



HOW TO BE THE SORCERER, NOT THE APPRENTICE



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Why Drowning Isn't a Good Idea

In the story of **The Sorcerer's Apprentice**, the Apprentice calls upon spirits banished by the Sorcerer to do his work, but they soon begin to flood the castle. The Apprentice bewitches a broom to help mop up the water, but soon loses control of the broom as well. The Sorcerer is forced to intervene, banishing the spirits once again, removing the spell from the broom, and saving the Apprentice from drowning.

Drowning shouldn't be part of anyone's job description, but if you're a system administrator in charge of IBM® z/OS® mainframe monitoring, it may sometimes feel like part of yours.

Monitoring systems do exactly what they say they do; monitor your system activity. But if that was all they did, you would be like the poor apprentice, overwhelmed by information that never stopped coming, and unable to understand what it all meant.

Fortunately, it doesn't have to be that way.

Rocket® Mainstar MXI for z/OS gives you instant access to the information you need, in a readable format. MXI is a low-cost, small-footprint monitoring solution for IBM mainframes that's quick to install, simple to configure, and straightforward to manage. It provides easy access to critical system information, so you can make decisions based on solid data and keep your IT environment optimized for key performance. You'll reduce the time you spend on monitoring and auditing, and increase the time you spend on other important IT tasks.



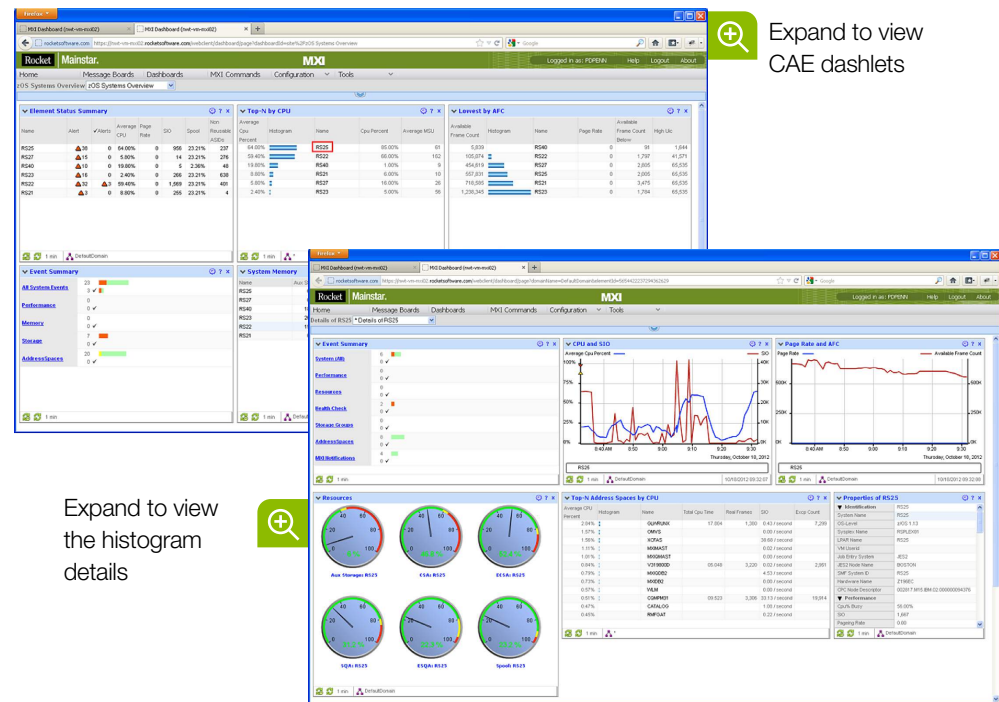
Valuable Insights Without a Crystal Ball

MXI has its own apprentice—the Consolidation and Analysis Engine (CAE)—designed to save you time and maximize resources. This utility gathers information from the MXI server and displays it through a web browser in easy-to-read dashboards populated by “dashlets” that address particular subsets of data. For instance, there might be dashlets for *Top Consumers of Data*, or *Event Summary*, or *System Memory*.

CAE comes with a standard set of dashlets, but the list goes on and on. You may be more interested in keeping an eye on address spaces than DASD volumes, or storage group occupancy rather than individual volume occupancy. The choice is yours.

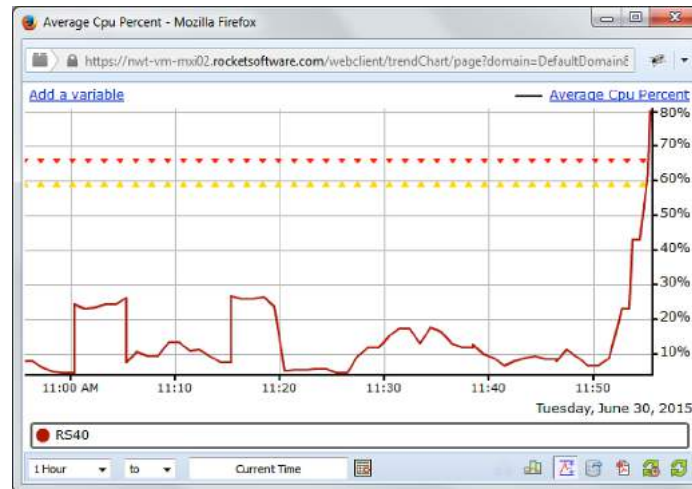
Whatever elements you decide to monitor, the information doesn't stop at the dashlet; you can drill down into the data. For instance, you can click on one of the histograms in the figure to the right, and see in-depth information for that particular variable.

Clear insights into all the elements in your environment let you head off problems before they get out of hand. With MXI/CAE, you can accomplish in just a few clicks of the mouse what would take a systems programmer a long time to complete using traditional batch reports.



Understanding Trends Is Not Magic

Now the data is easy to find and beautifully presented. But without context, you can't be sure what it means. The MXI History Analyzer lets you summarize historical data so you can distinguish between one-off anomalies and dangerous trends. You can view data at a specified point in time, or compare multiple data points over various timeframes. When you view historical data, you can see the trends you need to understand to pinpoint potential problem areas. It's not magic; it just feels like it.

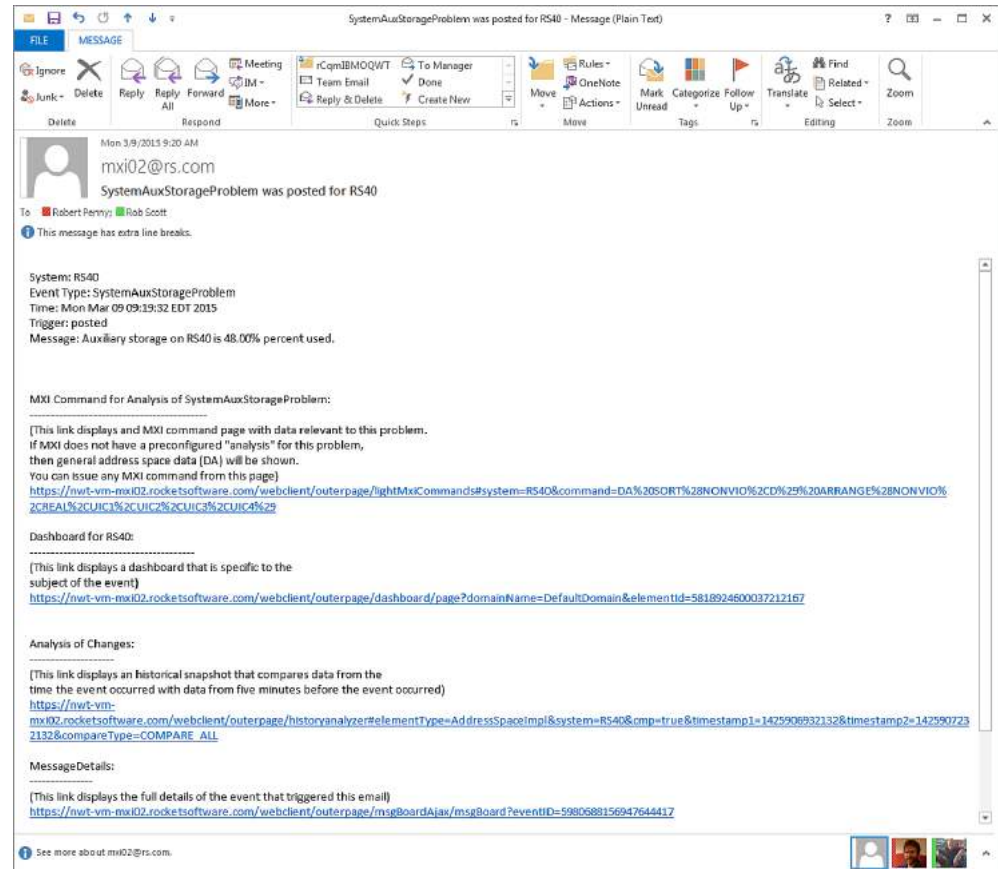



Expand to view
average cpu percent

Alerts: MXI Never Sleeps

Unlike the Sorcerer's Apprentice, MXI never falls asleep on the job. It works around the clock to keep tabs on your systems so you can attend to other business. When CAE determines that there has been an event exception—something out of the ordinary based on your parameters, or a threshold trigger—it sends an alert. You can choose to receive those alerts in a variety of ways, including SNMP, WTP, and email. If you opt for email alerts, they can include links that take you directly to the trouble spot.

Before MXI CAE sends an alert, it will always first apply intelligent analysis to the event and wait to see if the issue resolves itself. The goal is to avoid unnecessary alarms. For instance, a single job could be slowing things down, and when it finishes, the system will likely get back up to speed. No need to bother you with that, is there?



 MXI Alerts can be sent via including SNMP, WTP, and email

Be the Sorcerer of Monitoring

Deciphering long pages of reports generated by monitoring and auditing software is inefficient, time consuming, and frustrating. It's the sort of drudgery that makes system administrators long for apprentices. MXI significantly reduces the time spent on those activities, boosting productivity.

MXI helps you:

- Keep the z/OS environment running smoothly and efficiently without excessive cost or overhead
- Identify and address system issues before they become problems that affect business operations
- Decrease administrative overhead
- Optimize system, storage, and network resources

MXI is the monitoring solution you've been waiting for. It's easy to install, simple to configure, and straightforward to manage. With it you can quickly and easily identify performance and resource issues to save precious time and reduce costs. Monitor as if you were the Sorcerer of Monitoring, instead of the Sorcerer's Apprentice. Call us today to find out more.





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