

When You've Just *Got* to Shrink the Batch Window

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A large utility company in the U.S. saved more than 50 hours in annual CPU time and over 685 hours in annual execution time by focusing on batch tuning.

The company found that their mainframe utilization was steadily increasing, and a CPU upgrade would likely be necessary. To avoid a costly upgrade, management needed to extend the life of their existing hardware by reducing batch utilization. To do this, they looked for a way to quickly and easily identify specific tuning opportunities that would maximize time and resource savings. The company decided to evaluate **SmartProduction**[®], a batch analysis and tuning product, to improve the efficiency of their batch processing and ultimately postpone the need to upgrade. Of key interest to them was **SmartProduction**'s ability to provide concrete, effective tuning solutions for each inefficiency it identified, thereby eliminating the need for the manual analysis usually required in the tuning process.

SmartProduction examines and analyzes job flow and application resource consumption, as opposed to system capacity and system performance. Analysis is performed after the production flow has completed, so it does not add overhead to the existing batch window. Its comprehensive Knowledge Base of more than 350 test cases locates production inefficiencies within application job flow, data sets and utilities. **SmartProduction**'s detailed, menu-driven Global Reports identify specific, significant inefficiencies, and its Good Candidates Reports automatically determine those that have the greatest potential for improvement.

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During the evaluation process, **SmartProduction** uncovered numerous tuning opportunities within the company's environment. “Initially, we took a dataset-focused approach to tuning, concentrating on highly active, high volume data sets,” says the principal analyst at the company. “From the hundreds of tuning suggestions **SmartProduction** provided, I selected a number of key, mission-critical opportunities for savings, to which we applied the recommended changes. From that small sample alone, the ROI far exceeded the cost of the product.” In addition to the 50+ hours in annual CPU time and 685+ hours in annual execution time saved, the company achieved significant improvement in DASD blocking and VSAM buffering, saving 400 million DASD I/Os and 600 million Tape I/Os. The fact that **SmartProduction** helped to so significantly reduce resource consumption and runtime, the primary issues driving the need for a CPU upgrade, justified the purchase.

“**SmartProduction** has been an invaluable cost- and time-saving tool for the company,” says the principal analyst. “It not only provided us with a cost-effective means to identify and correct specific problems in our environment, its detailed recommendations and uncomplicated implementations allowed us to make the required changes very efficiently. Since the recommendations are so straightforward, they are easily directed to the person responsible for making the specific changes.”

The analyst also uses **SmartProduction**'s Trend Analysis Report (which compares two **SmartProduction** data bases from different periods to show the improvement in resource utilization -- “before and after” results) to document successes and show her team how their use of **SmartProduction** dramatically improves their processing.

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SmartProduction continues to play a considerable role in the company’s on-going tuning. “We run reports on a weekly basis, and recommendations are sent to the applications team as part of our regular workload maintenance,” says the analyst. In addition, the support team regularly requests specific reports (such as the A1 report that lists COBOL programs with inefficient compile options), which help them see how newly-introduced applications will impact the workload. “**SmartProduction** helps us monitor changes in our production workload, as it looks for anything new and obvious that is introduced in the system.”