



SAS® GRID COMPUTING ASSESSMENT

■ Key Benefits

- **Add additional computing nodes when you need them:** Simply add more processing groups (grid nodes) when required
- **Make use of existing hardware:** Your current hardware can be integrated into the grid or ring fenced for specific requirements
- **Cost effective alternative:** Grid offers a less expensive alternative to purchasing new, larger servers
- **Reduce risk and control costs:** SAS consultants are familiar with all aspects of SAS technology and understand how to deliver the best value from a grid computing implementation. By dealing with our experts, you can be sure the at the job will be done properly the first time.

Grid computing is useful where IT departments need to manage complex infrastructures consisting of a conglomeration of disparate hardware and user requirements. This situation is often exacerbated by mergers and acquisitions. Additionally, it offers an alternative to purchasing new, larger server platforms.

We view grid computing as a way to harness all of the computing power available from a network of computers. SAS technology gives you the ability to distribute workload across a grid or cluster and obtain results that otherwise may not be possible, even given today's processor speeds. Combining SAS technology with grid computing enables you to:

- Add additional groups of processors (grid nodes) when required, rather than commission and migrate users to new servers
- Incorporate existing hardware, such as current production and disaster recovery environments, into the grid
- Ring fence nodes, or groups of nodes, for specific departments or tasks
- Dynamically reallocate nodes to meet peaks in demand).

Service description

The SAS Grid Computing Assessment will provides you with all the information you need to build a compelling business case for the deployment of SAS grid computing technologies. Throughout the engagement, our Business and Technology Architects will partner with your IT and business stakeholders to understand your requirements.

Service activities

The activities required to complete the assessment are detailed below:

- Pre workshop preparation - requires your input
- Assessment workshop - with SAS and your experts and stakeholders
- Research, consolidation and documentation
- Follow on meetings, discussions and workshops with IT and business stakeholders (if required)
- Internal SAS quality review
- Presentation of findings
- Production of final draft documentation
- Formal presentation and hand over of findings
- Grid assessment sign off.

Prior to the joint assessment workshop, we will request information about how you use your existing systems, the capacity and the general systems architecture of your existing SAS estate, and, if required, details of non-SAS applications. This workshop will gather information about your current SAS environment and identify relevant points to reflect potential future requirements.



Typically, discussion points and topics include:

- Capacity of existing environment in order to predict its lifespan
- Indicative sizing for the suggested architecture
- Expected growth of users, data and analytical complexity
- Software and solution stack to reflect current and future needs
- Road map of projects that could make use of a new platform
- How existing business processes map onto the environment
- Storage strategy
- How the current IT infrastructure strategy would fit with the future architecture.

Following the workshop, our Business and Technology Architects will investigate and research the findings, liaise and collaborate with your stakeholders and produce an assessment document for review and final publication.

Service deliverables

Once the service is completed, our architects will provide you with an assessment document outlining their findings and recommendations. This will provide an indication of the recommended architecture together with its value. The report consists of:

- High level SAS grid architecture
- Software upgrades required
- Technical sequence of events
- Risks, issues and considerations
- Future opportunities.

Additionally, the assessment document will contain information to assist you to develop a business case. Including an investment appraisal for hardware and software rationalisation and return on investment models for the increased value of SAS within your environment.

Estimated duration

Although duration may vary in line with the needs of your particular project, we estimate that an assessment will take up to 10 days to complete; depending upon the complexity of the environment, and the provision of sufficient information provided prior to the assessment workshop. The service will be completed by SAS Business and Technology Architects.

Estimated price

Price depends upon various factors: level of effort, required skills or expertise, market demands and business strategy. Contact your SAS Account Manager to determine and confirm the estimated price and duration of this service, and for more information about related services. All travel and expenses are additional.

■ The SAS Advantage

We understand and can apply SAS technology better than anyone else. Our development expertise spans three decades, and our experience with customers around the world is unrivalled. You can rest assured that with every engagement, our methodologies and best practices will deliver tangible results for your organisation.

Now, with the SAS Grid Computing Assessment, you can understand how the combining SAS technologies with grid computing can benefit your organisation.



THE
POWER
TO KNOW.

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