

## Re: mainframe career advice

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*Source:* <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Cobol/comp.lang.cobol/2005-09/msg00621.html>

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- *From:* Waldek Hebisch <[hebisch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:hebisch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 29 Sep 2005 22:43:49 +0000 (UTC)
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Mike <[MPBrede@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:MPBrede@xxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

>  
> Waldek Hebisch wrote:  
>>  
>> Using standard software a single PC can typeset about thousand pages  
>> per second. A PC database can easily deliver 20 thousand rows per  
>> second. So, a single PC can generate content for millions of checks  
>> per hour. It looks that the bottleneck is actual printing: you need  
>> a sizeable printer farm to handle that load.  
>>  
>> Granted, mainframes have bigger IO capacity than desktop PC. But you  
>> just have to size things correctly, if not desktop then server machines.  
>> For highest load it looks that IBM Power servers are the best — from  
>> data sheets it looks that top Power machines offer 2–10 times better  
>> performance (depending of the load) than top Z architecture machines.  
>>  
>  
> Could you cite some sources for your numbers? I find them to be rather  
> on the high end.  
>

For typesetting on PC I just use a pipeline:

flat file -> Perl Script -> TeX -> dvips

and just measured the speed. For database speed I forgot the location of benchmark page.

Info on z9-109 from (but since data is incomplete I guesstimate based on earlier models):

<http://www-03.ibm.com/servers/systems/systemz9/z9109>

Info on p5 595:

<http://www-03.ibm.com/servers/eserver/pseries/hardware/highend/595.html>

z9-109 page does not disclose clock speed but following:

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<http://www-03.ibm.com/servers/eserver/zseries/z990/>

I see that z990 uses 1.2 GHz (0.83 ns) clock. Considering that clock speeds were changing slowly in recent two years I guess that z9-109 has much slower clock than 1.9 GHz in p5 595. Also I guess that p5 595 (like the lower end models) is highly superscalar (3-5 instructions per clock) while Z architecture is probably doing 1-2 instructions per clock (it used to be single dispatch and comparisons of models suggest that it still may be the case). p5 595 has 64 processors, top z9-109 has 38 (with 54 scheduled for November). So p5 595 seem to have much higher instruction rate than z9-109. Memory and IO capacity of p5 595 seem to be high enough to keep ahead also on data intensive load.

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• **References:**

- ◆ **mainframe career advice**  
    ◇ From: Mirlitone
  - ◆ **Re: mainframe career advice**  
    ◇ From: HeyBub
  - ◆ **Re: mainframe career advice**  
    ◇ From: Waldek Hebisch
  - ◆ **Re: mainframe career advice**  
    ◇ From: Mike
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