

CFINT A case of excess

Many AS/400 users have asked IBM for explanations on the CFINT task, which appears among the tasks in execution when one has the privilege of issuing the Wrksysact command; though it does not show when issuing the familiar Wrkactjob. The CFINT task performs internal OS/400 functions, one of them being -the most obvious- consuming CPU's resources; for no apparent reason. Some have even requested PTFs to correct this behavior. We don't know which has been the response from IBM's executives (properly advised and informed by IBM's specialists and technical support). However, the facts and IBM's technical documentation (AS/400 Performance Manual Reference), indicate that CFINT starts off, with top priority, consuming resources, reducing and almost choking any other work being executed. At the same time, due to the system's saturation it even hinders the starting of new work. All this results in a severe collapse of AS/400, leaving the users without a clue about the source of the problem.

The problem has been serious at numerous installations and the solution proposed by IBM account executives and dealers is to increase the Interactive Factor. This is why CFINT goes off. In AS/400 servers, a formula has been studied to allow AS/400 to be more competitive in the market for servers and for conventional computers. Since in the servers market segment competition is ferocious and prices are lower than the AS/400's, the idea is to offer powerful AS/400 with more competitive prices, lower prices that is, but establishing limits to the execution of interactive works.

This staggered limitation is what we know as the Interactive Factor and in terms of money, the differences between each step could be of thousands of euros. This leads to an underestimation of the importance of interactive works and therefore a wrong selection of the Interactive Factor, when defining the configuration.

This technical insignificance is the reason why hundreds, perhaps thousands, of AS/400 are being condemned to CFINT's dissuading effects. With its behaviour it punishes the daring customers, who unaware, exceed the contracted interactive power, causing chaos and anxiety on hundreds of users connected to the transgressor AS/400. It's as if the fuses blow out, but not only limits interactive works, but all kinds of jobs being executed while CFINT moves around, as if it were a virus.

The term computer virus understood as, -- *a program of unknown origin introduced **unnoticed** in a computer system which alters the normal running of other programs and/or file contents with chaotic results* --, excludes CFINT from this definition, because it is original on the OS/400.

While awaiting other alternatives on which without doubt IBM laboratories are working to overtake this uncomfortable situation, GO FASTER achieves its objective of preventing CFINT to launch itself and soak up most of the AS/400 CPU's capability.

Immediate and effective solution

An important stock firm has acquired a GoFaster licences trying to overtake the usual incidents caused in its communications with Banks and Stock Societies, even though they where in possession of a very powerful model, a 820, they reached very often the interactive limit and consequently all other non interactive jobs in execution where hindered by the CFINT abusive execution.

Sales are back

Model 270, 2352-1519, improves its price and can achieve an important interactive performance due to its 50 CPW, can reach the machine's total 1050 CPW, taking advantage of the GoFaster's performance. The discount offered by IBM is almost 50% and GoFaster well known efficiency make this model an unique opportunity to *consider* in your present extension and updating plans.

Profitable delays

With a GoFaster license you can delay an increase of your Interactive Factor, when your budget cannot afford this expenditure or it's exhausted.

For example, in a 820 model, passing from Factor 35 to 240, costs 75.000 Euros. With GoFaster you can reach a 2000 Factor only for 5.000 Euros. If you can handle all that money, we can bank them, and with the interests, purchase a GoFaster and even earn some money since we won't pay the annual maintenance fee.