

IBM MQ C Performance Harness

For all updates and feedback, please visit

<https://github.com/ibm-messaging/mq-cph/>

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What is the IBM MQ C Performance Harness?

The MQ C Performance Harness (hereafter referred to as 'CPH'), is a native MQI interface (C/C++), performance test tool, based largely on the function and externals of the "JMSPerfHarness" Performance Harness for Java™ Message Service application <insert link to GITHUB>. It provides a complete set of performance messaging functionality as well as many other features such as throttled operation (a fixed rate and/or number of messages), multiple destinations, live performance reporting. It is one of the many tools used by IBM MQ performance teams for tests ranging from a single client to more than 10,000 clients. Whilst JMSPerfharness can be used to drive workloads on any suitable JMS messaging provider, CPH is designed to test the native, proprietary IBM MQ interface (MQI).

CPH will print the current throughput rate on a user-selected periodic basis and also output summary statistics at the end of a test. The included help and documentation provide detailed usage instructions and describe many further features and configuration parameters for investigation.

Using CPH

As with any tool, this one has many different uses depending on the goals of the user, and can also be thoroughly misdirected to produce useless data. Ensure the performance scenarios you choose to measure bear some relation to the real world. Failure to do so will inevitably lead to incorrect facts, figures, assumptions and decisions. For instance, it is common to see competitive product comparisons being "won conclusively" by using scenarios that mean nothing in real customer environments. It is also worthy of note that performance is usually not the most important factor in any such comparison, it is simply the easiest to create charts from.

Requirements

- IBM/WebSphere MQ (v7+) installation

HOWTO

This section should explain how to get up and running with CPH. There are many more parameters beyond those discussed here, please use the parameter reference in this doc to see the many additional capabilities.

Building CPH

To build CPH on your platform, you need to have access to the IBM MQ client library headers (installed with the IBM MQ product).

Just open a command prompt and change directory to the root folder of the CPH source tree and type the command:

```
make
```

How to set the LD_LIBRARY_PATH

CPH uses MQ client libraries supplied with MQ. You need to tell CPH where these library files are by setting the LD_LIBRARY_PATH environment variable.

Therefore, before invoking CPH, ensure the LD_LIBRARY_PATH environment variable is set appropriately.

On Windows use:

```
set LD_LIBRARY_PATH=C:\Program Files\IBM\WebSphere MQ\bin;C:\Program Files\IBM\WebSphere MQ\bin64;%LD_LIBRARY_PATH%
```

On UNIX and Linux platforms use:

```
export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=/opt/mqm/lib:/opt/mqm/lib64:$LD_LIBRARY_PATH
```

How to use the built in help

cph is a very modular tool, and certain modules need to be selected via the command-line for different modes of operation. At any time, using "-h" will print help on the current context (i.e. the currently loaded modules).

Parameter	Description
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-h	At any time, using "-h" will print help on the current context (i.e. the currently active modules). It will not give help on modules that are not active.
-hf	This performs the same as "-h", but prints additional details on parameters and includes other, seldom used, parameters
-hm	This gives the full help for a named module, regardless of whether it is active or not. You do not need to pass the full module name as the tool will search intelligently for the named module. Example: -hm Receiver or -hm Responder

How to choose your test class

The tool's operation is defined by the test class being run and there are many selections of test class. Each of the following classes may provide a few additional options to fine tune behaviour. More details can be found in the previous section.

Parameter	Description
-tc Sender	Sends messages to a named queue destination.
-tc Receiver	Receives messages from a named queue destination. This can be used in conjunction with the Sender class.
-tc PutGet	Sends a message to queue then retrieves the same message (using CorrelationId). This is the default setting.
-tc Requestor	Sends a message to a queue then waits for a corresponding reply on a second queue.
-tc Responder	Waits for a message on a queue then replies to it on another queue. This can be used in conjunction with the Requestor class.
-tc Publisher	Sends messages to a named topic destination.
-tc Subscriber	subscribes and receives messages from a named topic. This can be used in conjunction with the Requestor class.

How to use multiple destinations

The tool will handle multiple destinations (publish-subscribe topics or point-to-point queues) with the right configuration parameters. This allows more complicated scenarios to be constructed across multiple instances of the tool.

The general concept being applied is that an ordered set of destinations are created and then distributed evenly amongst the active threads.

Parameter	Description
-d	Destination prefix. The default is "DEST"
-db	First number in the range.
-+	Last number in the range.
-dn	Number of destinations in the range (or the first destination to use in a fixed range, see example XXX).

The module will infer the set of destinations from the parameters being passed.

Notes:

- These parameters only control the names given to destinations. Specifying "-d TOPIC" does not, in itself, enable publish-subscribe (you could have a queue named TOPIC).
- Each single thread is assigned a single destination.
- It is not considered invalid to specify more destinations than there are threads or to create an uneven balance of destinations amongst threads.

Example invocations

Putting together the lessons from the HOWTO section will give you a basic operational performance tool. The following are some sample invocations of the functionality in this tool, see the command-line reference for the meaning of any unknown parameters:

Point-to-point with IBM MQ

Persistent, transacted point-to-point with local bindings. 10 queue-triplets (each queue has 1 sender and 1 receiver) running on queues (QUEUE1..QUEUE10). The number of triplets can varied arbitrarily. A corresponding test with topics simply requires different test class parameters.

```
export TRIPLETS=10
```

```
cph -tc Sender -nt $TRIPLETS -jb QM_RED -jt mqb -d QUEUE -db 1 -pp  
-tx
```

```
cph -tc Receiver -nt $TRIPLETS -jb QM_RED -jt mqb -d QUEUE -db 1 -  
pp -tx
```

Nonpersistent point-to-point with local bindings. Put a million 100-byte messages to a destination QUEUE, then get them back again.

```
export MSGSIZE=100
```

```
cph -tc Sender -jb QM_RED -jt mqb -d QUEUE -ms $MSGSIZE -mg  
1000000
```

```
cph -tc Receiver -jb QM_RED -jt mqb -d QUEUE
```

Publish-subscribe

- Persistent, transacted publish-subscribe with client bindings. 4 publishers and 40 durable subscribers spread evenly across 4 topics (TOPIC1..TOPIC4). Durable subscribers will use the same name (by setting -id) and do not unsubscribe (un=false). This means the subscribing application can be started and stopped without message loss.

```
cph -tc Publisher -nt 4 -jh server1 -jb QM_RED -jt mqc -jp 1415 -d  
TOPIC -db 1 -dx 4
```

```
cph -tc Subscriber -nt 40 -jh server1 -jb QM_RED -jt mqc -jp 1415 -d  
TOPIC -db 1 -dx 4 -du -id SUBS -un false
```

Command-line Parameter reference

The system is self-documenting through the command-line. Use -h, -hf and -hm to learn about the functionality.

The following is a snapshot of the parameters of the tool, the latest lists and descriptions are always available using the tools help options:

Config

Centralises parsing, access and reporting of configuration parameters.

Arg	Default	Description
h	false	Display basic help on current configuration.
hf	false	Display detailed help on current configuration.
hm		Display detailed help on a specific module or modules. Specify multiple modules as space-separated tokens. Example: -hm "Requestor"
tr	false	Trace calls
v	false	Show version.

Log

A proxy to output to stdout or stderr. There are currently no extensions to support external logging, though this could be easily added. There are 5 levels (0-4) of verbosity defined as (NONE, ERROR, WARNING, INFO, VERBOSE).

Arg	Default	Description
ve	0	Verbosity below which goes to stderr. The default is such that nothing goes to stderr.
vo	4	Verbosity below which goes to stdout. The default is such that everything goes to stdout.

ControlThread

Manage the lifecycle of the application and any WorkerThreads. This also controls the aggregation and reporting of performance counters.

Arg	Default	Description
-----	---------	-------------

id		Process identifier. If set, this will be displayed in the statistics reporting. This is of use if you have to merge the output of more than one instance of the tool.
nt	1	Number of WorkerThreads.
rl	60	Run length in seconds. Setting this to 0 will disable the timer and run forever.
sd	normal	Sets what is reported as totalDuration. "normal" = from 1st iteration to last iteration, excluding setup/takedown. "tlf" = Time to Last Fire, from start of main thread till last iteration completes (includes setup time but not takedown)
sh	true	Use signal handler to trap SIGINT (CTRL-C).
sp	false	Display per-thread performance data.
ss	10	Statistics reporting period. Setting this to 0 will disable periodic reporting entirely.
su	true	Display final summary. This setting is independant of the periodic statistics reporting.
tc	Dummy	Worker thread implementation to use.
ts	0	Thread stack size (Kb, Linux only). Setting this to 0 will disable cph from setting a per thread stack allocation.
wi	1000	WorkerThread start interval (ms). This controls the pause between starting multiple threads.

WorkerThread

Base class for all varieties of test. This class implements a general pacing algorithm for those tests that wish to use it. The performance overhead of this is minimal.

Arg	Default	Description
mg	0	Fixed number of iterations to run. The default setting of 0 means there is no iteration limit.
rp	0	Time period (s) to ramp up to the full rate.
rt	0	Desired rate (operations/sec). If this rate is greater than the maximum achievable, the behaviour is such that it runs as fast as possible. A value of 0 means to always run as fast as possible. Rates of <1 op/sec are not currently possible.
si	0	Session interval (milliseconds). The number of milliseconds to sleep between closing one session and opening the next.

		This value is ignored if sn is 1 or mg is 0.
sn	1	Maximum number of messaging sessions to run. Setting this to 0 means there's no limit to the number of sessions. This value is ignored if mg is 0.
tc	PutGet	Test definition class. This defines the actual type of WorkerThreads that will be started. Known modules include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sender • Receiver • Requestor • Responder • Publisher • Subscriber
yd	0	Frequency to call Thread.yield(). This may be of use if the WorkerThreads are not being evenly scheduled.

DestinationFactory

This handles destinations for publish-subscribe and point-to-point domains.

These options only control the **names** given to destinations.

Specifying

"-d TOPIC" does not enable publish-subscribe ("-tc Publisher -d TOPIC" does that)

Examples:

-d QUEUE

All threads operate on destination named QUEUE

-d MYTOPIC -dn 3

destinations are distributed round-robin in the order
MYTOPIC1..MYTOPIC3

-d MYTOPIC -db 6 -dn 3

destinations are distributed round-robin in the order
MYTOPIC6..MYTOPIC8

-d MYTOPIC -dx 6 -dn 3

destinations are distributed round-robin in the order
MYTOPIC4..MYTOPIC6

-d MYTOPIC -db 4 -dx 6 -dn 5

destinations are distributed round-robin in the order
MYTOPIC4..MYTOPIC6 starting with MYTOPIC5

Arg	Default	Description
d	DEST	Destination prefix.

		If no other destination parameters are set, then nothing will be appended to this.
db	0	Multi-destination numeric base.
dn	0	Multi-destination numeric range.
dx	0	Multi-destination numeric maximum.
iq	REQUEST	Put destination prefix. If no other destination parameters are set, then nothing will be appended to this.
oq	REPLY	Get destination prefix. If no other destination parameters are set, then nothing will be appended to this.

PutGet

Sends a message then receives one from the same queue. Normal usage is with correlation identifier to ensure the same message is received.

Arg	Default	Description
co	true	Attach a correlId to the message and use it to get the same message back. This allows multiple PutGet clients to work with the same queue concurrently. An effort is made to keep the correlId for each instance unique. This is true by default for historical compatibility.
cs	false	Use message selectors to get messages off the queue
gs	UNSPECIFIED	Use generic selector instead of correlId to get messages off REPLY queue

Requestor

Puts a message to a queue then waits for a reply on another queue.

Arg	Default	Description
co	true	Attach a correlId to the message and use it to get the same message back. This allows multiple PutGet clients to work with the same queue concurrently. An effort is made to keep the correlId for each instance unique. This is true by default for historical compatibility.

cs	false	Use message selectors to get messages off the queue
dq	1	Number of DQ channels to use. If this is set to more than 1, then additional channels will be configured on the client and server QM. Additional queue aliases will also be setup on the client QM, which in conjunction with setting the ReplyToQ to a Q alias will result in separate reply channels being used for the reply messages.
gs	UNSPECIFIED	Use generic selector instead of correlId to get messages off REPLY queue
iq	REQUEST	Queue to place requests on.
oq	REPLY	Queue to place replies on. Setting this value to "" implies the use of temporary queues for each reply. Correlation-ids are not used in this mode.

Responder

Takes messages off the request queue and places the same message on the reply queue.

Arg	Default	Description
cb	false	Commit between getting request and putting reply. This option is mainly provided to allow the recovery of the old behaviour of CPH, whereby, if -tx was specified, an MQCMIT would be done both after calling MQGET on the request and after calling MQPUT or MQPUT1 for the reply on iterations whose sequence-number was a multiple of the commit-count (-cc) option. This option is ignored if -tx is not specified.
co	false	Attach a correlId to the message and use it to get the same message back. This allows multiple Requesters to work with the same output queue concurrently. The correlation ID of the reply is expected to be the same as the automatically-generated message ID of the request. This option is true by default for historical compatibility.
cr	true	Copy request message to response. If true, the MessageFactory settings are ignored for replies.

cs	false	Use message selectors to get messages off the queue
iq	REQUEST	Queue to place requests on. If no other destination parameters are set, then nothing will be appended to this.
oq	REPLY	Queue to place replies on. Setting this value to "" causes the use of temporary queues for each reply, using an anonymous MessageProducer.

MQOpts

Generic options for MQ messaging worker thread classes.

Arg	Default	Description
cc	1	Commit count (transaction batching). The number of operations completed within a single transaction. This only applies to test classes which only normally perform a single operation (such as Sender or Subscriber). Ignored if tx=false.
d		Destination prefix. The first part of the name of an MQ destination object (queue or topic) to put or get messages to, with the second part (a numeric suffix) to be provided by cphDestinationFactory.
jb	QM	IBM MQ queue manager to connect to.
jc	SYSTEM.DEF.SVRCONN	IBM MQ Channel to connect to. Ignored unless jt=mqc
jf	false	Use the fastpath option on the MQCONN call. Using this option means the application and the local-queue-manager agent are part of the same unit of execution. Using this option should give much higher throughput when using high message rates as it avoids a lot of thread switching. For this reason it is also easier to compare raw publish and subscribe performance. Ignored unless jt=mqb.
jh	localhost	DNS/IP of provider host machine.

		Ignored unless jt=mqc
jl	UNSPECIFIED	Specify which SSL CipherSpec to use. If not using SSL, do not set parameter, the default "UNSPECIFIED" will map to empty string.
jp	1414	Port to connect to. Ignored unless jt=mqc.
jt	mqc	IBM MQ transport (mqb, mqc). "mqb" is local-bindings connections, "mqc" is TCP/IP connections.
jy	false	Use the readahead option on the MQCONN call. Using this option will enable any getter with the readahead option. Disabling it, defaults to the QM-defined behaviour. Ignored unless jt=mqc.
mh	false	Use message handle for message properties.
ms	1000	Message size in bytes.
p1	false	Use Put1 (Open q, put, close q)
pp	false	Use persistent messages.
rf	false	Use RFH2 on message headers. Default value of false means RFH1 header (MQC.MQFMT_RF_HEADER_1) is used. Setting this to true means the read as RFH2 header (MQC.MQFMT_RF_HEADER_2) is used.
to	5	Polling timeout interval on receiving messages (in seconds). Threads will exit if a timeout occurs. Set this option to -1 to wait indefinitely.
tx	false	Transactionality

Forwarder

Gets a message off a queue & puts to a different queue.

Arg	Default	Description
iq	REQUEST	Queue to place requests on.
oq	REPLY	Queue to place replies on.
cr	true	Copy input message to output.

		If true, the MessageFactory settings are ignored for replies.
cm	true	Copy MD from input message to output.
cb	false	Commit between getting input and putting output.

Publisher

Send messages to a Topic.

Arg	Default	Description
tp	true	Use one topic per publisher thread. Set to false to publish to a different topic each iteration.

Subscriber

Subscribe to Topic-domain messages.

Arg	Default	Description
du	false	Durable subscriptions. Note, if using more than one process, these names will clash. To avoid this, use\n\ the -id parameter to differentiate the processes.
un	true	Unsubscribe subscribers when closing. Set this false to leave durable subscriptions after the subscription is closed. This is ignored unless du=true.

Troubleshooting

Please check the "known issues" section in the release notes.

- **Invalid parameter: Parameter [??] is not known/valid in this configuration.**
Parameters in this tool belong to specific modules. If that module is not loaded, no knowledge of its parameters exists. If you look at the help for the current context (parameter "-h"), you will see that the corresponding module is not included. Check your "-tc" setting, you are probably not referencing the correct module. A full list of options for these parameters is given in this manual or by parameter "-hf".
- **Invalid parameter: Destination range is negative.**
You have either set the minimum value ("-db") greater than the maximum ("-dx") or have used a combination of "-dx" and "-dn" which implies a negative starting range. Consult the HOWTO on multiple destinations.

Requesting help

If these few tips do not answer your query, or you have a suggestion for improvements, please ask on the [git forum](#) page for this product.

When submitting a problem (particularly a crash report) then please do the following to help us help you:

- Run the tool with "-vo=ALL" to turn on as much debugging output as possible.
- Include the command line invocation you used to run the program.

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the contribution of Jerry Stevens and various members of the IBM WebSphere MQ Performance Team at IBM Hursley UK.

Feedback

Feedback can be given on the [git forum](#).