

May Newsletter

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I hope you all had a safe April and were able to join some of the Think Sessions?

ASEAN Power (AIX, i Linux) Meetup

The next meeting will be held on Friday 28th May at 10:00 UTC +8

There will be 2 sessions:

- Automate your IBM i systems with Ansible with Wang Yun (IBM)
- Openshift Container Platform on Power Update with Abhishek Soni (IBM)

Register:

<https://www.meetup.com/Singapore-AIX-IBM-i-Linux-on-Power-Meetup-Group/events/278255472/>

Hope to “see” you there.

Also don't forget to join the IBM Community as well:

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

Basic AIX Security Strategies and Best Practices

Jaqui Lynch has just published a great article on the TechChannel where she covers some of the basics to locking down your AIX LPARs.

See:

[https://techchannel.com/SMB/04/2021/aix-security-strategies?utm_source=Acoustic&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=042821_TechBeat_SMB_SundayResend%20\(1\)%20Live%20Send&utm_content=Article%201%20CTA&spMailingID=18708888&spUserID=NTg4NTkxNTQwMTE5S0&spJobID=2120245458&spReportId=MjEyMDI0NTQ1OAS2](https://techchannel.com/SMB/04/2021/aix-security-strategies?utm_source=Acoustic&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=042821_TechBeat_SMB_SundayResend%20(1)%20Live%20Send&utm_content=Article%201%20CTA&spMailingID=18708888&spUserID=NTg4NTkxNTQwMTE5S0&spJobID=2120245458&spReportId=MjEyMDI0NTQ1OAS2)

IBM Spectrum Scale and IBM Elastic Storage System Network Guide

An IBM Redpaper publication

Published 17 February 2021

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/redp5484.html>

Redbooks and Redpapers

- IBM PowerVC Version 2.0 Introduction and Configuration, Draft Redbooks, last updated 23 May 2021
<https://www.redbooks.ibm.com/Redbooks.nsf/RedpieceAbstracts/sg248477.html?Open>
- IBM Power System IC922 Technical Overview and Introduction, Redpaper, published 2 Mar 2020, last updated 20 May 2021
<https://www.redbooks.ibm.com/Redbooks.nsf/RedbookAbstracts/redp5584.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 20 May 2021
<https://www.redbooks.ibm.com/Redbooks.nsf/RedbookAbstracts/redp5595.html?Open>
- Modernize SAP Workloads on IBM Power Systems, Redpaper, published 19 May 2021
<https://www.redbooks.ibm.com/Redbooks.nsf/RedbookAbstracts/redp5577.html?Open>
- An Implementation of Red Hat OpenShift Network Isolation Using Multiple Ingress Controllers, Draft Redpaper, last updated 18 May 2021
<https://www.redbooks.ibm.com/Redbooks.nsf/RedpieceAbstracts/redp5641.html?Open>
- IBM SAN Volume Controller Best Practices and Performance Guidelines, Redbooks, published 15 Apr 2021, last updated 14 May 2021
<https://www.redbooks.ibm.com/Redbooks.nsf/RedbookAbstracts/sg248502.html?Open>
- IBM FlashSystem Best Practices and Performance Guidelines, Redbooks, published 13 May 2021, last updated 14 May 2021
<https://www.redbooks.ibm.com/Redbooks.nsf/RedbookAbstracts/sg248503.html?Open>
- IBM FlashSystem Best Practices and Performance Guidelines, Redbooks, published 13 May 2021, last updated 14 May 2021
<https://www.redbooks.ibm.com/Redbooks.nsf/RedbookAbstracts/sg248503.html?Open>
- SAP HANA Data Management and Performance on IBM Power Systems, Draft Redpaper, last updated 6 May 2021
<https://www.redbooks.ibm.com/Redbooks.nsf/RedpieceAbstracts/redp5570.html?Open>

In case you missed

SSUG::Digital: What is new in Spectrum Scale 5.1.1?

Spectrum Scale is a highly scalable, high-performance storage solution for file and object storage that can be deployed in traditional bare-metal and Cloud environments. IBM continues to enhance Spectrum Scale functionality and performance, in response to recent hardware advancements and evolving workloads. This talk will discuss key enhancements delivered with Spectrum Scale 5.1.1 including installation toolkit enhancements based on Ansible, improved network performance and failover using multiple TCP/IP connections, multi-factor authentication for the management GUI as well as the latest news on Spectrum Scale BDA, ECE and CNSA/CSI.

Recording and charts will be made available here after the event.

Link:

<https://www.spectrumscaleug.org/event/ssugdigital-what-is-new-in-spectrum-scale-5-1-1/>

IBM Alerts and notices

PowerHA SystemMirror Updates:

Note: All service packs are cumulative and include all fixes completed since the last service pack.

- Downloads and drivers: PowerHA-7.2.4 SP3
http://www.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/quickorder?product=ibm%2FOther+software%2FPowerHAClusterManager&fixids=PowerHA-7.2.4.3&source=myna&myns=swgoth&mynp=OCSSPHQG&mync=E&cm_sp=swgoth-_OCSSPHQG--E
- Downloads and drivers: PowerHA-7.2.2 SP6
<http://www.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/quickorder?product=ibm%2FOther+software%2FPowerHAClusterManager&fixids=PowerHA->

- [7.2.2.6&source=myna&myns=swgother&mynp=OCSSPHQG&mync=E&cm_sp=swgother--OCSSPHQG--E](#)
- Downloads and drivers: PowerHA-7.2.3 SP5
http://www.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/quickorder?product=ibm%2FOther+software%2FPowerHAClusterManager&fixids=PowerHA-7.2.3.5&source=myna&myns=swgother&mynp=OCSSPHQG&mync=E&cm_sp=swgother--OCSSPHQG--E
 - Fixes: PowerHA-7.2.4 SP3
http://www.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/quickorder?product=ibm%2FOther+software%2FPowerHAClusterManager&fixids=PowerHA-7.2.4.3&source=myna&myns=swgother&mynp=OCSSPHQG&mync=E&cm_sp=swgother--OCSSPHQG--E
 - Fixes: PowerHA-7.2.2 SP6
http://www.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/quickorder?product=ibm%2FOther+software%2FPowerHAClusterManager&fixids=PowerHA-7.2.2.6&source=myna&myns=swgother&mynp=OCSSPHQG&mync=E&cm_sp=swgother--OCSSPHQG--E
 - Fixes: PowerHA-7.2.3 SP5
http://www.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/quickorder?product=ibm%2FOther+software%2FPowerHAClusterManager&fixids=PowerHA-7.2.3.5&source=myna&myns=swgother&mynp=OCSSPHQG&mync=E&cm_sp=swgother--OCSSPHQG--E
 - Troubleshooting: PowerHA fix information for PowerHA 7.2.4 Service Pack 3
https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6447766?myns=swgother&mynp=OCSSPHQG&mync=E&cm_sp=swgother--OCSSPHQG--E
 PowerHA 7.2.4 Service Pack 3 is now available for download as of April 2021.
 - Note: PowerHA SystemMirror 7.2.4 SP3 testing has been done on the following AIX levels and are recommended:
 - AIX7.2 TL05 SP2
 - AIX7.2 TL04 SP3
 - AIX7.2 TL03 SP6
 - AIX7.2 TL02 SP5
 - AIX7.2 TL01 SP6
 - AIX7.1 TL05 SP8
 - Not recommended:
 - AIX7.1 TL04 SP8
 - Troubleshooting: PowerHA fix information for PowerHA 7.2.2 Service Pack 6
https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6447760?myns=swgother&mynp=OCSSPHQG&mync=E&cm_sp=swgother--OCSSPHQG--E
 PowerHA 7.2.2 Service Pack 6 is now available for download as of April 2021.
 - Note: PowerHA SystemMirror 7.2.2 SP6 testing has been done on the following AIX levels and are recommended:
 - AIX7.2 TL05 SP2
 - AIX7.2 TL04 SP3
 - AIX7.2 TL03 SP6
 - AIX7.2 TL02 SP5
 - AIX7.2 TL01 SP6
 - AIX7.1 TL05 SP8

Not recommended:

- AIX7.1 TL04 SP8
- Troubleshooting: PowerHA fix information for PowerHA 7.2.3 Service Pack 5
https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6447762?myns=swgothor&mynp=OCSSPHQG&mync=E&cm_sp=swgothor_-_OCSSPHQG_-_E
PowerHA 7.2.3 Service Pack 5 is now available for download as of April 2021.
 - Note: PowerHA SystemMirror 7.2.3 SP5 testing has been done on the following AIX levels and are recommended:
 - AIX7.2 TL05 SP2
 - AIX7.2 TL04 SP3
 - AIX7.2 TL03 SP6
 - AIX7.2 TL02 SP5
 - AIX7.2 TL01 SP6
 - AIX7.1 TL05 SP8
- Not recommended
 - AIX7.1 TL04 SP8

AIX vulnerability

- AIX 7.1 - Security Bulletin: Vulnerabilities in OpenSSL affect AIX (CVE-2021-23839, CVE-2021-23840, and CVE-2021-23841)
https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6443405?myns=aix&mynp=OCOEF609&mynp=OCSWG10&mync=E&cm_sp=aix_-_OCOE609-OCSWG10_-_E
- AIX 7.2 , TL05: PTF in Error
APAR: IJ29778 (bos.rte.shell.7.2.5.0) wasreported against fix pack: 7200-05, but is available in fixpack: 7200-05-02-2114
http://www14.software.ibm.com/webapp/set2/subscriptions/onvdq?mode=18&ID=6978&myns=aix&mynp=OCSG11S&mync=E&cm_sp=aix_-_OCSG11S_-_E

IBM Elastic Storage Server (ESS) fix updates

- ESS_FIRMWARE-6.0.0.9-ppc64LE-Linux
http://www.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/quickorder?product=ibm%2FStorageSoftware%2FIBM+Elastic+Storage+Server+%28ESS%29&fixids=ESS_FIRMWARE-6.0.0.9-ppc64LE-Linux&source=myna&myns=s033&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033_-_OCSTHMCM_-_E
- IBM Elastic Storage Server : Technical tip for RAID monitoring script
 - In ESS, GNR writes operations that are less than nsdRAIDFastWriteFSDDataLimit in size are written to the log tip, which is a VDisk in a special declustered array (DA) called NVR. The log tip is a two-way replicated VDisk that is configured on disk partitions from each IO node from its internal hard disk drives. ESS IO nodes have a RAID controller with a write cache of 1800 MB. The key is that these log tip VDisk are small so that all the I/Os can be satisfied by the cache. The internal drives do not have to take the I/Os. If there is a hardware issue in a RAID controller it leads to small IOs not being written to cache but to the internal drives of the IO servers. It significantly impacts the performance of small writes. Other types of IOs, like full track writes, do not see any impact on performance, making this problem difficult to diagnose.
https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6452593?myns=s033&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033_-_OCSTHMCM_-_E

- ESS_FIRMWARE-6.0.0.9-power-Linux
http://www.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/quickorder?product=ibm%2FStorageSoftware%2FIBM+Elastic+Storage+Server+%28ESS%29&fixids=ESS_FIRMWARE-6.0.0.9-power-Linux&source=myna&myns=s033&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033--OCSTHMCM--E
- IBM Spectrum Scale Software Version Recommendation Preventive Service Planning
https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/707017?myns=s033&mynp=OCSTXKQY&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033--OCSTXKQY-OCSTHMCM--E
- ESS_DAE_BASEIMAGE_3200-6.1.1.0-x86_64-Linux
http://www.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/quickorder?product=ibm%2FStorageSoftware%2FIBM+Elastic+Storage+Server+%28ESS%29&fixids=ESS_DAE_BASEIMAGE_3200-6.1.1.0-x86_64-Linux&source=myna&myns=s033&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033--OCSTHMCM--E
- ESS_FIRMWARE-6.0.0.9-x86_64-Linux
http://www.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/quickorder?product=ibm%2FStorageSoftware%2FIBM+Elastic+Storage+Server+%28ESS%29&fixids=ESS_FIRMWARE-6.0.0.9-x86_64-Linux&source=myna&myns=s033&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033--OCSTHMCM--E
- IBM Elastic Storage Server (ESS)
- ESS_DME_BASEIMAGE_3200-6.1.1.0-x86_64-Linux
http://www.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/quickorder?product=ibm%2FStorageSoftware%2FIBM+Elastic+Storage+Server+%28ESS%29&fixids=ESS_DME_BASEIMAGE_3200-6.1.1.0-x86_64-Linux&source=myna&myns=s033&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033--OCSTHMCM--E

IBM Elastic Storage Server (ESS) notifications

- IBM Spectrum Scale Software Version Recommendation Preventive Service Planning IBM Spectrum Scale Software Version Recommendation
https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/707017?myns=s033&mynp=OCSTXKQY&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033--OCSTXKQY-OCSTHMCM--E
- The April IBM Spectrum Scale and IBM Elastic Storage Server (ESS) Technical Support Newsletter. This newsletter is aimed at clients and specialists installing, upgrading, or who use IBM Spectrum Scale (formerly known as GPFS) or IBM Elastic Storage Server (ESS).
https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6450879?myns=s033&mynp=OCSTXKQY&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033--OCSTXKQY-OCSTHMCM--E
- There are a number of security vulnerabilities in versions of Linux Kernel that are shipped with versions of IBM Elastic Storage System. A fix for these vulnerabilities is available.
https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6454451?myns=s033&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033--OCSTHMCM--E
- IBM Elastic Storage System systems are affected by some vulnerabilities in OpenSSL
https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6454457?myns=s033&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033--OCSTHMCM--E

- IBM Elastic Storage Server (ESS) 5000 Alert: NVDIMMs and Recovery Group fails to start
Failure analysis and repair actions for ESS5000 NVDIMM errors
https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6450863?myns=s033&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033--OCSTHMCM--E
- IBM Elastic Storage System (CVE-2021-20228) affected by a vulnerability in Ansible.
- Ansible, which is used in IBM Elastic Storage System could allow a local authenticated attacker to obtain sensitive information.
https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6455627?myns=s033&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033--OCSTHMCM--E
- IBM Elastic Storage Server (ESS)
- ESS_FIRMWARE-6.0.0.9-ppc64LE-Linux
- This fixpack is cumulative and includes all fixes completed since the last release.
- IBM Elastic Storage Server (ESS)
- IBM Elastic Storage Server : Technical tip for RAID monitoring script
- In ESS, GNR writes operations that are less than nsdRAIDFastWriteFSDDataLimit in size are written to the log tip, which is a VDisk in a special declustered array (DA) called NVR. The log tip is a two-way replicated VDisk that is configured on disk partitions from each IO node from its internal hard disk drives. ESS IO nodes have a RAID controller with a write cache of 1800 MB. The key is that these log tip VDisk are small so that all the I/Os can be satisfied by the cache. The internal drives do not have to take the I/Os.
- If there is a hardware issue in a RAID controller it leads to small IOs not being written to cache but to the internal drives of the IO servers. It significantly impacts the performance of small writes. Other types of IOs, like full track writes, do not see any impact on performance, making this problem difficult to diagnose.

Best wishes for a safe June,
Red, Belisama