this wide range of choices based on their particular need.

Cost Reduction – Return on Investment

All of the benefits mentioned above have either direct or indirect associated cost savings. The metrics and values assigned to these cost savings varies greatly among customers. As an example, a large financial enterprise using the sole metric of mainframe MIPS savings identified almost two million dollars per year in cost by implementing PDM with z/OpenGate transports. While savings may vary, typical savings provide a six month or less return on investment (ROI).

Alebra can assist customers in identifying cost savings and preparing a solid business case for evaluation.

About PDM

Parallel Data Mover™ (PDM) is a server-to-server bulk data access and data movement application with robust client interfaces providing a reliable way to share or transfer large volumes of data with the speed advantages of parallel data streaming technology. Contact Alebra today to discover how PDM can help you move and access your data, faster than ever before.