

April Newsletter

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Greetings and thank you for taking the time to read our Newsletter – we trust that you will find something useful (and hopefully interesting). Please let us know if you have any questions or details you would like included in future

AIX is 35 years and going strong

Yes, the party is still going!

As I mentioned earlier, I was glad that IBM announced work on more AIX Certifications – and since then I have been working with the team getting the exam ready for AIX v7.x Administrator Speciality. While exam is intended for a junior (apprentice?) AIX Administrator, there are more in the pipeline (PowerHA, AIX advanced...).

Thank you to all those who contributed to the survey, which helped that the exam will have greater relevance to the wider AIX community.

Standing Pat Is No Longer an Option With the HMC

An interesting article by Rob McNelly explaining why newer systems are not working with your old HMC and provides some useful upgrade options.

See:

[https://techchannel.com/Enterprise/03/2021/upgrade-hmc?utm_source=Acoustic&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=032421_TechBeat_SMB_SundayResend%20\(1\)&utm_content=Article%201%20CTA&spMailingID=18580800&spUserID=NTg4NTkxNTQwMTE5S0&spJobID=2082460863&spReportId=MjA4MjQ2MDg2MwS2](https://techchannel.com/Enterprise/03/2021/upgrade-hmc?utm_source=Acoustic&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=032421_TechBeat_SMB_SundayResend%20(1)&utm_content=Article%201%20CTA&spMailingID=18580800&spUserID=NTg4NTkxNTQwMTE5S0&spJobID=2082460863&spReportId=MjA4MjQ2MDg2MwS2)

Extend the IBM i Administration Runtime Expert With Custom Plug-ins

Last month Dawn May described how the IBM i Administration Runtime Expert (ARE) helps ensure your environment and application attributes remain in a consistent and expected state. In this article she talks about creating custom plug-ins for Administration Runtime Expert and extending its functionality.

See:

[https://techchannel.com/SMB/03/2021/ibm-i-administration-runtime-expert-plugins?utm_source=Acoustic&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=032421_TechBeat_SMB_SundayResend%20\(1\)&utm_content=Article%202%20CTA&spMailingID=18580800&spUserID=NTg4NTkxNTQwMTE5S0&spJobID=2082460863&spReportId=MjA4MjQ2MDg2MwS2](https://techchannel.com/SMB/03/2021/ibm-i-administration-runtime-expert-plugins?utm_source=Acoustic&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=032421_TechBeat_SMB_SundayResend%20(1)&utm_content=Article%202%20CTA&spMailingID=18580800&spUserID=NTg4NTkxNTQwMTE5S0&spJobID=2082460863&spReportId=MjA4MjQ2MDg2MwS2)

Think 2021

Registration is now open for Think 2021 - IBM's premier event. Depending on your geography, Think begins on either 11 May or 12 May. I am looking forward the mix of live discussions / on-demand sessions and the labs, with a great mix of new technologies.

May 11 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM EDT | Americas

May 12 09:00 AM - 2:00 PM SGT | APAC

May 12 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM CEST | EMEA

See:

http://www.ibm.com/partnerworld/partnertools/p.wss?cmd=ctt&ctt_track=10924709&country=SG&a=EC8JY5KEWE

IBM Spectrum Scale Webinars: Performance Tuning and Troubleshooting

For the AP Session on 13th May at 09:00 to 10:00 UTC +8 register at:

http://ibm.biz/Scale_Performance_TuneUp_AP

OpenShift Provides One Path To IBM i Modernisation

Alex Woodie recognises that while OpenShift is unlikely to integrate directly with IBM i, there is a wealth of innovation and great scope for modernisation that this will bring for IBM i customers. Joe Cropper covered the same opportunities at the IBM i Futures Conference last month.

See:

<https://www.itjungle.com/2021/03/29/openshift-provides-one-path-to-ibm-i-modernization/>

IBM i enhancements via PTFs

Improvements to Restricted State

This change was delivered last year for all supported releases (7.2, 7.3 and 7.4) and improves restricted state processing when performing some GO SAVE / GO RESTORE and GO LIPGM options.

ObjectConnect Over TCP/IP

This provides a simple and secure method to transfer objects between IBM i partitions and was announced with 7.4 TR3, so the Enterprise Extender for ObjectConnect is no longer required.

See:

[https://techchannel.com/SMB/01/2021/two-ibm-i-enhancements?utm_source=Acoustic&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=033121_TechBeat_SMB%20\(1\)%20remainder&utm_content=Article%202%20CTA&spMailingID=18595497&spUserID=NTg4NTkxNTQwMTE5S0&spJobID=2083099783&spReportId=MjA4MzA5OTc4MwS2](https://techchannel.com/SMB/01/2021/two-ibm-i-enhancements?utm_source=Acoustic&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=033121_TechBeat_SMB%20(1)%20remainder&utm_content=Article%202%20CTA&spMailingID=18595497&spUserID=NTg4NTkxNTQwMTE5S0&spJobID=2083099783&spReportId=MjA4MzA5OTc4MwS2)

2021 AIX Performance Tuning Update

Jaqui Lynch has published a great update to AIX tuning, covering her AIX performance tuning plan and the importance of taking a phased approach to AIX tuning.

See:

[https://techchannel.com/IT-Strategy/02/2021/2021-aix-performance-tuning?utm_source=Acoustic&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=033121_TechBeat_SMB%20\(1\)%20remainder&utm_content=Article%201%20CTA&spMailingID=18595497&spUserID=NTg4NTkxNTQwMTE5S0&spJobID=2083099783&spReportId=MjA4MzA5OTc4MwS2](https://techchannel.com/IT-Strategy/02/2021/2021-aix-performance-tuning?utm_source=Acoustic&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=033121_TechBeat_SMB%20(1)%20remainder&utm_content=Article%201%20CTA&spMailingID=18595497&spUserID=NTg4NTkxNTQwMTE5S0&spJobID=2083099783&spReportId=MjA4MzA5OTc4MwS2)

IBM Spectrum Scale & Elastic Storage Server

The Spectrum Scale and ESS Newsletter came out early this month

See:

https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6439543?myns=s033&mynp=OCSTXKQY&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033--OCSTXKQY-OCSTHMCM--E

New IBM Community - ASEAN Power (AIX, IBM i, Linux) Group

We have created a new community to work with the current ASEAN meetup group of the same name and bring in more contributions from the IBM communities in general. Looking forward to seeing your contributions!

To join: <https://community.ibm.com/community/user/communities/globalgrouphome?CommunityKey=63dd8216-5e59-4ab1-a119-cff1df1f6191>

AIX and VIO alerts

Vulnerability in gencore affects AIX (CVE-2020-4887)

Versions:

AIX 7.1, 7.2

VIOS 3.1

In particular:

bos.mp64 7.1.5.0 - 7.1.5.40

bos.mp64 7.2.3.0 - 7.2.3.19

bos.mp64 7.2.4.0 - 7.2.4.7

bos.mp64 7.2.5.0 - 7.2.5.1

See:

<https://lnkd.in/gRqbdXH>

<https://lnkd.in/gDGgGRK>

Vulnerability in BIND affects AIX (CVE-2020-8622)

Versions:

AIX 7.1, 7.2

VIOS 3.1

In particular:

bos.net.tcp.client 7.1.5.0 - 7.1.5.36

bos.net.tcp.bind_utils 7.2.3.0 - 7.2.3.16

bos.net.tcp.bind_utils 7.2.4.0 - 7.2.4.2

bos.net.tcp.bind_utils 7.2.5.0 - 7.2.5.1

See:

<https://lnkd.in/g9TquWVy>

<https://lnkd.in/gUjruSD>

PowerSC Standard Edition update (cumulative) for 1.3.0.5

See: http://www.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/quickorder?product=ibm%2FOther+software%2FPowerSC+Standard+Edition&fixids=powersc_se_1.3.0.5&source=myna&myns=swgothr&mynp=OCSSTQK9&mync=E&cm_sp=swgothr--OCSSTQK9--E

High Impact / Highly Pervasive APAR IJ30848

Use of plain2crypt or crypt2plain on an active logical volume can cause potential undetected data corruption. Also, at oslevel 7200-05-02-2113, creating, mounting, or using a filesystem on an encrypted LV may cause a system crash.

See: http://www14.software.ibm.com/webapp/set2/subscriptions/onvdq?mode=18&ID=6959&myns=aix&mynp=OCSG11S&mync=E&cm_sp=aix--OCSG11S--E

Vulnerabilities in OpenSSL that affect AIX

Versions:

AIX 7.1, 7.2

VIOS 3.1

In particular:

openssl.base 1.0.2.500 to 1.0.2.2100

openssl.base 20.13.102.1000 to 20.16.102.2100

See:

http://aix.software.ibm.com/aix/efixes/security/openssl_advisory33.asc

Troubleshooting: High Impact / Highly Pervasive APARs IJ31936/IJ31191

PowerVM Virtual I/O Server

Multiple issues seen while using NPIV adapters with AIX 7200-05 or VIOS 3.1.2, which may include:

Path failures and timeouts

Failure to mount Virtual Tape Libraries

errpt entries on boot indicating "Multiple Queues are not supported"

See:

http://www14.software.ibm.com/webapp/set2/subscriptions/onvdq?mode=18&ID=6970&myns=swgoth&mynp=OCSSPHKW&mync=E&cm_sp=swgoth--OCSSPHKW--E

PowerVM Virtual I/O Server Service Pack 3.1.2.21 announced

See:

http://www.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/quickorder?product=ibm%2Fvios%2F5765G34&fixids=VIOS_SP_3.1.2.21&source=myna&myns=swgoth&mynp=OCSSPHKW&mync=E&cm_sp=swgoth--OCSSPHKW--E

Storage alerts

IBM ESS: mmvdisk conversion may reset custom configuration tunings to default settings for paired recovery group deployments.

See:

[https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6435583?](https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6435583?myns=s033&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033--OCSTHMCM--E)

[myns=s033&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033--OCSTHMCM--E](https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6435583?myns=s033&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033--OCSTHMCM--E)

Update to IBM Spectrum Scale Software Version Recommendation Preventive Service Planning

See:

https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/707017?myns=s033&mynp=OCSTXKQY&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033--OCSTXKQY-OCSTHMCM--E

ESS_FIRMWARE-6.0.0.8-power-Linux announced

This fixpack is cumulative and includes all fixes completed since the last release.

See:

http://www.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/quickorder?product=ibm%2FStorageSoftware%2FIBM+Elastic+Storage+Server+%28ESS%29&fixids=ESS_FIRMWARE-6.0.0.8-power-Linux&source=myna&myns=s033&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033-_-OCSTHMCM-_-E

ESS_FIRMWARE-6.0.0.8-ppc64LE-Linux announced

This fixpack is cumulative and includes all fixes completed since the last release.

See:

http://www.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/quickorder?product=ibm%2FStorageSoftware%2FIBM+Elastic+Storage+Server+%28ESS%29&fixids=ESS_FIRMWARE-6.0.0.8-ppc64LE-Linux&source=myna&myns=s033&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033-_-OCSTHMCM-_-E

In case you missed

Presentations from the last IBM ASEAN Power/i/Linux Meetup, Power Private Cloud Rack Solution and Power Security and Compliance are now available

See: <https://www.meetup.com/Singapore-AIX-IBM-i-Linux-on-Power-Meetup-Group/events/277042316/>

Redbooks and Redpapers

- IBM PowerVC Version 2.0 Introduction and Configuration, draft Redbooks, last updated 28 Apr 2021
<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/Redbooks.nsf/RedpieceAbstracts/sg248477.html?Open>
- IBM Power Systems S922, S914, and S924 Technical Overview and Introduction Featuring PCIe Gen 4 Technology, Redpaper, published 16 Jul 2020, last updated 26 Apr 2021
<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/Redbooks.nsf/RedbookAbstracts/redp5595.html?Open>
- Red Hat OpenShift V4.X and IBM Cloud Pak on IBM Power Systems Volume 2, Redbooks, published 19 Apr 2021
<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/Redbooks.nsf/RedbookAbstracts/sg248486.html?Open>
- IBM SAN Volume Controller Best Practices and Performance Guidelines, Redbooks, published 15 Apr 2021, last updated 16 Apr 2021
<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/Redbooks.nsf/RedbookAbstracts/sg248502.html?Open>

Best wishes for a safe May,
Red, Belisama