

Platform Computing Acquires HP-MPI Business

ANNOUNCEMENT

Platform Computing has acquired the HP-MPI business from HP. HP-MPI is widely used in the HPC industry as a fully integrated message passing interface (MPI) solution that is used by many industry independent software vendors (ISVs) to build high performance applications. The HP-MPI acquisition follows Platform's successful acquisition and integration of the Scali MPI product, now known as Platform MPI, into its suite of HPC management software used in all three areas of HPC adoption; clusters, grids, and clouds.

Platform will merge HP-MPI into its current Platform MPI product offering. The combination of these two technologies will benefit customers by:

- Offering an industry leading tool to improve applications' performance through parallel processing.
- Providing an MPI solution with a stable, commercially supported environment for the continued development of their parallel processing algorithms used in their compute intensive applications.
- Continuing support of a MPI software which has been adopted as an industry standard by many of the leading independent software vendors (ISV) used by engineers and scientists in the automotive, aerospace, energy, government and life sciences markets from a leading company in the HPC marketplace.
- Allowing the accelerated adoption of the software by other hardware brands into their cluster management tools because of its rebranding from HP-MPI to Platform MPI and the company's hardware agnostic position.

HP and Platform have partnered to transition ongoing development and support of the HP-MPI product to Platform. The two companies will work closely together to ensure customers continue to enjoy the best available MPI product, backed by the same care and support. HP will continue to provide guidance on product direction, continue to sell the product, and will continue to provide customer facing support to customers under support contracts with HP.

The acquisition of HP-MPI by Platform is the latest in a number of business arrangements between two of the leading companies in HPC. HP has been a partner of Platform Computing since its formation in 1992 and has adopted Platform's LSF and Platform Cluster Manager as components in its HP's XC and ICE-LX cluster management software offerings.

FAQ

Q: What's the news?

A: Platform Computing has acquired the HP-MPI product and business from HP. Platform will continue, and add to, the roadmap defined by HP, and will work jointly with HP to provide the same commitment to product and support excellence as established by HP.

Q: What is HP-MPI?

A: HP-MPI is a fully integrated implementation of MPI, an industry standard message –passing protocol used by compute intensive algorithms to run processes in parallel over multiple nodes in a cluster. HP-MPI enables software developers and independent software vendors (ISVs) to build high performance applications for the latest multi-core hardware technology.

Q: Why buy HP-MPI after acquiring Scali MPI?

A: Adoption of Platform's software tools by independent software vendors (ISV's) is considered a strategic direction by the company. HP-MPI is the most widely adopted MPI software across many industries including Oil and Gas, Industrial Manufacturing, Government & Research, Education, Life Sciences and Financial Services. HP has over 30, ISV's, who use and distribute HP-MPI. It is Platform's intent to merge the former Scali MPI technology with its superior performance with that of HP-MPI for its industry leading adoption to form a single product named Platform MPI.

Q: What will happen to Platform MPI (formerly Scali MPI) now that Platform has bought HP-MPI

A: Both Platform MPI 5.6 (formerly Scali MPI) and Platform MPI 7(formerly HP -MPI) will continue on their current release cycles and be maintained to support exiting customers for an interim period. In the future the products will be merged to create a single offering named Platform MPI 8. Platform will continue to support legacy versions of each product.

Q: What customers are using HP-MPI?

A: HP-MPI has an install base of over 40,000 licenses. HP-MPI is used throughout the HPC landscape but is in a dominant position in the Oil and Gas, Industrial Manufacturing, Government & Research, Education, and Life Sciences vertical markets.

Q: What are Platform's plans for HP-MPI?

A: Platform's immediate plan is to ensure all customers and partners are fully supported in their ongoing use of the HP-MPI product. To meet this objective, Platform has retained key HP-MPI development personnel. These former HP employees will develop, support, and enhance the new Platform MPI product going forward.

Q: When is the next upgrade expected?

A: HP-MPI most recent version, v.2.3, was released at the beginning of 2009. Platform MPI (formerly Scali MPI) next release is v5.6.7 scheduled for end of Q3 CY 2009. Future releases and product roadmap are to be determined.

Q: How does the product compare to other MPI's?

A: Platform MPI (formerly Scali MPI) has been consistently faster across a wide range of 3rd party benchmarks than open source or other commercial MPI's. HP-MPI has a very strong technology roadmap focusing on High Availability, scalability, and advanced hardware support.

Also since both HP and Platform MPI are commercial MPI implementations not based on open-source software, they are not restricted by the limitations of non-commercial libraries. Open source MPI implementations do not provide continuous, reliable and consistent levels of support as in a commercially supported product.

Q: How does this acquisition affect HP-MPI customers and partners?

A: HP-MPI customers will be fully supported by Platform. Platform has retained all key support personnel, and will continue to support HP-MPI on all current platforms. In addition, HP will continue to sell HP-MPI and support contracts will be honored by Platform. Platform will maintain a strong relationship with key ISV partners who have standardized on HP-MPI.

Q: What does the acquisition mean for Platform customers?

A: Platform's customers will be offered a state of the art MPI offering with a tight integration to LSF. This integration will offer improved performance restart, and failover functionality. Coordinated product development between Platform MPI, PCM, LSF, Symphony and ISF will continue Platform's mission to be a key player in clusters, grids, and cloud computing.

Q: What does this acquisition do for HPC customers?

A: Customers will see the continued support and development of the rebranded Platform MPI product, maintaining its position as the most widely adopted standard for communication among processes on distributed memory systems used in parallel programming. Platform's intent is to integrate all its best of breed technologies, to create a "superstack" of tools for cluster, workload, and cloud management unsurpassed by anything currently offered in the industry.

Q: What does it do for HPC ISV's?

A: ISV's will continue to be offered the newly rebranded Platform MPI product from a trusted business partner. Many of the commercial ISV's who have adopted HP-MPI as their MPI tool of choice already have business relationships with Platform Computing. With customers continuing to increase their demands on software applications to improve the fidelity of their results and enrich their functionality, the ability to parallelize application algorithms and place multiple threads over distributed processors is a key enabler. The acquisition of HP-MPI offers Platform another avenue to assist ISV's in HPC enablement.

Q: I have support with HP-MPI. Do I now call Platform for my Support issues?

A: Customers:

If customers have existing support contract with HP, they should continue to contact HP at 1-800-633-3600. Platform will immediately begin to transition HP-MPI customers to Platform contracts. When that occurs those customers will then contact Platform at:

Phone: 1 905-948-4297

Toll Free: 1 877-444-4573

Email: support@platform.com

A: Independent Software Vendors:

ISV can immediately begin to transition HP-MPI questions to Platform after assignment of their current HP partner contracts occurs. For first line support:

Phone: 1 905-948-4297
 Toll Free: 1 877-444-4573
 Email: support@platform.com

Issues pertaining to software development will be immediately escalated to the Platform MPI team in Richardson, TX by the Platform support team (i.e. the former HP MPI team)

Q: Will the price of HP-MPI remain the same?

Platform and HP have collaborated on new pricing for the newly branded Platform MPI product in order to simplify order administration and streamline licensing on multi-core processors. The overall result however should be neutral in terms of pricing for the average purchase of Platform MPI from either HP or Platform. It will continue to be available through HP on the HP CPL (Common Public License) at the same price, and available directly from Platform at the same price as from HP

Q: How do I contact Platform regarding purchase of HP-MPI?

A: HP-MPI will continue to be sold predominantly through HP and other Platform channel partners. Customer inquiries made directly to Platform can contact at:

Phone: 1-905-948-8448
 Toll Free: 1-877-710-4477
 Email: info@platform.com

Q: Will certified training for HP-MPI still be offered?

A: Yes. Platform will continue to offer all existing training courses and will look for opportunities to introduce new courses and different formats for HP-MPI training.

Contact Platform Training at:

Phone: 1-905-948-8448
 Toll Free: 1-877-710-4477
 Email: trng@platform.com

Q: Will Platform extend its custom development and consulting services to HP-MPI?

A: Yes. Platform will extend their custom development and consulting services to HP-MPI Connect.

Platform™

Platform Computing is the leader in grid and cloud computing software that dynamically connects IT resources to workload demand according to business policies. Over 2,000 of the world's largest organizations rely on our solutions to improve IT productivity and reduce data center costs. Platform has strategic relationships with Cray, Dell™, HP, IBM®, Intel®, Microsoft®, Red Hat®, and SAS®. Building on 16 years of market leadership, Platform continues to help data centers be more efficient, responsive and dynamic. Visit www.platform.com.

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