LPAR2RRD optimizes Oracle licenses usage

One of the first implementations of LPAR2RRD tool was for a customer in the Czech Republic. This customer is running Oracle databases as application back-end on the IBM Power Systems platform. All databases are running in Oracle RAC cluster in the metrocluster. Currently (2014), the customer runs two **IBM Power Systems 795** and two IBM Power Systems 720.

The customer's main challenge is to keep smoothly running the Oracle DB within the available and licensed resources. Price for Oracle licenses on high-end servers is extremely high therefore right license sizing is very important here. Proper utilization monitoring and capacity planning can lead to big savings.

All application landscapes, such as production environment, test environment and other non-production environments, share the same cores from the Oracle licensed CPU pool. Resources are assigned to LPARs based on weights between production and non-production environments. This approach allows the customer to effectively run all workloads within one pool of licenses and thus save costs. Furthermore, proper evidence of consumed resources is mandatory and needs to be monitored on daily basis.

Since LPAR2RRD is installed and used, the customer is able to easily monitor the whole environment from many points of view, such as:
- installed CPUs
- whole physical servers
- CPU pools with Oracle licenses
- every single LPAR
- production and non-production landscapes
- capacity planning purposes

Based on those reports, the customer is able to measure the actual consumption of each LPAR, evaluate historical trends of the workload and predict future requirements. In case of any issues, i.e. new application, which consumes more resources, there is a very straightforward evidence of resources consumption in the past.

As this was one of the first installations of LPAR2RRD, the development team has done lots of customizations. For example, one of the required and implemented enhancements were automatically generated predefined reports sent via e-mail.

This particular customer is still using LPAR2RRD on daily basis already for many years. One of the biggest advantages of this tool is its simplicity in how any required data can be reached, selected and reported.