SAS Forecast Server for IBM AIX 6 and IBM POWER6

Highlights

- *Improve enterprise-wide planning through improved forecast accuracy*
- *Reduce out-of-stock situations by leveraging forecasting information that can help you more accurately determine appropriate inventory levels*
- *Reduce inventory-carrying costs by leveraging forecasting information to help optimize inventory levels across all product lines*
- *Improve on-time delivery rates through successful sales forecasting and planning*

The unsurpassed scalability of SAS® Forecast Server enables your business to operate more efficiently at all levels by quickly and automatically producing statistically based forecasts you can trust. SAS Forecast Server helps companies save money and increase sales by improving sales forecasting accuracy as well as the overall manageability of the entire forecasting process.

Improve sales forecasting with an automated, feature-rich solution

For companies that need to produce numerous forecasts with huge volumes of data, the forecasting process can be problematic. In particular, difficulties in producing large-scale forecasts often lead to shortcuts that sacrifice the accuracy your business depends on.

By generating large quantities of high-quality forecasts quickly and automatically, SAS Forecast Server enables organizations to execute more effective inventory planning, sales planning, distribution planning, financial planning, production planning, human resource planning and more, paving the way for the future. SAS Forecast Server combines a graphical user interface for ease of use with SAS software's sophisticated forecasting capabilities to help you quickly and dynamically evaluate the impact of price changes, events and promotions to optimize your supply chain through improved forecast accuracy.

To succeed, organizations need an accurate picture of the future and the ability to reliably measure the impact of economic and marketplace factors. With SAS forecasting technologies, you can accurately analyze and forecast demand to more effectively plan for the future. Factors that can affect your business—such as the economy, customer demographics and marketing activities like sales promotions—can be identified, quantified and included in your forecasting processes for improved results.

The latest release of SAS Forecast Server includes user interface enhancements that provide greater control. There are now more outlier detection options, a more complex filtering capability, and six new statistics of fit. Over a dozen new project management macros help handle routine project management tasks more effectively in batch mode. And performance and scalability improvements allow SAS Forecast Server to work even more efficiently with very large data sets—decreasing the time needed for decisions.

IBM Power Systems offer performance and flexibility without compromise

IBM Power Systems™ with POWER6™ processor technology and the AIX® operating system can add superior system performance and efficiency to your equation for forecasting success—as well as a full range of complex, mission-critical applications with the most demanding computing requirements. Through openness, virtualization and collaborative innovation, Power Systems servers offer IT organizations unique capabilities to help them do more with less cost, management and complexity.

Ultra-high frequency IBM POWER6 processors in up to 64-core, multiprocessing (SMP) configurations allow Power Systems to scale rapidly and seamlessly to address the changing needs of today's data center. With advanced PowerVM™ virtualization, users can process more information on a single server, creating the potential to save on total cost of system ownership, as well as space and energy costs.

The open standards-based AIX operating system adds new levels of flexibility and performance to ease consolidation of workloads onto fewer servers, which can increase efficiency and conserve energy. AIX delivers high levels of security, integration, flexibility and reliability across e-business, business intelligence, enterprise resource planning and other essential business applications. Extensive reliability, availability and serviceability features help ensure that mission-critical applications run reliably around the clock.

SAS Forecast Server: Superior real-world performance on AIX and POWER6

SAS Forecast Server is designed for millions of high-volume daily forecasts and is best exploited by the intensive compute power that 64-bit IBM Power Systems servers can deliver. The solution specifically takes advantage of the vertical scalability offered by these IBM systems as well as 64-bit IBM Power Architecture®, providing high performance for your business-critical forecasting. Support for IBM WebSphere® software rounds out the offering, providing the foundation for a complete Web services-oriented infrastructure.

Recent benchmarking tests[1] for large data sets show that SAS Forecast Server on AIX 5.3 and POWER6 processors provides impressive performance in real-world scenarios that can significantly shorten your forecasting turnaround time. Complex processing is distributed across eight cores, delivering throughput for model selections of 396,098 per hour and throughput for model forecasting of 2,500,579 per hour.

> *"IBM is a Platinum partner for SAS and has demonstrated it yet again with the performance and optimization of SAS Forecast Server on IBM's POWER architecture. The performance of IBM Power Systems servers has enabled our joint clients to leverage the analytical capabilities of SAS Forecast Server to achieve faster, more accurate forecasts for their business. IBM has helped SAS take forecasting to a new level."*
>
> Jim Ferris, Director,
> SAS Forecast Analytics
> Practice

For more information

To learn more about SAS Forecast Server, visit:
sas.com/technologies/analytics/forecasting/forecastserver/

To learn more about AIX, POWER6 and the IBM Power Systems family, visit:
ibm.com/systems/power

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[1] Test configuration: IBM Power 570 with 8 x 4.7 GHz POWER6 cores (cost optimized); 32 GB RAM (cost optimized); 24 x 73 GB SCSI internal disks for operating system and SAS software (cost optimized); IBM System Storage™ DS450 disk storage system.

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