Monitoring the Health & Performance of Java Virtual Machines (JVM)

JVM: The Cornerstone of Java Enterprise Applications

The Java Virtual Machine (JVM) forms the core of the Java application architecture. It plays the crucial role of interpreting and translating Java byte code into operations on the host platform. Since Java middleware (application servers such as Tomcat, JBoss EAP, JBoss AS, WildFly, WebSphere, and WebLogic) runs on the JVM, a performance issue at the JVM level has a major impact on business services supported by it.

Monitoring of the JVM must be an integral part of any Java application performance monitoring strategy. IT Ops and DevOps teams use JVM performance metrics to troubleshoot server-side bottlenecks. Developers and architects can also benefit from JVM monitoring by uncovering code-level issues.

Key JVM Performance Questions to Answer

- Is there any runaway thread hogging the CPU? Which line of code is it executing, in which class, and which method?
- Is the JVM heap and non-heap memory sized correctly?
- Are there any out-of-memory-exceptions or memory leaks?
- When does garbage collection happen, and how much memory is freed up each time?
- Are there any thread deadlocks happening that are causing application processing to be hung?

End-to-End JVM Monitoring with eG Enterprise

eG Enterprise is a comprehensive performance monitoring, diagnosis and reporting solution for Java application infrastructures. Using JMX, eG Enterprise monitors JVMs (such as JRockit, OpenJDK, Oracle, IBM, etc.) in depth, tracking key performance indicators covering all aspects of a JVM’s performance.

We can now quickly identify root causes of incidents, resolving them before users are impacted. Automatic prioritization and categorization of alerts helps us better focus on the important issues and prioritize our resources accordingly.

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Key Capabilities of eG Enterprise for JVM Monitoring

CPU & Memory Management
• Track JVM CPU utilization and easily identify high CPU consuming threads
• Monitor heap and non-heap memory usage (growing memory utilization can indicate memory leak and out-of-memory errors)
• Monitor JVM uptime statistics and whether restarts are occurring unexpectedly
• Identify class names that are memory leak suspects

Thread Monitoring & Garbage Collection
• Uncover deadlocked and blocked threads, and easily isolate the Java class, method or object that is causing these issues
• In a single click, look up the stack trace to pinpoint the exact line of code encountering an error or exception. See real-time as well as historical data.
• Track time taken for garbage collection (GC). Fine-tune GC settings based on GC activity analysis.

Get Visibility Beyond the JVM
JVM monitoring is necessary, but is not sufficient for delivering great Java application performance. The performance of the server infrastructure (OS, hardware, virtualization platform, storage, etc.), the web container hosting the application, and the database server used affect Java application performance. With eG Enterprise, you get:

• Business Transaction Monitoring: Trace business transactions across all of your application tiers. Using a tag-and-follow approach, eG Enterprise reports the processing time for a request at each tier and highlights which tier is causing slowdowns and why: is it Java processing (which method?), database queries (which ones?), web service, or calls to third-party applications?

• Deep Insight into Java Containers: Monitor thread pools, request queues, connection pools and other application processing functions supported by Java containers (such as Tomcat, JBoss EAP, JBoss AS, WildFly, WebSphere, and WebLogic) to identify application bottlenecks.

• Unified and Correlated IT Infrastructure Monitoring: Automatically discover dependencies between infrastructure tiers, analyze performance insights, and correlate them with Java application performance and end-user experience to isolate the root cause of performance issues across the IT environment.

About eG Innovations
eG Innovations is dedicated to helping businesses across the globe transform IT service delivery into a competitive advantage and a center for productivity, growth and profit. Many of the world’s largest businesses use eG Enterprise to enhance IT service performance, increase operational efficiency, ensure IT effectiveness and deliver on the ROI promise of transformational IT investments across physical, virtual and cloud environments.