

January Newsletter

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Greetings all,
Wishing you all a happy and prosperous Lunar New Year.
I have put together some useful updates and tips to help get 2022 off to a great start.

A few updates to share

- As with many hopes with this virus, my hope that things would start opening up was a bit premature. However we are fortunate in the IT industry as many of us are prepared/used to working remotely and this has also been a good time for organisations to focus on their security practices. Our Redpaper exploring Power Security on prem and in the cloud is just going through its final review and should be available soon.
- We have been conducting some final performance testing for the Geographic Logical Volume Manager Redpaper and it too should be available soon. I am also putting together a 2 day hands on GLVM training course if anyone is interested.

Quick bites

AIX 7.3 and HMC v10 Upgrades

Jaqui Lynch takes you through her experiences upgrading an HMC to v10 and some LPARs to AIX v7.3. See: <https://techchannel.com/SMB/01/2022/aix-7-3-hmc-v10-upgrades>

Modernisation and SQL for Db2 for i

Charlie Guarino talks with IBM Champion Birgitta Hauser about modernisation and SQL for Db2 for i. See: <https://techchannel.com/Trends/01/2022/birgitta-hauser-sql>

There is also an ebook available. Scott Forstie reviews how establishing a virtual layer comprised of SQL Views fits into database modernisation strategies. Also Jesse Gorzinski looks at open-source modernisation trends and advantages. See:

<https://techchannel.com/SMB/12/2021/streamline-modernization-strategies>

TechChannel's 2022 Solutions directory

Your guide to finding solutions from SMB, enterprise business partners and ISVs worldwide, See: <https://techchannel.com/Solutions-Directory>

Apache Log4j Vulnerability, AIX Tips and Tools

IBM Champion Rob McNelly on the Log4j security vulnerability, helpful AIX tips and tools, time drifts on POWER8 and POWER9 servers, and more.

See: <https://techchannel.com/SMB/01/2022/log4j-aix-tips-tricks>

Never-Ending IBM i Learning

Dawn May highlights IBM i information resources, including IBM i Knowledge Centre, IBM Support, IBM i Developer and more. See:

<https://techchannel.com/Trends/01/2022/never-ending-ibm-i-learning>

Paving a Path Forward on IBM i and AIX

How IBM i and AIX partners and customers are reevaluating existing approaches to navigate challenges—from closing the skills gap, to cost management, to security and beyond. See: <https://techchannel.com/Trends/01/2022/path-forward-ibm-i-aix>

In case you missed

- **IBM ExpertTV**

Join IBM Expert TV to watch an all new shows live and on-demand. Take some time to check out the best of 2021, see: <https://mailchi.mp/ccedb8cb6b10/start-september-right-with-ibm-tech-tv-2170195?e=8e19d76245>

- **YouTube guides**

Jaqui Lynch has updated her YouTube guides:

- Oct2021 VIO Care and Feeding Part 1
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uY-PvQS1AhU>
- Oct2021 VIO Care and Feeding Part 2
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ynzyW1oUMw>
- NIM 201 October 2021
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MFC6QgaHY-8>
- AIX Performance Tuning Top Tips October 2021
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RuFUcrb-y4>

Coming soon

- **IBM Power Systems VUG**, on 27/1/22 at 03:00 UTC+8

For the first Power Systems VUG for 22, Jaqui Lynch will be providing tips on setting up and maintaining VIO servers including upgrades, patching, backup and recovery.

To register: <https://ibm.webex.com/ibm/onstage/g.php?MTID=ef017c7f0aca25a3cc28e2816f6be5eb7>

Redbooks and Redpapers

- **IBM Spectrum Archive Enterprise Edition V1.3.2.2: Installation and Configuration Guide**, Redpaper, Published : December 27, 2021
<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg248333.html?Open>
- **IBM Power Systems Virtual Server Guide for IBM I**, Redpaper, Revised: January 4, 2022
<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg248513.html?Open>

- **High Availability and Disaster Recovery Options for IBM Power Systems: Cloud and On-Premises**, Redpaper, Revised: January 18, 2022
<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/redp5656.html?Open>
- **Getting Started with IBM Hyper Protect Data Controller**, Redbook, Revised: January 4, 2022
<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg248495.html?Open>
- **SAN and Fabric Resiliency Best Practices for IBM b-type Products**, Redbook, Published: January 5, 2022
<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/redp4722.html?Open>
- **IBM SAN Volume Controller Best Practices and Performance Guidelines for IBM Spectrum Virtualize Version 8.4.2**, Redbook, Published: January 17, 2022
<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg248509.html?Open>
- **IBM DS8000 Safeguarded Copy (Updated for DS8000 R9.2.1)**, Redbook, Revised: January 18, 2022 ISBN: 0738459615
<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/redp5506.html?Open>

IBM alerts and notices

AIX alerts:

- **Vulnerability in OpenSSH affects AIX**
CVE-2021-41617 applies to AIX 7.1, 7.2, 7.3 and VIO 3.1
Users affected:

Min	Max	Fileset
8.1.102.2000	8.1.102.2104	openssh.base.client
8.1.102.2000	8.1.102.2104	openssh.base.server

See: https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6538690?myns=aix&myntp=OCSG11S&mync=E&cm_sp=aix- -OCSG11S- -E

CVE-2021-3712 applies to AIX 7.1, 7.2, 7.3 and VIO 3.1
USERS AFFECTED:

Min	Max	Fileset
1.0.2.500	1.0.2.2102	openssl.base
20.13.102.1000	20.16.102.2103	openssl.base

See: https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6538688?myns=aix&myntp=OCSG11S&mync=E&cm_sp=aix- -OCSG11S- -E

CVE-2021-38990 applies to AIX 7.1, 7.2 and VIO 3.1
Users affected:

Min	Max	Fileset	APAR
7.1.5.0	7.1.5.36	bos.rte.filesystem	IJ35620
7.2.4.0	7.2.4.2	bos.rte.filesystem	IJ35826
7.2.5.0	7.2.5.1	bos.rte.filesystem	IJ35623
7.2.5.100	7.2.5.100	bos.rte.filesystem	IJ35623

VIO Levels:

3.1.1	IJ35826
3.1.2	IJ36125
3.1.3	IJ35623

See: https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6538700?myns=aix&mynp=OCSG11S&mync=E&cm_sp=aix- -OCSG11S- -E

- **Vulnerability in lscore affects AIX**

CVE-2021-38991 applies to AIX 7.1, 7.2, 7.3 and VIO 3.1

Users affected:

Min	Max	Fileset	APAR
7.1.5.0	7.1.5.37	bos.rte.security	IJ36805
7.2.4.0	7.2.4.3	bos.rte.security	IJ36806
7.2.5.0	7.2.5.1	bos.rte.security	IJ36810
7.2.5.100	7.2.5.101	bos.rte.security	IJ36810
7.3.0.0	7.3.0.0	bos.rte.security	IJ36816

VIO Levels:

3.1.1	IJ36806
3.1.2	IJ36815
3.1.3	IJ36810

See: https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6538952?myns=aix&mynp=OCSG11R&mynp=OCSG11S&mynp=OCSG11T&mync=E&cm_sp=aix- -OCSG11R-OCSG11S-OCSG11T- -E

AIX information:

- **PowerHA SystemMirror support lifecycle information**

For a full list of Lists the PowerHA SystemMirror release dates and end of service pack support (EoSPP) dates see: https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/628591?myns=swgoth&mynp=OCSSPHQG&mync=E&cm_sp=swgoth- -OCSSPHQG- -E

- **AIX Support update – AIX 7.2 installation tips.**

This note includes the latest tips for installing AIX 7.2 and a fix for an issue where SUMA fails to retrieve a list from a fix server due to expired certificates.

- **Power8, Power9 and Power10 System Firmware Release Planned Schedule (2021-2022).**

In order to better plan for system firmware maintenance, you need to know when new releases are coming out and when it is planned to go end of support. This site was designed to provide this information and will be updated as things change.

<https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6509382>

ESS updates:

- **January, 2022 - IBM Spectrum Scale and IBM Elastic Storage Server (ESS) Technical Support Newsletter**

For the ESS support groups latest updates on alerts, notices, tips etc, see:
https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6538174?myns=s033&mynp=OCSTXKQY&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033--OCSTXKQY-OCSTHMCM--E

ESS alerts:

- **Multiple vulnerabilities in Apache Log4j**

Vulnerabilities in Apache Log4j could allow an attacker to execute arbitrary code and denial of service on the system. This library is used by the Graphical User Interface (GUI) of IBM Spectrum Scale for logging which is bundled in IBM Elastic Storage System. Applies to:

- **USERS AFFECTED:**
 - ESS V5.3.6.0 – V5.3.7.3 APAR IJ36851
 - ESS V6.0.1.0 – V6.0.2.3 APAR IJ36851
 - ESS V6.1.0.0 – V6.1.2.1 APAR IJ36818

See: https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6537750?myns=s033&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033--OCSTHMCM--E

- **ESS may experience data loss during sudden enclosure power cycle**

ESS Spectrum Scale RAID software requires that all HDD drives within its RAID array operate such that write operations acknowledged by the drive to the host are committed to the drive's persistent storage. This setting is governed by the write cache enable (WCE) parameter in the SCSI caching mode page 0x08. The correct setting for all ESS HDD drives within all enclosures should be WCE=0, meaning that volatile write caching is disabled.

If an ESS with HDD drives is operated with WCE values other than 0, then the system is at risk of data loss and file system corruption in the event of an unexpected enclosure power loss. While the occurrence of a power loss may be rare, it is recommended that all customers running an ESS with HDD drives verify their systems. Details of the method are provided in the support link.

See: https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6485915?myns=s033&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033--OCSTHMCM--E

- **Adding new storage pool after deleting a storage pool may cause an outage**

IBM has identified a problem in IBM Spectrum Scale V5.1.1.0 (ESS 6.1.1.0) to 5.1.2.1 (ESS 6.1.2.1), in which adding a new storage pool after deleting an existing storage pool may cause user's data in the file system to become inaccessible.

See: https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6541316?myns=s033&mynp=OCSTXKQY&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033--OCSTXKQY-OCSTHMCM--E

ESS information:

- **Latest updates and fix packs**

- IBM Spectrum Scale Software Version Recommendation Preventive Service Planning
https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/707017?myns=s033&myntp=OCSTXKQY&myntp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033- -OCSTXKQY-OCSTHMCM- -E
- ESS_ADV_BASEIMAGE-5.3.7.4-power-Linux
http://www.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/quickorder?product=ibm%2FStorageSoftware%2FIBM+Elastic+Storage+Server+%28ESS%29&fixids=ESS_ADV_BASEIMAGE-5.3.7.4-power-Linux&source=myna&myns=s033&myntp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033- -OCSTHMCM- -E
- ESS_DAE_BASEIMAGE-5.3.7.4-power-Linux
http://www.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/quickorder?product=ibm%2FStorageSoftware%2FIBM+Elastic+Storage+Server+%28ESS%29&fixids=ESS_DAE_BASEIMAGE-5.3.7.4-power-Linux&source=myna&myns=s033&myntp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033- -OCSTHMCM- -E
- ESS_DAE_BASEIMAGE-5.3.7.4-ppc64LE-Linux
http://www.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/quickorder?product=ibm%2FStorageSoftware%2FIBM+Elastic+Storage+Server+%28ESS%29&fixids=ESS_DAE_BASEIMAGE-5.3.7.4-ppc64LE-Linux&source=myna&myns=s033&myntp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033- -OCSTHMCM- -E
- ESS_DAE_BASEIMAGE-6.0.2.4-ppc64LE-Linux
http://www.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/quickorder?product=ibm%2FStorageSoftware%2FIBM+Elastic+Storage+Server+%28ESS%29&fixids=ESS_DAE_BASEIMAGE-6.0.2.4-ppc64LE-Linux&source=myna&myns=s033&myntp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033- -OCSTHMCM- -E
- ESS_DAE_BASEIMAGE-6.0.2.4-x86_64-Linux
http://www.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/quickorder?product=ibm%2FStorageSoftware%2FIBM+Elastic+Storage+Server+%28ESS%29&fixids=ESS_DAE_BASEIMAGE-6.0.2.4-x86_64-Linux&source=myna&myns=s033&myntp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033- -OCSTHMCM- -E
-
- ESS_DME_BASEIMAGE-5.3.7.4-power-Linux
http://www.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/quickorder?product=ibm%2FStorageSoftware%2FIBM+Elastic+Storage+Server+%28ESS%29&fixids=ESS_ADV_BASEIMAGE-5.3.7.4-power-Linux&source=myna&myns=s033&myntp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033- -OCSTHMCM- -E

- ESS_DME_BASEIMAGE-5.3.7.4-ppc64LE-Linux
http://www.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/quickorder?product=ibm%2FStorageSoftware%2FIBM+Elastic+Storage+Server+%28ESS%29&fixids=ESS_DME_BASEIMAGE-5.3.7.4-ppc64LE-Linux&source=myna&myns=s033&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033-OCSTHMCM-E
- ESS_DME_BASEIMAGE-6.0.2.4-ppc64LE-Linux
http://www.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/quickorder?product=ibm%2FStorageSoftware%2FIBM+Elastic+Storage+Server+%28ESS%29&fixids=ESS_DME_BASEIMAGE-6.0.2.4-ppc64LE-Linux&source=myna&myns=s033&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033-OCSTHMCM-E
- ESS_DME_BASEIMAGE-6.0.2.4-x86_64-Linux
http://www.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/quickorder?product=ibm%2FStorageSoftware%2FIBM+Elastic+Storage+Server+%28ESS%29&fixids=ESS_DME_BASEIMAGE-6.0.2.4-x86_64-Linux&source=myna&myns=s033&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033-OCSTHMCM-E

Keep safe and best wishes for your Lunar New Year celebrations.
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