

October Newsletter

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IBM announced enhancements to their software stack, including the latest IBM i Tech refresh and AIX TL.

I thought the following were particularly relevant:

Hybrid Cloud Innovation

- Increased ability to scale virtual machines, for greater flexibility within hybrid cloud environments; and
- New Ansible modules and open source packages for AIX and IBM i to allow a common skill set to be used across more environments.

Enhanced Security

- Multi-factor authentication built-in for increased security of private cloud and virtualised environments; and
- Manage Power environments (AIX, i and Linux) from a single interface.

Business Continuity

- Manage HA and DR from a single user interface with improved health monitoring and simplified deployment.

IBM Systems Magazine, Power Systems - October 2020

With articles on how POWER9 is solving problems in Texas to expanding and mentoring new skills in IBM i and understanding the value of data to maximise storage resources. (Also a good discussion of the latest [Survey of IBM i Clients](#)).

IBM Systems Media: 2020 cost of downtime

The 2020 ITIC Global Reliability Survey shows the value of POWER9 with greater up time and availability thus increasing cost efficiency.

AIX 2020 Lessons Learned

Jaqui Lynch shares what she's learned about the OS this year and resources to overcome common challenges.

Power Systems Tricks and Tips

Rob McNelly introduces the blog by Gareth Coates, which covers NIC speed in AIX to processor compatibility modes on POWER9. The latest update is on what to do if the HMC displays the wrong OS level for an LPAR after an upgrade.

How to modernise AIX Applications in place using Red Hat OpenShift

While modernising is the flavour of the decade, there is no need for AIX administrators to feel that their legacy (hate that word, Enterprise? Mission Critical, ...) applications are being sidelined. In this article Angshuman Roy explains the value of using Red Hat OpenShift to modernise applications by leveraging containers and building on a strong AIX backend.

AIX User meetings

A new and very useful offering - webinars for AIX Users, Systems Administrators, Operators and those interested in everything AIX-y organised by Nigel Griffiths. Replays and slides from the previous meetings are available at the link above.

At the moment, these are experimental events to gauge if there is interest in having regular online meetings via webex. It is planned they will include updates on regular topics, new important

updates plus a chance to talk / ask questions / make suggestions etc.

The next meeting is 22:00 GMT+8 in early November (yet to be determined)

SAP announced support for the IBM Power Virtual Servers

For details check the [SAP Note](#) – ie SAP is supported on Power in the IBM Cloud

Software fixes

AIX: [IJ28579 - Possible data loss using zlibNX library](#)

The issue can be observed performing compression using the zlibNX library in which can be found in AIX V7.2 Expansion Packs from 11/2019 and 5/2020 or the pigz command. The compression may appear to succeed, however the data may not be able to be uncompressed / recovered. (You may see errors such as checksum mismatch or invalid distance).

[ESS](#): An issue has been identified in IBM Spectrum Scale, where files migrated from Scale to external storage pools through DMAPI interfaces may cause an undetected data corruption in snapshot files. The following versions are affected:

- 4.2.3.19 – 4.2.3.23
- 5.0.4.1 - 5.0.5.1

and ESS:

- 5.2.9 - 5.2.10
- 5.3.5 - 5.3.6
- 6.0.0.0 - 6.0.1.0

Recommendation

- If on 5.0.4.1 - 5.0.5.1 or ESS 5.3.5 - 5.3.6 or 6.0.0.0 – 6.0.1.0 - apply [5.0.5.2](#) or later.
- If on 4.2.3.19 - 4.2.3.23 or ESS 5.2.9 – 5.2.10: - apply [4.2.3.24](#) (ESS [5.2.11](#)) or later.

If not possible to apply those PTF levels, the following efixes are available:

- For IBM Spectrum Scale 5.0.0.0 – 5.0.4.3 - See APAR IJ26349
- For IBM Spectrum Scale 4.2.0.0 – 4.2.3.21 - See APAR IJ26908

[Spectrum Scale preventive service planning-](#)

Software version recommendations

This set of recommendation is designed to assist clients plan their update strategy and assumes that these are planned annually. The starting point to planning upgrades and ensuring Spectrum Scale software concurrency.

Software updates

The following PowerHA fixes are available for download.

- PowerHA 7.2.4 Service Pack 2
- PowerHA 7.2.2 Service Pack 5
- PowerHA 7.2.3 Service Pack 4

They have been tested and are recommended on:

- AIX7.2 TL04 SP2
- AIX7.2 TL03 SP3
- AIX7.2 TL02 SP5
- AIX7.2 TL01 SP6
- AIX7.1 TL05 SP7

Note: AIX7.1 TL04 SP8 is not recommended

PowerHA SystemMirror 7.2.5 enhancements

This update includes many enhancements around Geographic Logical Volume Manager with improvements in the management GUI, security, application resiliency and Smart Assists.

IBM VM Recovery Manager 1.5 enhancements

This update includes many enhancements around ability to manage from both sites,

improved monitoring, security and support for SR-IOV.

[For details on this announcement](#)

VM Recovery Manager (HA and DR) for Power Systems

The improvements in the HA version include improved monitoring, recovery, fencing and

GUI management ability. There are also agents for SAP NetWeaver and Postgres. KSYS now works with SAP HANA System Replication. Now one KSYS instance can manage both HA and DR operations and M to N server pairing across sites is supported

[For details on this announcement](#)

Upcoming events

- October ASEAN Power Meetup, two sessions on 30th Oct at 14:00 GMT+8
 - HA/DR solution for IBM i with Adrian Ang
 - AIX Modernisation in 2020 with Nigel Griffiths

<https://www.meetup.com/Singapore-AIX-IBM-i-Linux-on-Power-Meetup-Group/events/273792364/>
- IBM Virtual TechU October 26-29:
<https://www.ibm.com/training/events/vtechu2020>
- Digital Developer Conference, Data & AI Digital Conference November 10-12th, 2020
<http://ibm.biz/ddc-preregister>
- COMMON community online at Virtual POWERUp 2020
<https://www.common.org/virtualpowerup2020/expect>
- SSUG::Digital: Manage the life-cycle of your files using the policy engine on 21st Oct at 23:00 GMT+8
<https://www.spectrumscaleug.org/event/ssugdigital-spectrum-scale-ilm-policy-engine/>
- Getting Started with IBM Power Virtual Servers on 5th November at 11:30 GMT+8
[To register](#)

In case you missed

The previous AIX User meeting on 4th Oct. This session covered the October Tech U (and some of Nigel's sessions), the availability of Grafana and InfluxDB on AIX as well as Nigel's view of the Unix market. The [presentation](#) and [recording](#) are available online

Redbooks and Redpapers

- IBM Power Systems Planning and Monitoring Best Practices for SAP Applications - Redpaper, published 14 Oct 2020
<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/Redbooks.nsf/RedbookAbstracts/redp5580.html?Open>
- IBM Power Systems Private Cloud with Shared Utility Capacity featuring Power Enterprise Pools 2.0 – Draft, last updated 22 Sep 2020
<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/Redbooks.nsf/RedpieceAbstracts/sg248478.html?Open>
- IBM Power Systems S922, S914, and S924 Technical Overview and Introduction Featuring PCIe Gen 4 Technology - Redpaper, last updated 14 Sep 2020

Note: A publication introducing SAS Viya on PowerVS should be coming out soon!

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