# 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 ‘MQ-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, MQ-CPH is designed to test the native, proprietary IBM MQ interface (MQI).

MQ-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 MQ-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 MQ-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 MQ-CPH

To build MQ-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 MQ-CPH source tree and type the command:

make

### How to set the LD\_LIBRARY\_PATH

MQ-CPH uses MQ client libraries supplied with MQ. You need to tell MQ-CPH where these library files are by setting the LD\_LIBRARY\_PATH environment variable.

Therefore, before invoking MQ-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

MQ-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** |
| -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 module

The tool's operation is defined by the test module being run and there are many selections of test module. Each of the following modules 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 module. |
| -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 module. |
| -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 module. |

### 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 module 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 identfier. 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 MQ-CPH from setting a per thread stack allocation. |
| wi | 1000 | WorkerThread start interval (ms). This controls the pause between starting multiple threads. |
| wt | 30 | WorkerThread start timeout (s). The maximum number of seconds after starting a worker thread to wait for its status to change to 'running', CPH will fail if any thread takes longer than this time to start.  Special case: if set to zero (0), CPH will not wait for each worker thread to start. |

#### WorkerThread

Base module for all varieties of test. This module implements a general acing 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 module. This defines the actual type of WorkerThreads that will be started. Modules include:   * 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:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Parameters Specified | Destinations Used |
| -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 |
| txp | false | Use transactions for PUTs, (tx must not be set) |
| txg | false | Use transactions for GETs, (tx must not be set) |

#### Requestor

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Arg** | **Default** | **Description** |
| co | true | Get the reply message, using the request message ID as a correlation ID.  This allows multiple Requesters to work with the same output queue concurrently. The correlID of the reply is expected to be the same as the automatically-generated message ID of the request (-co must be set on the Responders for this to be enforced). This option 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 seperate 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. |
| txp | false | Use transactions for PUTs, (tx must not be set) |
| txg | false | Use transactions for GETs, (tx must not be set) |

#### 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 MQ-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 | true | Use the correlId of the request message (or msgId, if correlId not set) to set the correlId of the reply message.  This can be used in conjunction with the same parm on the Requesters, to allow multiple Requesters to work with the same output queue concurrently. This option is true by default. |
| 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 modules.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Arg** | **Default** | **Description** |
| cc | 1 | Commit count (transaction batching).  The number of operations completed within a single transaction. This only applies to test modules which only normally perform a single operation (such as Sender or Subscriber).  Ignored if tx=false. |
| cv | true | Convert message data. By default, MQGMO.CONVERT is specified in the MQGET options. Specifying false can be useful when reading a message encoded with a different codepage, where the message is non-standard (custom format). |
| 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 MQCONNX 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 MQCONNX 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. Setting this flag will cause any PUT’s and GET’s to be inside syncpoint. Note that for classes with a PUT+GET pattern (PutGet & Requester), the txp & txg flags can be used instead, for finer grained control. |
| us | UNSPECIFIED | The username to authenticate with when creating a connection to MQ. |
| pw | UNSPECIFIED | The password to authenticate with when creating a connection to MQ. |

#### 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](https://github.com/ibm-messaging/mq-cph/issues).