

TPC Pricing Specification

Overview and Comparison with
predecessor specifications

Purpose

The TPC Pricing Work Group was chartered to recommend revisions to the existing pricing methodology so that prices used in published TPC results are verifiable. In the course of this activity, a decision was made to develop a single pricing specification that is consistent for all TPC benchmark. This specification is now ready for public and TPC Member review

Goals Addressed by the Pricing Specification

- Clarity
 - Wording changed to provide crisper meaning, definition section added for specific terms
- Verifiability
 - Wording added to require path through which the price is obtained
 - Wording added to require ability to generate an order when FDR released
- Consistency
 - Eliminates disparity/confusion between specifications

Benchmark Organization

- Clause 7.x – similar in scope to current primary pricing clause in the benchmark specifications
- Clauses 0.1, 0.2, 8.x, 9.x – similar in scope to the portions of those clauses that speak to price or product availability
- Clause 0.3 – new clause for definitions of terms
- Appendix – price-related reference material
- Clauses 1-6 not included to maintain consistent clause numbering with existing specifications

Comparability With Existing Results

- No significant change in WHAT is priced
- The working group recommendation is that adoption of the pricing spec will allow all current results to be comparable with results which use the pricing specification
 - Minor changes will have less difference than the affect of price changes over time

Delta from TPC-C

- Must disclose both price and method/sales-channel through which it may be obtained
- Price reporting required to be broken out by server type
- Maintenance contracts must be provided upon request
- Orderability – Must be able to order the benchmark configuration.
 - Compromise between TPC-H/R which require absolute orderability and TPC-C which allowed “how to order” without actually requiring an order for software.

Delta from TPC-H, TPC-R

- Pricing Specification
 - Requires 3 year maintenance pricing
 - Must disclose both price and method/sales-channel through which it may be obtained
 - Maintenance Contracts must be provided upon request
- TPC H/R
 - Require 1 year times 3 maintenance pricing

Delta from TPC-W

- Pricing Specification -
 - Must disclose both price and method/sales-channel through which it may be obtained
 - Maintenance Contracts must be provided upon request
- TPC-W requirements -
 - Inclusion in FDR of general delivery date for any product not generally released at publication date
 - TPC-W requires line item pricing from vendor's price books, with quantity one pricing included.

Existing Benchmark Specification Updates Required

- Update to refer to pricing specification
- Update to include benchmark specific items
 - Storage requirements
 - SUT definition
 - Benchmark specific result generation and operational pricing requirements
 - Other pricing requirements not included in the TPC Pricing Specification

Benchmark Sponsors Requirements

- Must disclose both price and method/sales-channel through which it may be obtained
- Price reporting organized by server type
- Maintenance contracts must be provided upon request

Proposed Schedule

- Send pricing specification for company and public review until January 31, 2004
- Comments addressed in February and March
- TPC Vote: April, 2004
- Voting Results: June, 2004
- In force if approved: August, 2004