Hardware Management Console – HMC
Hints and Tips

1) How many HMC models does IBM have?
We have announced 2 models of the HMC. Model 7315 which was announced with the p690 and model 7315-C01 which we announced October 8th 2002 (commonly referred to as GA3)

2) Are there any limitations on the number of lpars that can be run on any of the HMC models?
There are no technical limitations that would prevent us from running greater than 16 LPARs on any of the HMC platforms. However it should be realized that performance on an older model of course will not be as robust since it has only half the memory of a current 7315-C01, but it can and does handle all the same functions as the latest model.

3) Are there any plans to offer an upgrade path or a trade-in program for customers who have the older model of the HMC?
Considering that there are no limitations of functionality on the older models of the HMC, there is no plan to upgrade or offer a trade-in program.

4) How many HMC's can be attached to a server?
The maximum number of HMC's that be attached to a server is 2

5) Can I use a p670/p690 in an SMP environment without the HMC?
It is technically possible to use the p670/p690 platform without the HMC in an SMP environment, however this would not be a supported configuration by IBM.

6) Can I use my Intel architecture PC and load it with the recovery CD of the HMC and use it?
The Netfinity PC, Linux operating system and the WebSM code that IBM provides for the HMC has been customized, integrated and tested to provide the HMC functions. That is the only supported configuration for the HMC.

7) What is the maximum number of servers that can be attached to a HMC?
Yes, there is a restriction on how many servers that can be attached to a single HMC based on what the hardware platform model is that is being attached.

8) What is the maximum number of servers that can be attached and managed by a single HMC?
There are several combinations for the maximum number of servers that an HMC can control and manage. These can vary by the size of the servers and there complexity. In a non-clustered environments one HMC can control up to:

- 12 pSeries 670 and/or p690 servers with up to 64 LPARS
- 16 pSeries 655 servers with up to 32 LPARS
- 16 pSeries servers and 64 LPARS in a mixed server environment.

A mixed server environment can contain a combined maximum of eight p670 and/or p690 servers.

9) What do I need to configure on an HMC to attach multiple servers?
When configuring an HMC to manage multiple servers, you need to configure either the 2943 or 2944 adapter to add the additional serial ports required. The Server to HMC cables are the 8120 - 6 meter or 8121 - 15 meter cable or 8122 - 6 meter cable for p655.

10) Can my HMC have 2 ethernet adapters configured in it?
Yes the HMC can have 2 ethernet adapters installed and configured for its operation.

11) Can I make a backup copy of my HMC to recover in the event of a HMC disaster?
Yes. From the HMC GUI, select Software Maintenance → HMC → Backup Critical Data. This will make a complete backup of your system on the DVD RAM media.

11) When I attach 2 HMC's to a p670/p690 server what do I need to do to make them similar?
There are several things to consider when dual HMC's are attached to a p670/p690 server. The lpar and profile configurations will be in sync between HMC's as this information will be retrieved from the nvram of the server and you will be set. The pieces that you will not have on the second HMC are the following:

- Network configuration and customization
- User definitions
- Backup schedules
- Service Focal Point configuration
- Any additional scripts or cron entries

12) Why am I not able to use the WebSM remote client with the HMC ?
There may be several reasons for this. The most common error is that you may not have enabled the ssh requests to the HMC. To resolve this, from the HMC GUI select HMC Maintenance → System Configuration → Enable/Disable Remote Command Execution → Enable Remote Command Execution Using the ssh Facility. This will generally resolve the problem.