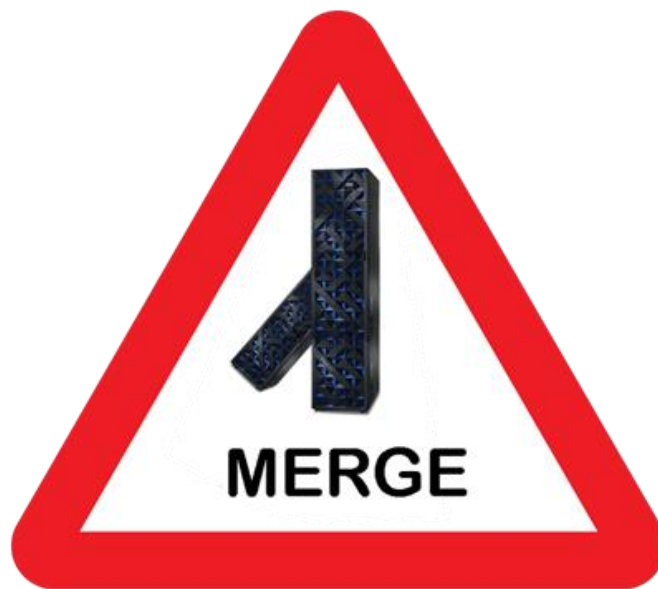


# Extending the Life of your Netezza System by Merging 2 Mako Systems into 1

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In a year from now we will reach end-of-support for the remaining Mako range of [Netezza](#) appliances. In the meantime, some businesses may find themselves running out of capacity on their production system but they are not ready to upgrade to a new [Cloud Pak for Data](#) system or to the Cloud. They want to continue using their existing Netezza platform, partly because it's still officially supported by IBM, partly because

they are still depreciating the hardware asset. If one were available, they would opt for an upgrade to their existing system, but the reality is IBM can only offer them a completely new one.

A typical scenario is a customer that has a couple of single-rack Makos - maybe a production server and one used for disaster recovery.

In this situation, customers may like to consider merging their two systems together to make a fully refurbished new system with twice the capacity and twice the processing power and so buy some extra life for their system. This is not something that IBM endorses or provides itself. Doing so invalidates any remaining IBM warranty, but with our [Netezza Afterlife Support Service](#), we can provide the same level of support, in conjunction with our hardware partners, for the refurbished system that they enjoyed previously with IBM. In fact, that would be a pre-requisite for agreeing to do the merge.

The process is destructive, and you are going to erase both systems to achieve the result. However, what you will end up with is a completely empty system with twice the number of discs, twice the capacity of your previous single rack system, and two times the performance. The point of massively parallel processing is that if you double the number of processors, you'll either half the query runtime or you double the volume of data that you can query in the same timeframe as before, and so you will get a near linear performance improvement.

Obviously as the system gets more and more full, depending on the queries being run you will not see that performance sustained over time, but there are things that one can do to improve performance even when data volumes increase such as distribution key decisions, organisation keys, updating statistics and grooming, etc.

To start, we first need remote access to the environment to perform some investigation work to identify any defective parts, and to reconfigure such things as IP addresses, and network masking and routing rules.

Before we can merge the systems, all hardware must be resolved. Procurement and installation of the required parts can be done either by the customer themselves, in which case we would provide a list of the part numbers, or we can work with our hardware partners to do everything on their behalf. There are several cables and switches that are needed, which we'll add to this list. We would recommend allowing a couple of weeks to be on the safe side to procure, install and test the new parts.

Prior to terminating their existing IBM support agreement, the customer must download whatever versions of software they are using (NPS, FDT, HPF, RedHat). It's licensed software, so we cannot download it on their behalf.

The two systems that are being merged should be adjacent to each other, because we will be physically plugging in cables between them, so a relocation may be necessary.

You will also have to do a full backup for restoring onto your new merged system. If you are using Smart Management Frameworks [SmartSafe](#) module you can easily replicate your system and re-replicate the data back to the original system post-merger.

Once all the prerequisites have been satisfied, we reinitialize the entire system to create a whole new empty system that spans both cabinets of hardware. That's the reason why it's a destructive process - the final step of the involves reinitializing the whole database to create the new environment that encompasses all the combined hardware from both cabinets.

And of course, you then perform the full restore or replicate back to your new double racked super charged Mako system. Oh, and by the way we can also do this with older Netezza appliances.

If you'd be interested in doing a Mako merge, [give us a shout!](#)



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