

Question	Answer
1 What is EPV zParser?	EPV zParser is a post processing solution. It reads SMF, and other data, and stores the results in an SQL database. It is developed in Perl and C++.
2 We already use SAS/MXG (or SAS/ITRM). Why do we need EPV zParser?	EPV zParser is a cost-effective alternative. In combination with EPV for z/OS+, it can replace any other post processing tool on the market today.
3 Does EPV zParser require SAS?	No. EPV zParser has no software pre-requisites.
4 Does EPV zParser have to run on z/OS?	No. EPV zParser can run on Windows, Linux, Unix, z/Linux and USS.
5 Are there technical pre-requisites on z/OS (such as APF libraries, exit modifications, etc.), to run the EPV zParser?	No. There are no technical pre-requisites.
6 Is it possible to completely eliminate SMF processing on the mainframe using the EPV for z/OS solution?	We suggest that you <i>do</i> conduct your SMF processing away from the mainframe. Today there are many techniques that allow you to do this. EPV zParser can process the SMF-produced data every time a SYS_MAN_ dataset is cleared. This guarantees that even very large sites with many LPARS can have all of their reporting ready first thing in the morning.
7 How can I use the data produced by EPV zParser?	As the data is in a database, you can best exploit it using the tools you already have. Both custom solutions and Business Intelligence tools can easily be adapted to accept input from the EPV zParser database.
8 What record types are handled by EPV zParser?	EPV zParser handles all IBM standard SMF records. It also handles IMS logs, IMF output, BVIR data collection, DCOLLECT, z/VM Monitor records and zLinux information.
9 What if we don't have time to learn another product?	EPV zParser is simple to install and useful immediately. All the fields are stored in exactly the same way SMF produces them, with the same name and meaning specified in the SMF manual. There is no training necessary to use the product efficiently.
10 Why should my organization adopt the EPV solution? What are the short-term and strategic benefits?	With EPV zParser, you can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace old tools and procedures, which are much more costly and complex to manage; • Process z/OS metrics on the platform which is most convenient for you; • Avoid conflicts between SMF data processing and production workloads; • Easily rebuild your Cost Accounting and Service Level Reporting applications, using more up-to-date rules.
11 What is the typical customer profile for the EPV zParser solution?	We have small, medium and large users. We believe that every company with a z/OS system should use EPV.
12 What pricing models are available for the EPV zParser solution?	EPV pricing is based on the number of partitions no matter what the configuration: there are no price increases for MIPS upgrades. Different pricing models can be discussed to manage specific circumstances
13 For every IT improvement or product acquisition activity, my department has to build a business case; how difficult is it for the EPV zParser solution?	Of course each site is unique, however, EPV can usually replace another, more expensive, tool. Moving SMF processing off the mainframe is another major cost-saving opportunity. One of the main advantages of EPV, however, is how it increases information availability. A quick calculation can easily estimate the amount of time that would be saved in performance analysis and capacity planning activities.
14 Is it possible to trial the product? How many days will it take to install EPV zParser?	We can either take a subset of your SMF data to produce a meaningful demo, or manage a complete trial installation, which will generally require only a couple of days from start to finish.