

HP Project and Portfolio Management Center

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Deployment Best Practices Guide

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Contents

1	Introduction	7
	PPM Center Configuration	8
2	Deployment Recommendations	11
	Load Balancing	12
	Configuring PPM Center with a Load Balancer	12
	Server Clustering	13
	Application Server	13
	PPM Server in a Virtualized Environment	14
	Web Tier	15
	External Web Server Configuration	15
	Services Isolation	16
	Background Service Scheduling	17
	Schedule Services Page	17
	PPM Server Memory Management	18
	Garbage Collection	18
	Watchdog Tool	19
	Heap Sizing	20
	Portlet Performance	21
	Workflow Configuration and Performance	24
	Preproduction Performance Testing	25
3	Monitoring PPM Center Performance	27
	Post-Deployment Performance Monitoring	28
	PPM Center Factors to Monitor and Track	29
	Workload Considerations and Capacity Planning	31
	Monitoring and Analysis Tools	32
	PPM Center Monitors	33

Action Monitor	33
Portlet Monitor	33
Server Performance Reports	34
Background Services Monitor.....	34
Services Audit Results Page	34
4 Solution Configurations and Customer Examples	35
Solution Configurations	35
Solution Configuration 1.....	36
Solution Configuration 2.....	38
Solution Configuration 3.....	39
Examples from the Field	41
Customer 1 Example	41
Customer 2 Example	42
Customer 3 Example	43
Index.....	45

1 Introduction

Hewlett-Packard (HP) is committed to helping you deliver optimal performance for your PPM Center implementation. To that end, HP has built a team devoted solely to performance work. That team is call the Performance Center of Excellence (PCoE). To help you get the most out of PPM Center, the PCoE, along with other teams and customers, has compiled a set of recommendations, best practices, and examples, which are described in this document.

The following topics are of particular interest for PPM Center version 8.00:

- Services isolation
- PPM Server configuration and optimization
- Cluster configuration

You can optimized PPM Center performance using many methods. Much of the detailed information about performance tuning and configuration is addressed in depth in the *Installation and Administration Guide*.

PPM Center Configuration

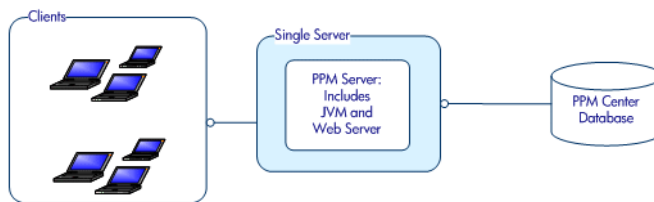
Because PPM Center is extremely flexible, you can configure it to meet the demands of your organization. Your configuration choices can improve user load distribution, transaction capacity, and system performance. The degree of improvement depends on many factors, including available resources.

PPM Center configurations require the following:

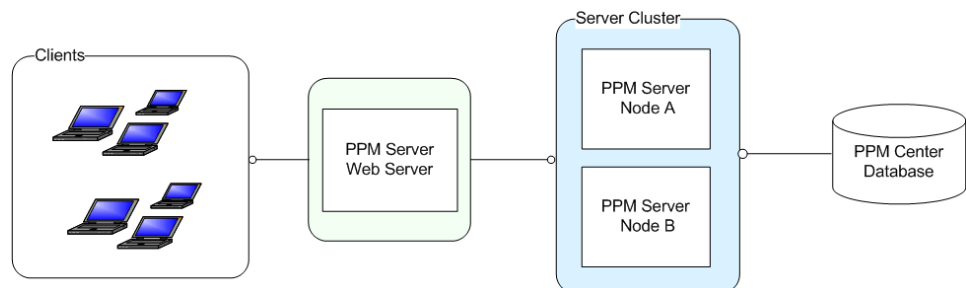
Client	Any number of client browsers
Application Server	One or more middle-tier J2EE servers
Database	A single Oracle relational database

PPM Center can have one of the following basic configurations:

- **Single Server.** One database, one PPM Server and any number of clients.



- **Server Cluster.** One database, multiple PPM Servers, and any number of clients.



With a server cluster, many configurations are possible. You can have one PPM Server manage the user load and another as the Web server. For example, you could have multiple PPM Servers, each on a separate machine, a Web server on a dedicated machine and the Oracle database yet another machine.

The number of machines you use and where you place the various components is up to you and the needs of your company. There are no additional PPM Center licensing charges for using multiple nodes or Web servers.

The following table lists some factors to consider in determining whether to deploy PPM Center as a single-server configuration, or as a server cluster. For guidance in selecting an option, see the *Installation and Administration Guide*.

Priority	Single Server	Server Cluster
Minimal implementation, hardware cost, configuration, and database maintenance	X	
Support 500 or fewer users	X	
Single sign-on support		X
Minimal hardware with some load balancing and failover		X
Mission critical application performance		X
Maximum failover capability		X
Heavy user load		X

In a server cluster, one PPM Server can manage the user load and another can act as the Web server. The program code, reports, execution logs, and attachments files can reside on any of the machines in your PPM Center configuration. The Oracle database stores all other data.

2 Deployment Recommendations

Your deployment options and configuration choices can significantly affect PPM Center performance. HP recommends that you read this chapter and that you set up a test implementation to determine how to best deploy your PPM Center system.

Load Balancing

If more than one node supports user traffic within a PPM Center instance, the incoming PPM Center requests must be load-balanced across the nodes using one of the following:

- **Software Load Balancing** using the Tomcat connector running with a PPM Center compatible external Web server
- **Hardware Load Balancing** using a physical hardware load balancer

You can configure load balancing and server failover features to realize performance gains and improve application availability.

Configuring PPM Center with a Load Balancer

If you have a load balancer that receives https requests and connects to nodes through http requests, then, to enable the nodes to correctly perform redirects, you must edit the `server.xml` file.

To edit the `server.xml` file:

1. Open the `server.xml` file, which is located in the `<PPM_Home>/conf/jboss` directory.
2. Edit the file content as follows:

```
<Connector ...>
<!-- assuming users connect to the proxy via https -->
<xsl:attribute name="scheme">https</xsl:attribute>
<xsl:attribute name="proxyName">proxyname.domain.com
  </xsl:attribute>
<!-- assuming users connect to the proxy over port 443 -->
<xsl:attribute name="proxyPort">443</xsl:attribute>
</Connector>
```



One of the attributes is named “scheme,” and not “proxyScheme.” The JBoss Connector listens for https or http based on the secure attribute. If you leave the secure attribute untouched, this configuration works well.

Keep in mind that this scenario assumes that PPM Server nodes receive no direct requests. All requests must come through the load balancer.

Server Clustering

If you must choose between hardware and Web-tier clustering, choose in the following order of preference:

1. Hardware clustering of the application tier
2. Web-tier clustering

To ensure greater availability and stability of the application tier, you can combine PPM Server clustering and hardware clustering.

Application Server

HP recommends the following for PPM Servers:

- Processors equivalent to current generation 2.66-3.00 GHz Intel® Xeon® multi-core processors (dual-core or quad-core).
- Minimum of 2 CPU cores per host to best support multi-threaded nature of PPM Center
- JVM heap size of 1280 MB. (This is the default.) Under heavy load, a JVM running with a 1280-MB heap consumes upward of 1500 MB, including native area code.
- Provision hardware to support 1.5 GB of RAM for each PPM Center node in a server cluster.
- If clients access PPM Center over a wide area network (WAN), enable both dynamic asset compression and keepalive on the external Web server.

PPM Server in a Virtualized Environment

When deploying PPM Server in a certified virtual server environment, the following performance best practices apply:

- Set the memory (RAM) and CPU entitlement for the virtual machine as recommended in the production sizing guidelines. Provide the same memory (RAM) and CPU entitlement that you would if you were to deploy PPM Center on a physical host.
- Ideally, provide enough CPU and memory at the physical host layer to meet the full entitlement as exposed to the consolidated virtual machines.

PPM Center is an enterprise application that runs inside Java Virtual Machines (JVMs). JVM memory management performance is optimized when the Java heap setting is maintained at a constant value (`-Xms = -Xmx`). This prevents unnecessary full garbage collection cycles, which require that you resize the overall heap and associated memory subregions.

JVM object management ergonomics assume that all heap memory is loaded in physical memory, although this is mapped as virtual memory at the operating system level, actively utilizing the entire heap address space. Performance is optimized when the entire heap can remain in physical memory. For virtualized environments, this requires that enough physical memory is available to prevent excessive paging on the supported virtual machines.

Web Tier

If you use the internal Web server provided with PPM Center, there is no need to configure it. However, if you must use an external Web server because of firewall requirements, single sign-on (SSO), or Web tier clustering, then follow the configuration recommendations described in *External Web Server Configuration* on page 15.

If redundancy is required at the Web tier, then you must use a hardware or software load balancer to distribute incoming traffic. You can use a hardware load balancer in the absence of a separate PPM Center Web tier if SSO or other requirements do necessitate the Web server.

External Web Server Configuration

If your PPM Center deployment includes an external Web server, then you must use the following optimizations:

- Enable dynamic content compression on the Web server

For example, on Apache, enable the `mod_deflate` module. On Microsoft Internet Information Services (IIS), enable native compression. For detailed information, see the *Installation and Administration Guide*.

- Enable cache-control headers

For example:

```
<% Response.CacheControl="public" %>
```

- Enable keepalive

Some Web servers disable keepalive. For example, Apache `mod_ssl` (HTTPS) disables keepalive for Microsoft Internet Explorer by default. If you are running Apache and `mod_ssl` to provide HTTPS support, you must make sure that keepalive is enabled.

- Disable cache-control header interference

For example, on Apache, enable `mod_expires`.

Services Isolation

For medium-to-large PPM Center deployments, HP recommends that you devote at least one PPM Center node in your server cluster to process PPM Center background services.

Dedicating one PPM Center node to your services enables you to do the following:

- Minimize the effect that running PPM Center services has on users
- Better monitor the performance of the services

The more you monitor and understand how your services affect performance, the better you can tune them.

PPM Center services are shipped with default settings that may not be ideal for your particular implementation. HP recommends that you test various combinations of settings, as needed, to determine what is best for your implementation.

The number and type of PPM Center services running may be more than you need. The need to run a given service is based on how well the functionality of that service meets business needs. Among required services, some might be running more often than is necessary, while other services might not be running as frequently as the business requires.

Determine the number and frequency of individual services that you select for execution based on you organization's needs. The goal is to execute services at an appropriate frequency to provide timely delivery of the underlying application that the service provides. To reduce load on the system, avoid scheduling services to run more frequently than necessary.

For optimal PPM Center performance:

For PPM Servers devoted to	Action to take
Services	Enable and schedule your PPM Center services.
User traffic	Disable the PPM Center services.

Background Service Scheduling

PPM Center background services are classified as belonging to either the *heavy* or *light* workload category. For a PPM Center node running background services, a preconfigured level of concurrency is maintained for heavy and light services. This approach to workload distribution reduces the impact of concurrently running services that demand significant system resources.

After you deploy PPM Center, you can reconfigure the level of concurrency for heavy and light services. HP recommends that, after you first deploy PPM Center, you use the default services concurrency configuration, and adjust up or down thereafter to better address the business needs and performance objectives for your environment.



Before you increase service concurrency or allocate additional nodes to handle background processing, verify that PPM Center services are successfully processing data. Exceptions in processing the data backlog can result in unexpected performance issues.

Schedule Services Page

The Schedule Services page, which you access from the PPM Center standard interface, lists all of the available services, whether the service is enabled, the type of expression used to schedule the service, and the current run schedule. From the Schedule Services page, you can enable, disable, and schedule the execution of PPM Center background services without having to restart your PPM Server node processing services.

For recommendations for running PPM Center background services and instructions on how to open and use the Schedule Services page, see the *Installation and Administration Guide*.

PPM Server Memory Management

A node in a PPM Center server cluster runs in the context of a single Java Virtual Machine (JVM). HP recommends that you use a server cluster configuration, with multiple nodes, to improve reliability and performance.

Using multiple nodes in your configuration enables you to do the following:

- Support increased user load
- Improve capacity
- Maintain and provide acceptable performance

You can increase the capacity of a PPM Center instance by adding more PPM Center nodes. To meet the availability needs of the organization, you can distribute these nodes in the PPM Center cluster across one or more physical hosts.

Garbage Collection

Garbage collection reclaims memory used by objects that PPM Center no longer accesses. Garbage collection uses the following methods to release memory from the Java heap:

Method	Characteristics
Scavenge (Copying)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fast.• Releases application objects that have a short life span (for example, objects that are created and dereferenced within minutes).
Full	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Longer.• Release all dereferenced application objects.• Can affect application performance, because all application activity is stopped during the garbage collection.

Garbage collection can add overhead that affects performance. To determine if and how garbage collection is affecting your PPM Center implementation, review your `gc.log` files.

To modify and tune garbage collection:

- Distribute users across multiple PPM Servers
- Modify heap size by allocating more memory

Watchdog Tool

PPM Center provides a stand-alone tool named Watchdog, which monitors the memory space through the GC log that the PPM Server generates. If the memory used after garbage collection is greater than a set threshold value, the Watchdog issues a command to generate a thread dump, and the thread dump is captured in the server log. You can configure the Watchdog tool to send out email notifications about this event.

HP recommends that you enable Watchdog as a diagnostic tool only if memory issues are surfacing in your PPM Center instance. For detailed information about the Watchdog, including instructions on how to use it, see the *Installation and Administration Guide*.



Watchdog is not supported on AIX operating systems.

Heap Sizing

Heap sizing is another factor that, together with garbage collection and memory usage, influences PPM Center performance. You can tune heap usage to reduce the number of full garbage collection events that occur during any given time period. In most cases, however, the gains realized are not sufficient to justify the effort required to do this.

Full garbage collections are a normal, regularly-occurring JVM event and are not in and of themselves indicative of a performance problem. If you suspect that full garbage collection events are taking too much time, then investigate the issue and resolve it, if necessary.

To control how frequently full garbage collection occurs, maintain a static amount of memory capacity on the heap for a given workload. Make sure that the amount of memory you allocate to the heap is sufficient to avoid a series of closely-spaced full garbage collections. (This requires regular monitoring of memory usage on the JVM.) Distribute users across additional PPM Servers or increase the amount allocated to heap, as necessary.



Memory management by JVMs is multifaceted. HP recommends that you become familiar with Sun's Java site, particularly with the garbage collection topics.

The amount of memory allocated to the heap by default for a PPM Server is defined in application configuration files.

PPM Center provides components that you can use to configure your Java process memory settings. HP recommends starting with the following settings:

Component	Setting
Heap	1280 MB or more
Perm space (permanent generation heap)	256 MB

You can increase or decrease these settings to suit your needs. Because memory settings depend on the application server platform and available physical memory on the machine, HP recommends that you test the settings in your system to see what provides the best performance for you.

For example, if you have a single PPM Center application on a Windows server that has at least 2 GB of free RAM available for PPM Center, then use the following settings:

```
com.kintana.core.server.SERVER_MAX_HEAP_SIZE=1280m  
com.kintana.core.server.SERVER_INIT_HEAP_SIZE=1280m  
com.kintana.core.server.SERVER_MAX_PERM_SIZE=256m
```

To scale PPM Center as you add users and load to your system, configure server clusters and introduce additional PPM Center nodes (instead of simply increasing the heap size).



For detailed information about heap sizing and adding nodes to a server cluster, see the *Installation and Administration Guide*.

Portlet Performance

The load time for portlets on PPM Dashboard pages can affect the system performance for other users logged on to PPM Center. To significantly improve PPM Center performance, do the following:

- To avoid queries that degrade performance, add mandatory portlet filters.



For instructions on how to set portlet filters, see the *Getting Started* document.

- Multiple portlets are loaded concurrently on PPM Dashboard pages, with multiple threads within a PPM Center node asynchronously fetching portlet data. PPM Dashboard that consist of many portlets, or portlets that take a long time to execute, can place heavy demands on the application-managed database connection pool. This can result from the database-heavy nature of many portlets.

You can use the `Portlet-Thread-Batch-Size` server configuration parameter to restrict the demand that any single user session can place on a connection pool. This setting limits the number of portlets that can be loaded concurrently on any single PPM Dashboard page. The default setting is 4. HP recommends that, for most deployments, you retain the default setting and adjust it up or down only if performance indicates that

the adjustment would benefit PPM Center users and at the same time prevent excessive connection pool demand (saturation).

If users report unacceptable PPM Dashboard loading times, HP recommends that you investigate the performance of the associated portlets before you modify the `Portlet-Thread-Batch-Size` parameter. Often, you can improve portlet performance by applying appropriate filters to portlets.

For instructions on how to apply filters to portlets, see the document *Getting Started*. For instructions on how to set the `Portlet-Thread-Batch-Size` parameter, see the *Installation and Administration Guide*.

- Make sure that any custom portlets you develop can return information in eight seconds or less (with the use of portlet filters) and that the result set consists of fewer than 100 rows.
- Set the PPM Dashboard auto-refresh frequency to 60 minutes (30 minutes minimum).
- Test the SQL and response time with large data sets.
- Test the performance of all of your important and complex portlets. Include testing the execution plans for any custom portlets with different filter field combinations.



For information on how to monitor and track portlet performance, see [Portlet Monitor on page 33](#) and the *Installation and Administration Guide*.

- Avoid custom portlets that use several sequential SQL*Plus calls.

Every SQL*Plus call requires a new database connection. Consider combining calls into a database function or procedure to limit the number of connections required. Connections that PPM Center establishes and stores in the connection pool are not used.

- Leverage materialized views for custom portlets with complex SQL queries.

Materialized views can cause overhead on the database if used improperly. Pay special attention to the following:

- Time required to refresh the portlet
- Refresh interval
- Whether the requirement really calls for a materialized view

To determine the trade-offs and requirements of materialized views, consult your DBA.

- If you must increase the maximum number of rows displayed in PPM Center portlets, make sure that you understand the performance impact of doing so. The server configuration parameter `MAX_ROW_NUM`, which determines the default maximum number of rows, is a system-wide parameter. The default value is 200. HP recommends that you increase its value incrementally, 50 rows at a time.



For information about how to modify PPM Center server configuration parameters, see the *Installation and Administration Guide*.

If your portlet does not meet the suggested recommendations, develop a custom report.

Workflow Configuration and Performance

Table 2-1 lists the practices that HP recommends you avoid as you configure the workflows for the requests, packages and deployments, in PPM Center.

Table 2-1. What not to include in PPM Center workflows

Avoid	Description
Tight loops	Tight loops of execution steps can be executed faster than backend processing occurs. For example, if the loop depends on a backend update, the backend update may not have occurred before the loop is executed again.
Transitions back to the workflow step itself, resulting in infinite loops	For example, "Failed" results are often used as a transition to loop back to the execution itself. Such a loop can cause indefinite processing, thereby slowing the entire system.
Unnecessary execution steps	Unless step-by-step commits are required, combine execution steps into one database function or procedure. Too many execution steps can degrade workflow performance.

If you require custom functions or procedures, use autonomous transactions, or use built-in special commands in an execution step.

Preproduction Performance Testing

Make sure that you thoroughly test your PPM Center system before you make it available to users. Design your tests to exercise the most frequently performed tasks and the most frequently used portlets and filters.

Load testing is the most important preproduction testing to perform, and the best way to predict the PPM Center system performance.

Make sure that your load testing simulates all of the following conditions:

- Multiple users accessing the PPM Center user nodes concurrently
- Simultaneous processing of large volumes of user input, such as might occur with time-sheet entry on the last day of a pay period
- Running multiple application functions based on the functional areas you plan to implement
- Retrieving large data sets

Because data sets vary (in terms of both entity volumes and characteristics) across most production deployments, you cannot always predict performance.

- Hardware and configuration you plan to use for production

Testing under low-user, and even single-user, load can also be a good way to predict application performance for key operations. Single-user preproduction performance testing can have minimal effect on time lines and can be incorporated into the user acceptance test cycle or other preproduction tasks.

Critical use cases are also an important part of preproduction testing. HP recommends that you test actions that users perform frequently and that must perform acceptably for users to successfully complete their work. For example, if you implement HP Time Management, users must be able to log their time sheets efficiently with acceptable response times.

During functional or user-acceptance testing, make sure that all poor performance areas, no matter how trivial they seem, are investigated to avoid performance issues at production launch. It is always worthwhile to investigate performance concerns. Depending on the concern, you may choose to test the issue again in a staged version of your production environment or in a separate single-user load system.

3 Monitoring PPM Center Performance

This chapter addresses areas that to routinely monitor for optimal performance of PPM Center. The chapter also provides some guidance on tools that can help you monitor and analyze for PPM Center system on an ongoing basis.

Post-Deployment Performance Monitoring

It is important to monitor the following for PPM Center:

- CPU usage
- Memory usage, especially on PPM Servers
- Input/output (network and disk)

Monitoring physical system resource metrics over time can provide you with a view of available system capacity.

To accurately estimate the capacity of the PPM Server node to support the necessary workload, monitor metrics for memory usage. As PPM Center workload characteristics change over time, it is important to monitor memory usage on the PPM Servers to determine when basic memory demand increases. As a full garbage collection activity approaches a threshold that might compromise application performance, modify the PPM Server configuration s to support the new demands.

Because every system is unique, it is important that you monitor and trend memory usage for your system. HP recommends that you evaluate memory usage data collected over seven or more consecutive days. Periods of peak workload tend to have the highest memory demands on the heap.

PPM Center Factors to Monitor and Track

HP strongly recommends that you manage performance regularly and proactively so that you can identify areas of poor performance before they become issues for your users. At a minimum, to understand usage patterns and characterize concurrent load during peak hours, monitor and track the items listed in the following table.

Items to monitor	Suggested method
Monitor heap memory usage	JVM verbose garbage collection
Workload and response times	Web log analysis
SQL characteristics (buffers, CPU)	Database reports
Background service execution times	Services performance threshold monitoring framework

For example, suppose your PPM Center system has 8,000 user accounts, but only 600 to 800 users are logged on to the system concurrently at any given time. By monitoring the patterns of your user community, you can tune the system to meet user needs.

For the PPM Center database, monitor the following:

- Baseline CPU usage
- Logical I/O per second, which can indicate whether runaway queries exist
- Background services. Use the background services monitor (see [Background Services Monitor on page 34](#)).



For recommended database setup, see the *Installation and Administration Guide*.

For the PPM Center application tier, monitor the following:

- System metrics, including:
 - CPU
 - System memory demand (for example, paging or swapping rates)
 - Disk I/O rate
- Heap size
- Thread pool
- Connection pools. Each PPM Server has a distinct set of connection pools. The overall connection demand against the database is the sum of active connections across all nodes in the server cluster. If HP document management is enabled on your system, you can create additional database connections outside of a node's connection pools.

Workload Considerations and Capacity Planning

To determine your present and future workload and system capacity needs, consider the following:

- Existing and forecasted workload characteristics for at least a three-year time span
- Distribution of transactions by type and over time
- Different workload classes affect sizing
- Session duration and characteristics differ significantly among classes

Make sure that you allow enough room in all areas of your PPM Center configuration for future growth. If possible, create a system that can meet the needs of your organization three years from now.

The memory capacity made available on the heap for a set of PPM Center application users can be controlled by increasing the:

- Amount of memory allocated to the heap
- Number of nodes in the server cluster that support user workload

Because of per-process memory allocation limits on most operating systems, there is a limit to which you can increase the size of the heap. The preferred way to grow PPM Center capacity on the application tier is to add nodes to a server cluster.

Monitoring and Analysis Tools

Many tools and methods are available for monitoring PPM Center performance. The following tools for monitoring and analyzing the behavior of your systems are available from HP:

- HP Diagnostics Probe
Ships with PPM Center and helps monitor transient data.
- HP Sitescope
Provides system resource profiling and enables you to configure alerts.
- HP Business Availability Center (BAC)
Provides remote performance monitoring capability and enables end-to-end transaction monitoring.

Many tools are available for monitoring database performance. HP recommends that you analyze and fully understand your organization's specific needs in selecting a database performance monitoring tool.

PPM Center Monitors

PPM Center provides configurable monitors that you can use to capture information about UI activities (mainly URL requests), background service runs, and portlet activity on the PPM Server.

Action Monitor

The action monitor tracks activity in the PPM Center standard interface. You control the action monitor using two server configuration parameters: the `ENABLE_UI_MONITOR` parameter turns the monitor on (the default), and the `UI_MONITOR_THRESHOLD` parameter controls the threshold value of the action monitor.

For details on how to set the action monitor parameters, view monitor information in real time, access the log file that the monitor generates, and create a report on action monitor activity, see the *Installation and Administration Guide*.

Portlet Monitor

You can use the portlet monitor to track the load time of PPM Center portlets and help determine the impact of portlet activity on system performance. You control the portlet monitor using two server configuration parameters: the `ENABLE_PORTLET_MONITOR` parameter turns the monitor on (the default), and the `PORTLET_MONITOR_THRESHOLD` parameter controls the monitor threshold value (set in milliseconds).

For details on how to set the portlet monitor parameters, view monitor information in real time, access the log file that the monitor generates, and create a report on portlet monitor activity, see the *Installation and Administration Guide*.

Server Performance Reports

You can create server performance reports that are based on action monitoring and portlet monitoring results. To do this, you first create a report type, and then create reports of that type from the PPM Center standard interface. For instructions on how to perform these tasks, see the *Installation and Administration Guide*.

Background Services Monitor

You can use the PPM Center background services monitor to isolate performance issues related to background services execution. You control this monitor using two server configuration parameters: the `ENABLE_BACKGROUND_SERVICE_MONITOR` turns the monitor on (the default), and the `BACKGROUND_SERVICE_MONITOR_THRESHOLD` parameter controls its threshold value (in milliseconds). If the runtime of a background service exceeds the threshold value, this is recorded in the `thresholdLog.txt` file.

For details on how to set the background services monitor parameters, view monitor information in real time, and access the log file that the monitor generates, see the *Installation and Administration Guide*.

Services Audit Results Page

The Services Audit Results page in the PPM Center standard interface enables you to get a quick overview of background Services activity on your PPM Servers. This page shows you which background services are enabled or disabled, which are running, and the scheduling details for each service. For instructions on how to access the Services Audit Results page, see the *Installation and Administration Guide*.

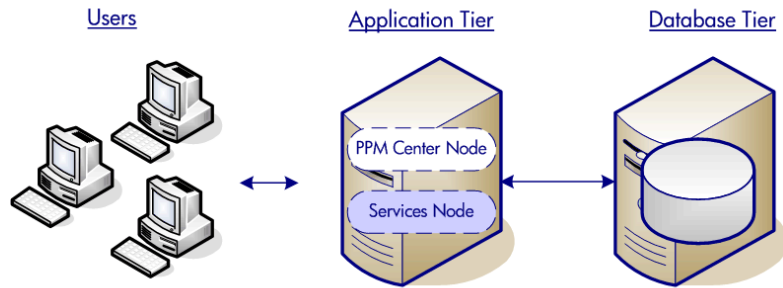
4 Solution Configurations and Customer Examples

Solution Configurations

The solution configurations described in this chapter progressively build on each other in size and complexity. This trend reflects the approach that PPM Center customers have adopted. The idea is to start small, and then grow as project goals are achieved. With each milestone passed, the project is expanded and deployed to larger and more diverse groups of users throughout the enterprise.

Solution Configuration 1

Solution Configuration 1, which is shown in the following figure, was designed to minimize investment at all levels. It involves minimal application clustering, low hardware cost, and no load balancing.



Solution Configuration 1 has the following features:

- Two physical servers
 - One for the application tier
 - One for the database tier
- Uses the built-in Jboss Tomcat Web engine to manage Web traffic
- No external Web server
- One node dedicated to handling user traffic
- One node dedicated to handling PPM Center services
- Application tier configured to support service failover
- 6 to 8 GB RAM for the application tier (recommended)

This may be the ideal configuration for small implementations (with fewer than 500 users) or for implementations with limited database and system administration support.

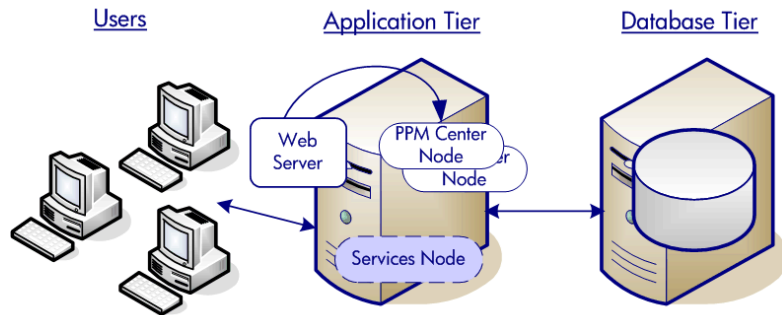
Solution Configuration 1 is ideal if your project must meet the following criteria:

- Minimum hardware cost
- Minimum configuration and administration
- User traffic is separated from services run by PPM Center
- Failover capability for user traffic is not a primary concern at the server level
- Single sign-on (SSO) support is not required

Solution Configuration 2

Solution Configuration 2, which is illustrated in the following figure, builds on Solution Configuration 1. It includes an external Web server, and an additional node dedicated to user traffic.

This configuration represents a moderate investment. There is minimal application clustering, low hardware cost, and no load balancing.



Solution Configuration 2 has the following features:

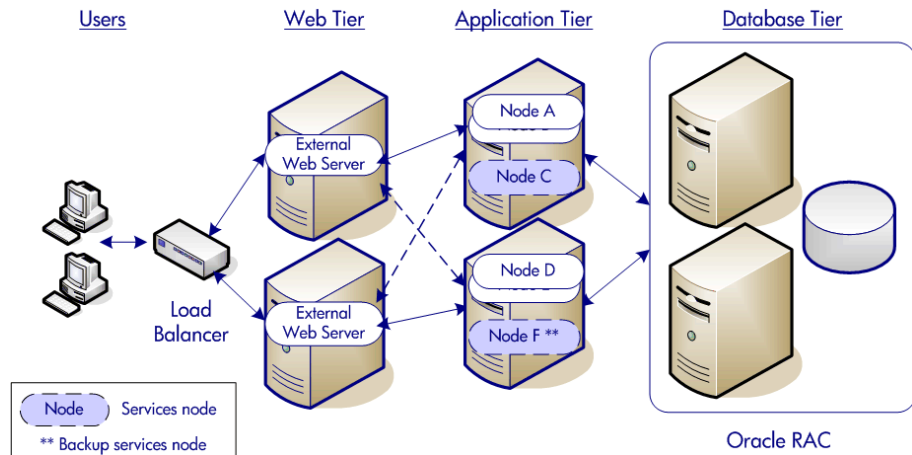
- Two physical servers
 - One for the application tier
 - One for the database tier
- External Web server sits on same host as the PPM Center nodes
- Two nodes dedicated to handling user traffic and provide failover
- One node dedicated to handling PPM Center services
- 10 to 12 GB RAM for the application tier (recommended)

Solution Configuration 2 is ideal if your project must have the following:

- Single sign-on support
- Application level failover and load balancing

Solution Configuration 3

Solution Configuration 3, which is shown in the following figure, builds on Solution Configuration 2. This is a mission-critical server cluster configuration that includes clustered application hosts and an external Web tier.



Solution Configuration 3 has the following features:

- Six physical servers:
 - Two for the Web tier
 - Two for the application tier
 - Two for the database tier
- Two external Web servers, which reside on separate hosts
- User traffic distributed across physical hosts and nodes
- Two nodes dedicated to handling PPM Center services
- Application nodes configured in a server cluster support service failover
- Oracle RAC implemented to provide database failover support
- 10 to 12 GB RAM for each application server (recommended)

Solution Configuration 3 is ideal if your project must have the following:

- Continuous application availability with minimized system outages
- Single sign-on support
- Need for future growth

Examples from the Field

This section includes examples that illustrate what has worked well for three separate PPM Center customers. If your implementation matches one of the examples, you may be able to make adjustments to your project to match. Or, you can use the examples to gain a broader understanding of the variety of issues that can potentially affect your project.

Customer 1 Example

Customer 1 expects to have PPM Center 16,000 users, with the potential for over 9,200 concurrent users across the system. Customer 1 predicts the highest concurrent usage to be 7,000 users attempting to log time sheets within a four-hour period.

Customer 1 plans to implement the following PPM Center modules:

- HP Demand Management
- HP Portfolio Management
- HP Program Management
- HP Project Management
- HP Time Management
- HP Deployment Management

All hardware in the configuration uses Intel Xeon processors running Linux 2.1. The database server has four CPUs. A hardware load balancer manages Web traffic. The application server tier consists of two machines, each of which has the following:

- Four CPUs
- Apache Web Server or PPM Server

Customer 2 Example

Customer 2 expects to have 500 PPM Center users, and estimates peak usage at 80,000 requests logged per month.

Customer 2 plans to implement the following PPM Center modules:

- HP Demand Management
- HP Program Management
- HP Project Management
- HP Time Management

All hardware in the configuration uses HP with DL380 and DL580 processors running Windows 2003 Server.

The application server tier consists of two machines, each with 2 CPUs.

The database layer is consists of three machines, each with the following:

- 4 CPUs
- 8 GB

The Web tier makes use of a IIS Web Server.

Customer 3 Example

Customer expects 15,000 users with the highest concurrent user load at 500 users. The customer also expects that the system will need to be able to accommodate:

- Over 15,000 time sheet entries per week
- 2,000 active projects
- 3,000 inactive projects

Plans are to implement the following modules:

- Project Management
- Time Management

The PPM Center application tier uses two HP 4640 machines with four CPUs running on 32 GB of RAM each.

The configuration includes two Integrity 8640 Itanium 2 database servers, each with sixteen 32-GB CPUs running Oracle 10g with RAC to provide full failover capability.

A hardware load balancer manages Web traffic and the Web tier uses four IIS VmWareESX images.

Index

A

- Action Monitor
 - monitoring PPM Center UI activity, [33](#)
- application server
 - hardware recommendations, [13](#)

B

- background services
 - isolating, [16](#)
 - scheduling, [17](#)
 - viewing Services Audit Results, [34](#)
- best practices
 - deployment in a virtual server environment, [14](#)

C

- configuration
 - examples, [35](#)
 - external Web servers, [15](#)
- configuring
 - load balancing, [12](#)
 - workflows, [24](#)

D

- disabling
 - services, [17](#)
- dynamic content compression
 - on external Web servers, [15](#)

E

- enabling
 - services, [17](#)
- example configurations, [35](#)
- external Web servers
 - configuration, [15](#)

G

- garbage collection
 - effect on performance, [18](#)
 - impact on performance, [20](#)
- gc.log files, [18](#)

H

- hardware
 - recommendations for PPM Servers, [13](#)
- heap sizing, [20](#)

I

- internal Web server, [15](#)
- isolating services, [16](#)

J

- J2EE application server, [8](#)
- Java heap, [18](#)

K

keepalive
enabling on external Web servers, [15](#)

L

load balancing, [12](#)
configuring in PPM Center, [12](#)

M

managing memory on servers, [18](#)
memory management
on servers, [18](#)
monitoring
performance after deployment, [28](#)
PPM Center UI activity, [33](#)
tools for, [32](#)
what to monitor, [29](#)

O

Oracle
database tier, [8](#)

P

page performance reports, [34](#)
performance
garbage collection and, [18](#)
monitoring after deployment, [28](#)
portlets, [21](#)
testing preproduction, [25](#)
planning
for workload and capacity, [31](#)
portlets
performance of, [21](#)
performance reports, [34](#)
PPM Servers
hardware recommendations, [13](#)
memory management on, [18](#)

R

reports
server performance reports, [34](#)

S

scavenge, [18](#)
Schedule Services page, [17](#)
scheduling
services execution, [17](#)
server clustering, [13](#)
server.xsl file
editing for load balancing, [12](#)
servers
memory management on, [18](#)
services
enabling and disabling, [17](#)
isolating, [16](#)
scheduling, [17](#)
viewing Services Audit Results, [34](#)
Services Audit Results
viewing, [34](#)
solution configurations
examples, [35](#)

T

testing
performance before deploying on a
production instance, [25](#)
tools
monitoring and analysis, [32](#)

V

viewing
Services Audit Results, [34](#)
virtual server environment
best practices for deploying PPM Center,
[14](#)

W

Watchdog tool, **19**

Web server

internal Web server, **15**

workflows

practices to avoid in configuring, **24**

workload and capacity

planning, **31**

