

AIX HEALTH CHECK

*The number one in AIX Health Checks; Provided by IBM
Certified Advanced Technical Experts*

What is AIX Health Check?

Usually, organizations monitor their computer systems automatically. So when something goes wrong, an alert will be sent out. However, it is better not to wait until something goes wrong. Wouldn't it be nice to know up front if the AIX systems are installed, configured and maintained according to best practices? And wouldn't it be nice to know what is wrong with the AIX system now, before an automatic monitor alerts about it? That's where AIX Health Check comes in. We provide AIX Health Check to scan entire systems. It's software that's run on an AIX system to scan for issues. Just like going to a doctor for a full check-up. A report of all features of the AIX system is generated, and it shows how the system is doing. If the system is properly installed, configured and maintained, an all green report with a score of 100% will be given. If for some reason, some things are off, we'll let you know in the report what is wrong, and how to fix it. And the best thing is, you can run this yourself.

Highlights

- Based on best practices and years of experience supporting AIX systems.
 - Improves AIX system health by automatically scanning the system for any known issues, and providing suggestions to resolve any issue found.
 - Runs hundreds of checks in minutes.
 - Reduces manual checking and monitoring systems.
 - Avoids system outages by discovering misconfigurations pro-actively.
 - Can be automated to run at set intervals.
 - Verifies AIX systems audit and federal regulations compliancy.
 - Inventories the configuration of the AIX system.
 - Creates reports in CSV, text, HTML or XML format and is capable of sending email reports.
 - Helps to standardize AIX system configurations.
 - Educates AIX admins on AIX best practices.
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When to use AIX Health Check

An AIX Health Check is beneficial in several stages of an AIX system lifecycle. Most of our customers simply run the entire health check daily, to provide them with a report of their server status. But doing an AIX Health Check is also very useful at certain important points in time:

- Before putting a new system into production - to make sure the system was installed and configured correctly.
- Before and after doing a change on a server - to make sure no issues exist before applying patches, and that no adverse situations were introduced as part of a change.
- During audits - to make sure a system is compliant with company and federal regulations.
- During yearly performance reviews - to determine if the system administrators have taken good care of the AIX servers.
- Before or during any Bare Metal Restore or Disaster Recovery exercises - to validate that an AIX server is recovered correctly.
- When taking over AIX systems from others or other accounts to perform an initial quality scan.

... and of course:

- As part of the daily routine to check and monitor systems, because not daily reviewing AIX systems, can have costly consequences.

What are AIX best practices?

We only employ the best of the best experts on AIX. All of our AIX experts are IBM certified, and have all gained the highest certification level possible: IBM Certified Advanced Technical Expert - Power Systems with AIX. This is an extensive certification level, which requires significant training, reading, and passing at least 5 exams. And most of all, it requires several years of on the job experience with several of our customers. We have seen it all. From minor issues to large system outages, from mis-configurations to large recovery efforts. We have built up an extensive experience on how to configure and maintain AIX servers. We have gathered all this experience in our product, the AIX Health Check.

Included

The AIX Health Check includes:

- AIX Operating system, performance, HACMP/PowerHA and security scans.
 - Reports generated in CSV, text, HTML or XML output. Reports can be sent out to one or more email addresses.
 - Online documentation for AIX Health Check.
 - One year support from our technical experts.
 - One year software updates.
 - A fixed price (\$4,950), to plan IT budgets more easily.
 - Absolutely no hassle: It's easy to use!
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What happens with the report generated by AIX Health Check?

We understand that AIX systems are critical to the businesses they operate in (that's the whole point of having an AIX Health Check). We don't transmit any information of AIX systems. Our software is built to run standalone on AIX servers. You decide what to do with the information produced by an AIX Health Check. All of our software is written in scripting language. It can be reviewed up front, to make absolutely sure that no system information is transmitted outside your company. We don't access client system(s), and we don't get access to system information.

How long does it take to run AIX Health Check?

Performance is a big issue with us here at AIX Health Check. We've taken every possible opportunity to make sure AIX Health Check runs smoothly and quickly, and without consuming too many resources. But it depends on the system you're running AIX Health Check on. Obviously, an older system takes more time to run AIX Health Check, if you compare it with a new powerful POWER8 system. It also depends on the number of users and the number of devices that are configured.

On average, an AIX system takes a couple of minutes to run AIX Health Check. Some of the latest and greatest POWER8 systems can get close to running it within 90 seconds. Large enterprise systems, with thousands of users and thousands of devices, may take up to 30 minutes to run a full AIX Health Check.

System requirements

Hardware supported:

IBM POWER4 to POWER8

AIX levels supported:

- AIX 5.2
- AIX 5.3
- AIX 6.1
- AIX 7.1 and AIX 7.2

PowerHA/HACMP levels supported:

- HACMP 5.4.1
- PowerHA 5.5
- PowerHA 6.1
- PowerHA 7.1

AIX Health Check needs to be run as user root, not by any other account. This is due to the fact that several root-level access commands are run by AIX Health Check. Of course, AIX Health Check does not change anything on the AIX server; it only reports.

To view the HTML reports that AIX Health Check produces, one of the following browsers is required:

- Microsoft Internet Explorer 8 or higher
- Mozilla Firefox
- Google Chrome
- Microsoft Outlook 2003/2010 or Windows Live Mail (to receive HTML-style reports)

AIX Health Check is also supported on Virtual I/O Servers (VIOS) and Workload Partitions (WPARs).

What items are checked by AIX Health Check?

Listing all items checked by AIX Health Check would simply be too much. AIX Health Check consists of hundreds of checks (1000+). Some examples of items that are checked by AIX Health Check are:

- Are the paging spaces set up correctly with the correct sizes?
- Are any unnecessary daemons properly disabled?
- Are the correct levels of openSSH and openSSL installed?
- Is the 64 bit kernel running on a 64-bit capable system?
- Are there valid disks in the bootlist?
- Are the firmware levels up to date?
- Are the network options set the same on all HACMP cluster nodes?
- Are mksysb backups created?
- Does each drawer of your system have at least 2 power supplies for redundancy?
- Is rootvg properly mirrored?
- Are the settings correct for user accounts and passwords?
- Are the retention settings correct for TSM backups in dsm.sys?

Sample reports are available on our website, www.aixhealthcheck.com.

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