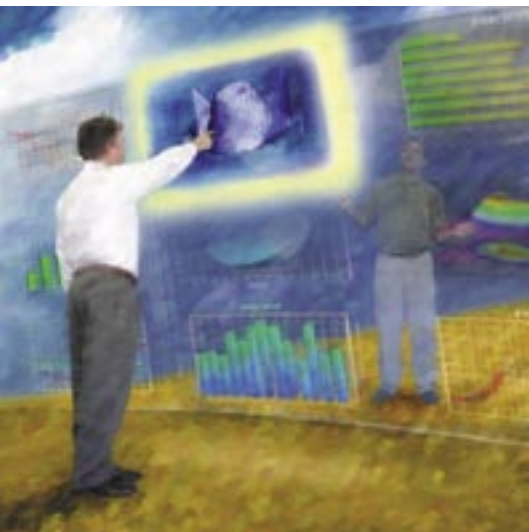




Consulting Services



SAS® Grid Computing Assessment

Value Proposition

The SAS® Grid Computing Assessment will examine your SAS computing environment and evaluate if your IT resource usage can be enhanced by implementing grid computing.

Grid Computing

Complex infrastructures are a way of life for corporate IT organizations. This challenge is often exacerbated by mergers and acquisitions – resulting in new data sources, a conglomeration of hardware and increasing numbers of users demanding accurate information. To achieve cost effectiveness and operating efficiency, IT organizations must optimally utilize system resources and fully leverage previous expenditures.

Grid computing is a concept gaining interest in the business world. IT budgets have been cut, and grid computing offers a less expensive alternative to purchasing new, larger server platforms. SAS views grid computing as a way to apply resources from a collection of computers in a network to harness all of the compute power for a single project. SAS technology provides the ability to distribute an application across a grid or cluster and obtain results that otherwise might not be possible - even given today's processor speeds. With SAS technology and grid computing, the power of SAS enables you to:

- Utilize large amounts of computing resources to handle very large problems.
- Reduce total execution time of exceptionally long-running jobs.

- Load balance across multiple machines so more powerful platforms get more of the work, and your jobs run in the shortest possible time.
- Accomplish more - with fewer resources.

Service Description

During the SAS Grid Computing Assessment, SAS experts will evaluate your computing environment and the SAS applications that are routinely used. They will review the type of applications that are being run and the size of the data needed for these applications. They will also assess how the applications access and process data, the intensity of the disk I/O in the SAS WORK location, the amount of temporary work space (SAS WORK space), and the amount of output data generated by your applications.

Throughout the engagement, SAS consultants will partner with your IT staff to exchange and transfer knowledge about the performance of your SAS software. Following the completion of this service, you will receive a summary report that details how much your organization can benefit from the implementation of grid computing. Additionally, you will receive the SAS recommendations and alternatives specific to your organization for implementing a grid environment using SAS software.

Key Benefits

Access to experience – SAS experts know how to examine your SAS applications and computing environment, quickly check for processing bottlenecks and find opportunities to increase performance.

Accurate assessment of grid potential – You will receive an accurate assessment of the potential benefits from implementing a grid environment. We will provide a detailed summary of your current computing performance and alternative options, if applicable, for implementing grid computing in your environment.

Expert knowledge transfer – Our inherent knowledge transfer process throughout the consulting engagement allows you to understand your computing bottlenecks and to learn best practices for optimizing the performance of your SAS software.

Service Activities

Assess and evaluate:

- SAS computing environment and typical SAS applications that are run.
- Data needed by SAS applications, and how the data is accessed/processed.
- Process flow(s) for large SAS applications (especially those that have analytics) that run for extended time periods.
- Amount of temporary disk space used by SAS jobs (i.e. SAS WORK space).
- Execution characteristics of the disk I/O in the SAS WORK location.

Produce:

- Summary of findings from above and recommendations to address those findings.

- Alternative options and related planning considerations to implement grid computing.

Service Deliverables

- A project summary report including:
 - Descriptions of performance analysis done and methods used.
 - Evaluation of SAS computer environment as being a potential candidate for grid computing.
 - Recommendations for next steps for implementation of grid computing, including reference architectures and applicable SAS applications.
- List of SAS applications or processes that are amenable to gains in performance via grid computing.
- High-level reference architecture discussion for grid computing to your analysts/IT organization.
- Document listing all assessed SAS applications and their applicability for grid computing.
- Basic knowledge transfer of SAS performance optimization to your analysts.

Estimated Duration

The approximate duration is to be determined based upon specific customer requirements. For planning purposes, an estimated elapsed time of five business days is assumed.

Services are performed onsite or off-site, as needed.

Estimated Price

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

The SAS Advantage

Maximizing the productivity of your SAS environment is key to your organization's success. The SAS Grid Computing Assessment will give you a roadmap for optimizing your SAS environment, and provide a path to the implementation of a grid computing environment.

No one knows SAS technology better than SAS consultants. Our hands-on experience - drawn from more than 1,500 experts worldwide—provides your organization with the fastest proven path to successful implementations of SAS solutions.

Our flexible engagement model is structured to meet your specific business and industry needs. While our consultants work directly with your project team, they also serve as your liaison to SAS' Research and Development and Technical Support. Your success is our shared success.

With over 25 years of proven experience, SAS is the acknowledged industry leader and innovator in business intelligence, advanced analytics and data management.

SAS solutions and services empower your organization to transform raw data - from any source and across every channel - into vital intelligence about customers, suppliers, your organization and the overall performance of your enterprise.



World Headquarters
and SAS Americas
SAS Campus Drive
Cary, NC 27513 USA
Tel: (1) 919 677 8000
Fax: (1) 919 677 4444
U.S. & Canada sales:
(1) 800 727 0025

SAS International
PO Box 10 53 40
Neuenheimer Landsr. 28-30
D-69043 Heidelberg, Germany
Tel: (49) 6221 4160
Fax: (49) 6221 474850

www.sas.com