The basic concept from a Test Automation view is that one spins up Coordinator and Simulator servers under a Registry to execute the tests and generate the desired number of concurrent virtual users (the load). As a rule, one Simulator can support up to 250 virtual users. The actual number supported by a Simulator is driven by the environmental factors (OS, RAM, CPU, etc) as well as the design and complexity of the test case. Multiple Simulators can communicate with a single Coordinator.

The number of virtual users, the spread of these users across the available Simulators, the length of time that the test executes, ramp patterns, and all the performance characteristics can be specified in the Staging Document. The test case or suites provide the actual test case execution steps. It is NOT a good idea for performance test using the OOTB Derby database. Connect to an enterprise database. Once the environment is setup, run several load tests to find the optimum configuration.

load/performance testing in Devtest can be done by creating Staging doc where we can give our load pattern details in Basic tab.

We need to use a Performance license for any use of DevTest VSE in a performance environment.

* First, without it, DevTest will throttle your response if they are above 10 tps. Normally, you can see an exception in your log files saying more or less that your response is postponed. This has no impact for functional test, as the delay is very short, but will make it unusable for many performance use case.
* Second, performance license will allow you to change the number of thread allowed by virtual service. This property will allow you to handle more load on a single VS by parallelizing it.