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ExPR

Expert Performance Reporter

INTRODUCTION TO EXPR

PRODUCT TYPE Software

ExPR Expert Performance Reporter

Introduction to ExPR

Release 6.1

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About this Book

Overview

This book provides a general overview of ExPR features and processes, including a summary of new features and processes that are introduced with this release of the software.

Audience

The audience for this book includes MVS system programmers and administrators who will configure and use the ExPR MVS component, operations personnel, performance and capacity planning analysts, and StorageTek support personnel.

Organization

This book is organized as follows:

- Chapter 1, *What's New in this Release*, describes the new and revised features and functions that are introduced with this release.
- Chapter 2, *Product Overview*, describes what ExPR does and how it works.
- Chapter 3, ExPR Features, describes the ExPR report types and reporting features.

Related Documentation

- ExPR Installation, Configuration, and Administration Guide
- ExPR Mainframe User's Guide
- ExPR Client User's Guide
- ExPR Messages Guide
- ExPR MONTAPE/MONREPT Utility Guide

StorageTek Support

StorageTek Software Support and the StorageTek Customer Resource Center (CRC) maintain information about known ExPR problems and updates. You can contact Software Support or access the CRC for the latest information available concerning product updates (i.e., documentation, PTFs, PUTs).

See the *Requesting Help from Software Support* guide (included in the ExPR package) for information about contacting StorageTek for technical support and for requesting changes to software products, or access StorageTek's CRC homepage at:

http://www.support.storagetek.com

Note: You must obtain a login ID and password in order to access the CRC. You can request a login ID and password from the CRC homepage.

Refer also to the *ExPR Messages Guide*, appendix B, *Reporting ExPR MVS Problems* and appendix C, *Reporting ExPR PC GUI Problems* for instructions about specific information you will need to provide when reporting a problem.

Chapter 1: What's New in this Release

Overview

This chapter describes the new features and functions that are introduced in this release of ExPR.

ExPR Release 6.1 Summary

ExPR 6.1 modifications include the following:

HSC 6.0 Support for Cross-Host Dismounting of Volumes

HSC 6.0 introduced the ability to dismount real LSM drives/volumes when a sharing HSC host went down. However, the HSC SMF records for these dismounts would not be processed by ExPR as the dismounting host isn't the same host that originally mounted the volume. ExPR now internally checks its control block structures for all hosts to locate an unmatched dismount before rejecting the record. This ensures that statistics are maintained correctly.

HSC 6.0 Support for 16+ LSMs and SL8500

ExPR previously allowed up to 16 LSMs within a single ACS, in line with the historical HSC and hardware structures. The introduction of the new SL8500 library and HSC 6.0 support of same now allows for up to 24 LSMs within an SL8500. ExPR has been modified to remove any limits and checking of maximum LSM numbers. This will effectively allow for up to 256 LSMs per ACS in the future.

NCS 6.0 SMC/HSC without CSC Clients and Library Station Support

ExPR already supports CSC client MVS systems that do not have access to an HSC/VTCS address-space or CDS file. ExPR has been modified to automatically use the same special internal routines in the new HSC-SMC-SMC scenario without CSC or Library Station.

NCS 6.1 Near Continuous Operation (NCO) Support

NCS 6.1 will allow NCO by supporting the dynamic/on-the-fly addition and removal of hardware (including ACS/LSM/VTSS/drives/panels/etc.). During initialization, ExPR extracts the customer hardware configuration. NCO support dynamically rebuilds its view of the hardware when a change is made. Without NCO support, it would be necessary to restart ExPR to detect any changes to the hardware configuration.

VTSS Clustering and Bi-Directional Clustering Support

ExPR has been modified to extract data from the VTCS SMF records associated with clustering. This information is available via the real-time monitors and historical trending reports. Collected metrics include number of VTV's replicated and number waiting to be replicated, queue time to replicate a VTV, and the amount of data transmitted for replication. The VTCS SMF subtypes associated with VTSS clustering are the primary input to this new feature. You must ensure that these are switched on and collected by the SMF housekeeping processes.

MONTAPE Operator Command Displays Record Counters

A new operator command has been added to MONTAPE to display the record collection counters. This makes it easy to determine if MONTAPE is collecting data.

Database Backup during Reorganization Process

The ExPR reorganization and auto-delete processes dynamically invoke the IBM IDCAMS VSAM management utility to clone the existing VSAM files and then copy data using from/to date key ranges. The new VSAM clusters are internally 'tidy' in VSAM terms and old data is removed, thereby preventing the endless growth of the datasets. The original database cluster is now dynamically saved before the reorganization and deletion process runs (additional control statements are passed to the invoked IDCAMS utility to REPRO the ExPR database to a sequential file), providing a backup/checkpoint and the possibility to create a rolling GDG of database archives.

EXPRFORM Parameter Removed

The EXPRFORM parameter (part of the ExPR TAPECAT feature) was used in early versions of ExPR to signal to the external TMS interface routines that ExPR was the invoking program. This parameter is no longer required and has been removed. This is an internal change and has no effect on the customer reports or options.

Schedule TAPECAT UPDATE Process within Started Task

The ExPR TAPECAT UPDATE process is a separate process that reads the supported tape catalog and updates the ExPR database with statistics on volumes and datasets within the complete mainframe environment (ACS/LSMs, VSM/VTSS, and manual tapes). This process was previously a standalone batch process that had to be scheduled to enable sharing of the ExPR database with the ExPR started task. ExPR has been modified to allow the TAPECAT UPDATE function to execute within the ExPR started task, thereby eliminating manual effort and scheduling. The times of the day when the TAPECAT UPDATE function should be executed are specified in the TAPECAT options of the Host Configurator. There is also a new ExPR console command to allow 'ondemand' scheduling of TAPECAT UPDATE. This feature is called the Integrated Tape Catalog Update (ITCU).

VSAM File Sizing Calculator Tool

Part of the customization and setup of ExPR requires calculating the size of the main ExPR database and the PGMIDATA SMF collection files. A simple Excel spreadsheet has been devised to calculate the size of these VSAM datasets. This tool is included on the ExPR distribution CD.

Web-Based Host Configurator

The PC Host Configurator application has been replicated as a web-based browser application, under the System-Wide tab in the ExPR Web GUI. Inputs to the new configurator are identical to those previously entered into the PC Host Configurator. The new application generates the same output to the mainframe as previously generated by the PC Host Configurator.

Web-Based TAPECAT GUI

The PC TAPECAT GUI application has been replicated as a web-based browser application, under the System-Wide tab in the ExPR Web GUI. Inputs to the new TAPECAT GUI are identical to those previously entered into the PC TAPECAT GUI. The new application generates the same output as previously generated by the PC TAPECAT GUI.

Delete Definitions in Host Configurator

The new web-based Host Configurator contains a new option to delete description/model number definitions for any ACS/LSM/VTSS that has been de-installed. If these definitions are not deleted, ExPR will continue to internally define control block structures for the non-existent hardware.

Multiple E-mail Alerts for Exceptions

The ExPR Rules Manager in the ExPR Web GUI defines rules that specify an exception threshold value that when broken, displays messages on graphs and play specific sounds. A user can now define multiple E-mail addresses for a rule, and ExPR Web GUI will send E-mails to these addresses when the rule is broken.

Exception Rules Manager Signals an Alert

The ExPR Web GUI will now notify the host mainframe through TCP\IP when it detects that a rule has been broken.

VSM RTM Dynamically Reflects HAMT/LAMT Changes

The ExPR VSM real-time monitor shows the disk buffer utilization of each VTSS along with the HAMT and LAMT settings. However, any dynamic change to HAMT/LAMT was not previously detected by ExPR until the next start-up of the started task. ExPR has been modified to dynamically pick-up the latest HAMT/LAMT values instead of waiting until the next start-up. Changes to HAMT/LAMT are shown on the Space Usage graph in VSM Monitor (implemented on ExPR GUI only; the PC component VSM Monitor is unchanged).

Reduction in CPU Usage during Parameter Processing

ExPR internal block structure modifications have resulted in reduced CPU usage during parameter processing and initialization, by as much as 90%. Larger configurations previously incurred high amounts of CPU usage during these processes.

Support for New Tape Devices and Media

ExPR now supports the new Titanium/T10000 tape drive and its associated 120Gb and 500Gb cartridges. ExPR also recognizes the various types of LTO and SDLT drives, and their associated cartridges in a shared MVS/open environment. However, due to the lack of tape catalog entries, ExPR cannot give a detailed analysis of the data stored on LTO/SDLT media via its TAPECAT functions.

ExPR Monitor Service

The optionally-installed ExPR Monitor Service is an integral part of the ExPR suite of products that provides automatic notification of scheduled ExPR reporting events as defined by the customer. Event notification can include E-mail and MVS console reported messages.

Chapter 2: Product Overview

Overview

This chapter describes what ExPR does and how it works.

What ExPR Does

Expert Performance Reporter (ExPR) is a software solution for tape environments. It provides real-time and historical information on manual tape systems and specifically on StorageTek Nearline and VSM tape systems.

ExPR Components

ExPR components are listed below. Communication between the mainframe component and the ExPR GUI or ExPR PC components is provided by a TCP/IP connection.

- ExPR MVS (or ExPR MSP) is the mainframe component, which resides on one or
 more host systems, builds and maintains a database of historical performance data
 that it collects from the Nearline and/or VSM systems, from the operating system,
 and optionally from your site's tape management system. Tabular performance and
 exception reports are generated directly from this database for display in the
 mainframe environment. ExPR has a started task that maintains controls for TCP/IP
 communication, Online Monitors, HSC/VTCS PGMI data collection, and optional
 features such as DirectSMF updating.
- ExPR GUI is a web-based browser interface installed on an HTTP Server inside your network that can be used to display monitor applications and graphical reports over the network through a web browser rather than generating them at the PC with the ExPR PC component applications. This GUI is also used to perform ExPR configuration administrative tasks.
- ExPR Monitor Service is an optionally-installed open system service that provides automatic notification of scheduled ExPR reporting events as defined by the customer. Event notification can include E-mail and MVS console reported messages. The supported platforms where the service can be installed are Windows, Solaris (sparc) and Linux (intel).
- ExPR PC, which may reside on one or more PCs, is a set of Graphical User Interface
 (GUI) applications that query the host-based ExPR database and the host systems
 directly using a TCP/IP connection. Real-time reports are available through the
 Online Monitor applications. Additionally, graphical historical reports can be

selected from a wide range of categories. Data can be exported from these reports into spreadsheet applications for further analysis and modeling.

Note: The ExPR PC component functionality is gradually being replaced by the ExPR GUI web browser application over the past several releases of the product.

How ExPR is Packaged

ExPR software packaging is an SMP/E installation tape for the mainframe component and a CD containing the ExPR PC component. The CD also contains a spreadsheet template file that is used to calculate ExPR file sizing requirements for your site.

Execution Environment

Item	Description
Hardware	 An MVS host system, or an MSP host system, on which to install the ExPR Server. A Microsoft Windows-capable PC (Windows 2000/XP/2003 or 98/Me/NT4) for the PC Client. A PC, Unix or Linux workstation running a supported browser for the ExPR GUI.
Operating System	 MVS (all releases supported by HSC) and the MVS HTTP Server, or MSP (all releases supported by HSC) and the MSP HTTP Server. Windows 2000/XP/2003 or 98/Me/NT4 running a supported browser (Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher with SP2 installed, Firefox, or Mozilla 1.4 or higher). Note: ExPR has been fully tested and certified against Windows 2000 and XP. It should still operate under Windows 98/Me/NT4, but this has not been subjected to a formal test process. Sun Solaris 8 or higher running a supported browser of Firefox or Mozilla 1.4 or higher, or Red Hat 8 Linux or higher running a supported browser of Firefox or Mozilla 1.4 or higher. Note: It is expected that any other OS running Firefox or Mozilla 1.4 or higher should function as a client but this has not been subjected to a formal test process.
Supporting Software	 MVS operating system (Version 5 or higher, OS/390 any release, z/OS any release) StorageTek Host Software Component (HSC), Release 2.1 or higher StorageTek Virtual Tape Control Software (VTCS 2.0.0 or higher) if using VSM/VTSS, VTCS 5.0 or higher is required for the ExPR GUI. SORT product (DF-SORT, SyncSort, or compatible) SMF/RMF (all releases) TCP/IP (IBM Version 3.1 or higher, or CA-TCPAccess 5.2 or higher) SMP/E, Release 8 or higher

- Optionally, tape management system (TMS) software, either CA-1 (Release 5.0 or higher), CA-TLMS (Release 5.4 or higher), DF/SMSrmm (Release 1.4 or higher), BMC Control-T (Release 5.0.0 or higher), or ASG-Zara (Release 1.3 or higher).
- For the ExPR PC component, Microsoft Windows 2000/XP/2003 or 98/Me/NT4 with a TCP/IP stack capability.
- For the ExPR GUI component, Java Runtime Environment 1.4 or higher (download free at www.java.com).
- For the ExPR GUI component, a supported browser: (1) Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher with SP2 installed (download free at www.microsoft.com), (2) Firefox (download free at www.mozilla.com), or (3) Mozilla 1.4 or higher (download free at www.mozilla.org).

Embedded Products

ExPR GUI:

- Tigra Menu javascript (SoftComplex www.softcomplex.com)
- Binding, Forms, Validation libraries (Jgoodies Karsten Lentzsch http://www.dev.java.net) *
- Jcalendar library (Kai Toedter http://www.toedter.com/en/jcalendar) *
- JDesktop Network Components (Swing Labs http://swinglabs.dev.java.net) *
- Jfreechart, Jfreecommon libraries (JFree software projects http://www.jfree.org) *
- Shani Xml parser (Quentin Anciaux http://sourceforge.net/projects/shanidom) *
 - * Open Source project

ExPR PC Client:

- Graphics Server version 6.0 (Graphics Server Technologies www.graphicsserver.com)
- dsSocket (Dolphin Systems www.dolphinsys.com)
- SizerOne version 7.0 (ComponentOne <u>www.componentone.com</u>)
- VSVIEW version 7.0 (ComponentOne www.componentone.com)

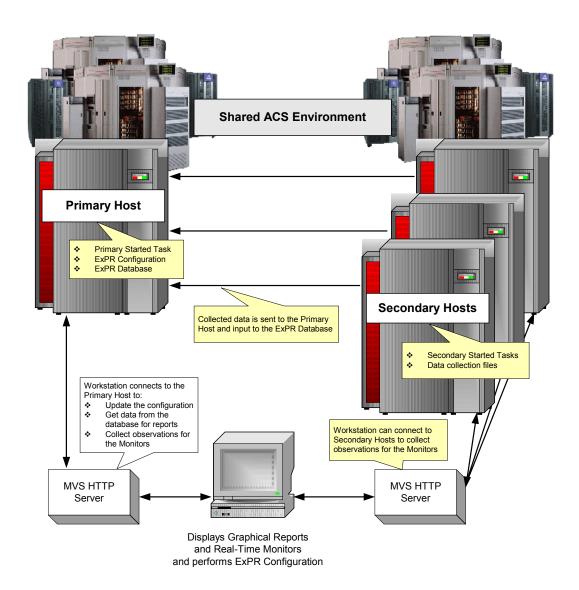
Note: Unless specifically stated, references to MVS apply equally to MSP, and references to ExPR GUI/web browser/workstation apply equally to the ExPR PC component and vice versa.

Overview of External Interfaces

Interface	Description
Started Task	The ExPR started task is a continually running task within the MVS system. It controls the Real-Time monitor, the TCP/IP client server connection, the HSC/VTCS PGMI, the DirectSMF data collection and database update, the primary and secondary host identification, and the TAPECAT GUI interface.
HSC	The Host Software Component library management software enables StorageTek's automated tape libraries to operate in an MVS environment. The software manages the interface between the operating system and each automated cartridge system for MVS and VM tape environments.
VTCS	The Virtual Tape Control Software enables you to use 100 percent of your mainframe tape cartridge capacity. Virtualization means fewer actual tape drives to manage and fewer cartridge mounts.
MVS HTTP Server	The MVS HTTP Server provides Hypertext Transfer Protocol facilities for servicing MVS based World Wide Web applications without the need to run Open Edition/Unix System services on the mainframe.
Proprietary Tape Management Systems	The ExPR TAPECAT function interfaces with five OEM proprietary Tape Management Systems (TMS). These are – CA-1, CA-TLMS, Control-T, DF/SMSrmm and ASG-Zara. These are read-only interfaces to extract information about tape volumes and datasets.

How ExPR Works

The figure below illustrates how ExPR is distributed on your MVS systems and how the PC and MVS systems interact.

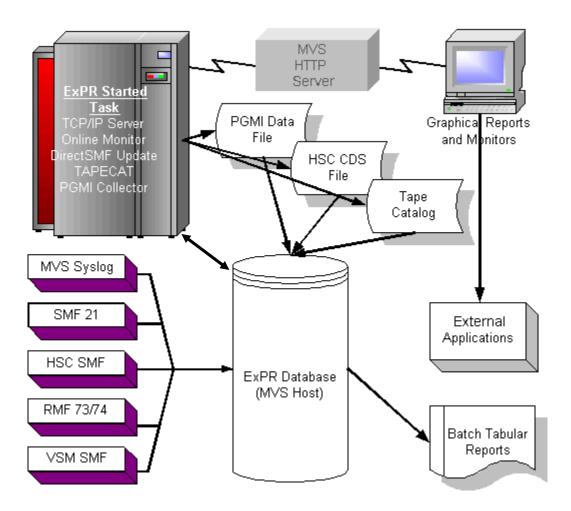


ExPR Functional Diagram

ExPR Data Flow

ExPR MVS collects information relating to Nearline, VSM, tape catalog, and manual tape drive performance and inputs it to an ExPR database on the host system. This process is controlled by user-specified parameters. Data from multiple MVS systems can be input to the database as individual records for each system or as a consolidated view representing user-selected systems, or both. Additionally, ExPR automatically creates and dynamically maintains an "ALL Hosts" consolidated view.

The figure below illustrates how data flows through the ExPR system. Information is collected from various sources (PGMI, tape catalog, SMF, RMF, MVS SYSLOG, etc.) and input to the ExPR database. Collected data can then be processed for batch tabular reports, displayed at a workstation via the HTTP Server, downloaded via TCP/IP to a PC (not shown), or ported to a Microsoft Excel-compatible spreadsheet and other external applications.



ExPR Data Flow

Chapter 3: ExPR Features

Overview

This chapter describes the ExPR report types and reporting features.

ExPR Reporting Features and Formats

Reports can be generated to track the capacity, utilization, and performance of Nearline, VSM, and manual configurations ranging from a single LSM and/or VTSS to complex multi-LSM/VTSS environments utilizing mixed transport types and manually racked devices.

Four types of reports are available:

- •Batch reports traditional mainframe tabular hardcopy reports also available for display at the PC as host reports.
- •Historical graphical reports graphs that are built at the PC or via the web-based browser feature based on ExPR database information
- •Real-time monitor reports graphs that are built at the PC or via the web-based browser feature and frequently updated to monitor Nearline, VSM, or device-level status.
- •TAPECAT GUI tabular reports based on queries of your tape catalog displayed at the PC or via the web-based browser feature.

Report Samples

Sample Batch Report

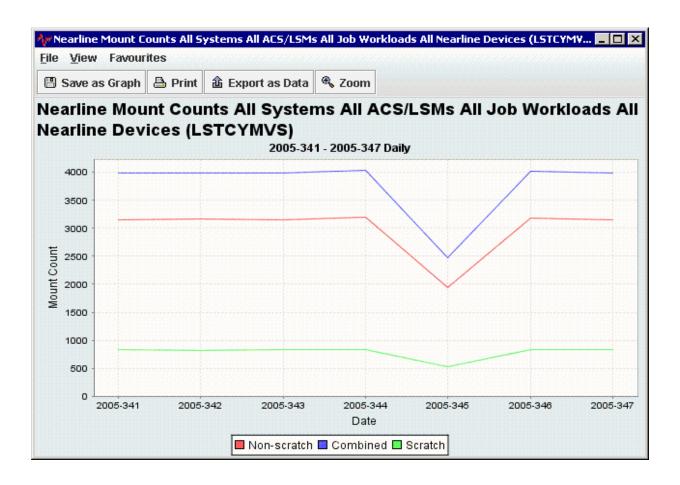
The sample below is a Mounts report showing details of LSM mounts and their timings.

Refer to the *ExPR Mainframe User's Guide* for information about the ExPR Batch reports.

SAT, 07 JAN 16:51:59	2005.223			XPR							JOB:B30T		PAGE 1 KPRREP02
				MOUNTS-A ACS: 000 LSM:	CS REPO NEARLIN ALL LSN	ORT FOR NE ACS 0 4'S IN T	SYSTEM 000 HIS ACS	IPO1		DATE :	RANGE: 2		
PERIOD				STATS FOR									
DATE HOUR	DEVICE-TYPE							MAXIMUM					
	OR WORKLOAD	SCRTCH N	IONSCR	SCRTCH	NONSCR	SCRTCH	NONSCR	SCRTCH	NONSCR	READ 1	WRITTEN	TOTAL	
2005223 00	ALL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0K	0K	0K	
01	ALL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 K	0 K	0K	
02	ALL	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0 K	0 K	0K	
03	ALL	0			0	-	0	-	0	0 K	0 K	0K	
04	ALL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 K	0 K	0K	
05	ALL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 K	0 K	0K	
06	ALL	40	22	810	416	20	18	91		6746M	16G	22G	
07	ALL	38	20	802	388	21	19	78	72	10G	29G	39G	
08	ALL	23	31	463		20	10	80	54		33G	39G	
09	ALL	17	76	369	898	21	11	61	72		6587M	14G	
10	ALL	17	108	304		17	13	48	126		7304M	19G	
11	ALL	16	103	457		28	22	112		12G	5193M	17G	
12	ALL	13	75	348		26	20	41		23G	6125M		
13	ALL		71	352		32	16	63	76		5648M	16G	
14	ALL	10	66	155		15	15	46	80		1721M	4663M	
15	ALL		91	204		20	11			1351M	2440M	3791M	
16	ALL	8	85	156		19	12		72		1788M	5776M	
17	ALL	7		143		20	14	43	86		2067M	8044M	
18	ALL		46	234		29	15	75		10063M	2244M	12G	
19		75		1348		17	16	81	37		18G	22G	
20	ALL		16	1089		21	21	101	91		22G		
21	ALL		36	933		26	22	106	115		14G		
22	ALL		18	890		21	20		108		15G	22G	
23	ALL	35	16	657			17		68	5245M	16G	21G	
AILY TOTAL					15225				126		203G		
		455	953	9714			15	112	126	138G	203G	341G	
END OF REPO	RT FOR THIS A	ACS . REC	ORDS READ: 00	996 TYPE 00	/14/16:	00084							

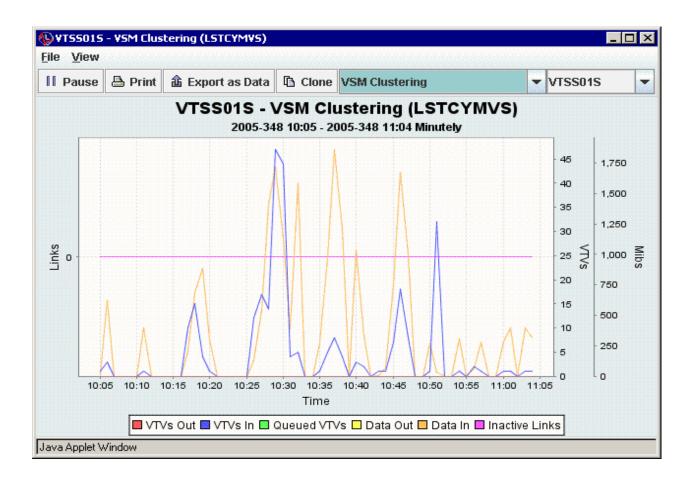
Sample Graphical Report

The sample below is a Mount Counts report showing historical daily mount activity, with separate scratch and non-scratch counts. Refer to the *ExPR Client User's Guide* for information about the ExPR Graphical reports.



Sample Monitor Report

The sample below is a VSM Monitor showing VSM clustering details. The report rolls to the left across the window and is updated each minute. Refer to the *ExPR Client User's Guide* for information about ExPR monitor applications.



Report Granularity

ExPR provides mechanisms for isolating precise data in reports. Reports can include data for all or specific MVS systems, ACSs, LSMs, VTSSs, and device types. Information can be displayed in hourly and daily formats for batch tabular reports; in hourly, daily, weekly and optionally monthly formats for historical graphical reports; and in real-time through the Monitor applications on a per-minute basis.

Nearline Reporting

Nearline reporting provides information on the utilization of hardware, such as drive concurrency and robotics utilization, as well as workload data, including mount counts, data throughput and response times and finally contents profiling through the Tape Catalog feature. Reports cover detailed metrics such as mount response time breakdown and passthru analysis through to summary statistics in the Nearline Mount Analysis reports.

VSM Reporting

Some of the VSM reports are mirror images of the Nearline measurements. These include mounts rates and data throughput and the use of TAPECAT to profile the volumes under VSM control. However, ExPR also provides many statistics and measurements that relate specifically to the performance and operation of VSM, most notably disk buffer residency time, disk buffer utilization, and clustering. At a more detailed level, ExPR can provide information on the front-end and back-end data path loading.

Device Group Reporting

Device group reporting has many applications. Primarily it is intended to allow you to define your non-automated (or manual) transports in a manner that enables that environment to be reported as a whole. However, device groups can equally map a particular device type, a location or even a complex mix of transport types and attachments. ExPR also generates device groups automatically for each ACS and for the RTDs of each VTSS. With device groups, you can report mount counts, data throughput, see the drive concurrency, measure allocation/recovery time, and then do comparisons against other Device Groups or the Nearline or VSM environment.

Exception Reporting

ExPR exception processing monitors user-specified exception thresholds, which represent the point at which an event is considered to be an exception. Exception processing generates a report when thresholds have been exceeded, such as when the number of mounts or mount response time exceeds the specified value. Separate threshold values are maintained for Nearline and VSM. Exception reports are produced in tabular hardcopy format on the host and in exception windows on the ExPR GUI and ExPR PC component screens.

Tape Catalog Reporting

ExPR processes tape catalog data as an input source to the database update process. Database records are written that can be later reported against as mainframe tabular reports or as PC graphical reports.

Tape catalog processing makes another level of tape management reporting available. Where other input sources look at how the various hardware components are performing and identify processing trends and potential bottlenecks, ExPR tape catalog processing can account for who is occupying the slots within each LSM or VTSS or the complete tape library, and also how efficiently the tape is being used.

One feature of TAPECAT is the sorted reports, where a single or multiple sort argument can be applied to the tape catalog to report fields such as how much tape has been used, how frequently the volume has been accessed, how many times it has been used, etc. Additionally, historical comparisons of the tape catalog's contents can be produced.

The Interactive Tape Catalog Update (ITCU) feature offers a complete replacement for batch TAPECAT processing and also an online facility to query the tape catalog and CDS contents. The PC or ExPR Web GUI user can specify selection, filtering, and display criteria from more than 25 volume and dataset attribute fields.

Workload Group Reporting

Site-specified jobname and dataset workload groups provide mechanisms for logically mapping activity from specified jobnames or datasets into groups against which reports can be generated, increasing the ExPR reporting capability by further defining tape activities within your organization.

- •Jobname workload groups map Nearline, VTSS, or device group activity from specified jobnames into logical groups, typically defining activities generated by specific departments or functions.
- •Dataset workload groups, used in conjunction with ExPR tape catalog processing, logically map the contents of a Nearline library, VTSS, or device group based on dataset names, typically defining critical applications or system components.

Channel Path and Control Unit Reporting

ExPR reports provide information about channel path and control unit activity related to Nearline, VTSS, or device group configuration. Channel paths are mapped into logical groups that reflect how they are organized in the hardware IOCP/IOCDS configuration.

Allocation Recovery Reporting

The MVS SYSLOG is read to produce allocation recovery reports that provide persystem per-LSM/VTSS/device group reports of operator reply measurements, including the number of replies that allocated devices, the total time spent awaiting a reply, and the longest operator reply.

User API

The supplied ExPR Application Programming Interface (API) provides a mechanism for writing custom tabular reports against the ExPR mainframe database. These reports can be developed by your technical staff. See the *ExPR Installation, Configuration, and Administration Guide (ICAG)* for details.

MONTAPE

The MONTAPE/MONREPT SE Tool utility is distributed as a separately licensed feature of ExPR. See the *ExPR MONTAPE/MONREPT Utility Guide* for details.

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