

June Newsletter

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Greetings,

Been an interesting month in Singapore and fortunately I was able to take advantage of the increased restrictions by:

- Built a GLVM (Geographic Logical Volume Manager) Standalone (ie without PowerHA) demonstration for migrating data from on premise to the cloud. Took a few customers through its operation and I will be publishing a detailed review soon. However if in the meantime if you would like to understand more, see: <https://www.belisama.com.sg/geographic-logical-volume-manager>
- Finished working on two IBM exams. Very glad to see that the AIX Speciality exam is now available and expect the PowerHA Advanced Speciality will be available soon. See below for details from my colleague Dmitry about preparing for the AIX exam.
- Working with PowerVS and found a new feature – LUN affinity (See: <https://community.ibm.com/community/user/power/communities/community-home/digestviewer/viewthread?GroupId=7087&MessageKey=37ce27d5-0153-4cf2-9d5c-cb359bd0263f&CommunityKey=7c08cdc1-13dd-4b90-99e5-7b1b362b7c8c&tab=digestviewer&ReturnUrl=%2fcommunity%2fuser%2fpower%2fcommunities%2fcommunity-home%2fdigestviewer%3fcommunitykey%3d7c08cdc1-13dd-4b90-99e5-7b1b362b7c8c%26tab%3ddigestviewer%26SuccessMsg%3dThank%2byou%2bfor%2bsubmitting%2byour%2bmmessage>).
- As I noted earlier, AIX has become less yum-my, so I have been testing dnf on AIX. For more information see below.
- Getting ready to run a PoC of the updated release of OpenShift on IBM Power in the cloud (PowerVS). I hope also to integrate this with GPFS (okay Spectrum Scale) for persistent storage. There was a great presentation on 29/06 on Spectrum Scale Container Native Storage Access (CNSA) run by the Spectrum Scale Users Group (see below for details, slides should be available soon). If you are interested in exploring OpenShift further yourself, go to: <https://cloud.redhat.com/openshift/install> (you will need a Red Hat login). There is also the option of a free 60 day trail (only on x86 sadly, but hey, OpenShift is OpenShift!)

Quick bites

IBM AIX v7 Administrator Speciality

This exam is now available (<https://www.ibm.com/certify/specialty?id=S1000-007>) and for details about preparation, have a quick look at Dmitry's update on how to become certified: <https://aixportal.ru/how-to-become-an-aix-certified/>

PowerVM Upgrades and Top 12 Tips for Maintaining Your VIO Servers

A reminder that it is important to keep your VIO up to date and backed up as it is a critical part of your infrastructure. Jaqui Lynch provides 12 tips for maintaining your VIO servers: <https://techchannel.com/SMB/06/2021/12-tips-vio-servers>

Power Systems Best Practices Document version 2.4

Rob McNelly has update his document with dnf, New IBM Customer Support Portals and mini-NIM:
[https://techchannel.com/SMB/06/2021/power-systems-doc-updated?utm_source=Acoustic&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=062321_TechBeat_SMB%20\(1\)%20Live%20Send&utm_content=Article%201%20CTA&spMailingID=18902096&spUserID=NTg4NTkxNTQwMTE5S0&spJobID=2144781775&spReportId=MjE0NDc4MTc3NQs2](https://techchannel.com/SMB/06/2021/power-systems-doc-updated?utm_source=Acoustic&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=062321_TechBeat_SMB%20(1)%20Live%20Send&utm_content=Article%201%20CTA&spMailingID=18902096&spUserID=NTg4NTkxNTQwMTE5S0&spJobID=2144781775&spReportId=MjE0NDc4MTc3NQs2)

TechU talks

The next talk is “Automation for Power Systems with Ansible”, by Ian Robinson, Stuart Cunliffe, and John Karaba on 6th July at 22:00 UTC+8

Details: <https://www.ibm.com/training/events/techutalks>

Power VUG

The next meeting will be on 29th July at 23:00 UTC+8, still working on the details, so check:
<http://ibm.biz/powersystemsvug>

dnf replaces yum on AIX

As yum (Yellowdog Updater, Modified) is based on the out of support Python 2, IBM has made dnf (or dandified yum) available as part of the tool box.

There is a great post by Sangamesh Mallayya in the community, see:

<https://community.ibm.com/community/user/power/blogs/sangamesh-mallayya1/2021/05/28/dnf-is-now-available-on-aix-toolbox?CommunityKey=10c1d831-47ee-4d92-a138-b03f7896f7c9&tab=recentcommunityblogsdashboard>

Further handy references:

dnf topics - <https://dnf.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>

dnf commands - https://dnf.readthedocs.io/en/latest/command_ref.html

compare dnf commands to yum - https://dnf.readthedocs.io/en/latest/cli_vs_yum.html

A quick guide to DNF for yum users - <https://opensource.com/article/18/8/guide-yum-dnf>

Attention to Patching and Other Vital System Maintenance Will Help You Avoid the Heat

Rob McNelly explains why adequate system maintenance can help you prepare (and avoid) system problems, see:

<http://links.mspcommunications.mkt7925.com/els/v2/emGyCV~qw6QZw/bzVDT0RBWk1GaDN1SGViUi85ak9yL0diVjJ4QjBKeFQwb3lyR1B5WG04ckdaUXhaMVUzdIkrbHAWNDVtaEo3bE15ZjB1dFNfajV4S2t5dVVFemxMTUNLdU01S1ArT0I4cUpHVGRuUUUreWM9S0/aUQ0L3A2WE5seFlzcFdVM21zTTk1YmFDSXdvMWxRd1BheEtwSkd4NVFCdUdlzlic0s5VVpHZmZkd3FBWlhQZUEwRDc0azlDZWVNPQS2>

After Helping Clients Navigate Challenging Times, the AIX World Moves Forward

IBM's Carl Burnett, Nigel Griffiths, Petra Bühner, Maria Ward and Ann Detjen discuss how AIX has helped clients navigate the pandemic, and what's next in the AIX roadmap, see:

<http://links.mspcommunications.mkt7925.com/els/v2/DymktGqz6vcL/bzVDT0RBWk1GaDN1SGViUi85ak9yL0diVjJ4QjBKeFQwb3lyR1B5WG04ckdaUXhaMVUzdIkrbHAWNDVtaEo3bE15ZjB1dFNfajV4S2t5dVVFemxMTUNLdU01S1ArT0I4cUpHVGRuUUUreWM9S0/aUQ0L3A2WE5seFlzcFdVM21zTTk1YmFDSXdvMWxRd1BheEtwSkd4NVFCdUdlzlic0s5VVpHZmZkd3FBWlhQZUEwRDc0azlDZWVNPQS2>

IBM Elastic Storage System (ESS) Webinar: Upgrading ESS

Register to join us for a free-of-charge IBM Elastic Storage System (ESS) Webinar that discusses how to upgrade IBM Elastic Storage System (ESS) on 15th July at 13:00 UTC+8, register:

https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6456303?myns=s033&mynp=OCSTXKQY&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033_-_OCSTXKQY-OCSTHMCM--E

For previous sessions, see: <https://ibm.ent.box.com/s/o7gd1q0zrnn6cb09d4be2xnlq1alba5l>

ASEAN Power (AIX, i Linux) Meetup

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday 30th July, but check the Meetup or community page for details. At the moment we are planning to have sessions on SAP on Power and Oracle on Power. Hope to “see” you there.

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

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

In case you missed

SSSUG:: Digital: Spectrum Scale Container Native Storage Access (CNSA)

A very useful update and demonstration of CNSA with OpenShift. The recording and charts will be soon be available at:

<https://www.spectrumscaleug.org/presentations/>

ASEAN Power (AIX, i Linux) May Meetup

There were two sessions:

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

Presentations available from: <https://community.ibm.com/community/user/viewdocument/20210528-meeting-ansible-for-ib?CommunityKey=63dd8216-5e59-4ab1-a119-cff1df1f6191&tab=librarydocuments>

Power VUG

On 29th June Joe Armstrong, Michael Quaranta and Stephanie Jensen covered Dynamic Capacity on Power systems. They discussed CoD; Power Enterprise Pools, Power Private Cloud with Shared Utility Capacity and sizing tools. For slides and replay see: <http://ibm.biz/powersystemsvug>

Redbooks and Redpapers

- **Storage Multi-tenancy for Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform with IBM Storage**, Redpaper, published: June 9, 2021
<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/redp5638.html?Open>
- **IBM Spectrum Scale Immutability Introduction, Configuration Guidance, and Use Cases**, Redbook, published: June 9, 2021
<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/redp5507.html?Open>
- **Infrastructure resiliency**, Expert Speaker Series video, Paolo Vitali and Ivan Deleuze
<https://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redbooks.nsf/pages/expertseries?Open>

- **SAP HANA on IBM Power Systems Backup and Recovery Solutions**, Redbook, published: May 27, <http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/redp5618.html?Open>
- **Continuous availability with IBM Power Systems**, Expert Speaker Series video by Michael Herrera <https://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redbooks.nsf/pages/expertservices?Open>

IBM Alerts and notices

AIX Updates:

- **PowerVM Virtual I/O Server, Service Pack: VIOS 3.1.1.40**
https://www.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/vios/selectFixes?product=ibm%2Fvios%2F5765G34&fixids=VIOS_SP_3.1.1.40&source=myna&myms=swgoth&mymp=OCSSPHKW&mync=E&cm_sp=swgoth-_-OCSSPHKW-_-E&function=fixId&parent=Virtualization%20software
- **PowerVM Virtual I/O Server Service Pack: VIOS 3.1.0.60**
https://www.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/vios/selectFixes?product=ibm%2Fvios%2F5765G34&fixids=VIOS_SP_3.1.1.40&source=myna&myms=swgoth&mymp=OCSSPHKW&mync=E&cm_sp=swgoth-_-OCSSPHKW-_-E&function=fixId&parent=Virtualization%20software
- **Security Bulletin: Vulnerability in lpd affects AIX**
IBM AIX could allow a local user with elevated group privileges to exploit a vulnerability in the lpd daemon.
Affected Products and Versions

AIX	7.1
AIX	7.2
VIOS	3.1

https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6467129?myms=aix&mymp=OCSSWG10&mymp=OCOE609&mync=E&cm_sp=aix-_-OCSSWG10-OCOE609-_-E
- **Security Bulletin: Vulnerability in the AIX trace facility**
IBM AIX could allow a non-privileged local user to exploit a vulnerability in the trace facility to expose sensitive information or cause a denial of service
Affected Products and Versions

AIX	7.1
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https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6464369?myms=aix&mymp=OCOE609&mync=E&cm_sp=aix-_-OCOE609-_-E

IBM Elastic Storage Server (ESS) fix updates

- **IBM Spectrum Scale Software Version Recommendation Preventive Service Planning**
These generalised recommendations are made to assist clients plan their code update strategy. See the June update:
https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/707017?myms=s033&mymp=OCSTXKQY&mymp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033-_-OCSTXKQY-OCSTHMCM-_-E
- **Fixes for ESS 6.1.1.0** (all platforms) – moderate impact / low probability
https://www.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/swg/selectFixes?product=ibm%2FStorageSoftware%2FIBM+Elastic+Storage+Server+%28ESS%29&fixids=ESS_DME_BASEIMAGE_Legacy-6.1.1.0-ppc64LE-Linux&source=myna&myms=s033&mymp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033-_-OCSTHMCM-_-E&function=fixId&parent=Software%20defined%20storage

- **Spectrum Scale and ESS support newsletter**

This newsletter has been updated:

[https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6462981?
myns=s033&mynp=OCSTXKQY&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033-_-
OCSTXKQY-OCSTHMCM-_-E](https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6462981?myns=s033&mynp=OCSTXKQY&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033-_-OCSTXKQY-OCSTHMCM-_-E)

- **Security Bulletin: A format string vulnerability has been identified in IBM Spectrum Scale packaged in IBM Elastic Storage System**

A fix is available for a security vulnerability that has been identified in all levels of IBM Elastic Storage System that could allow an attacker to execute arbitrary code in IBM Spectrum Scale file system.

Affected Products and Versions

IBM Elastic Storage System 6.1.0 – 6.1.0.1

IBM Elastic Storage System 6.0.0 – 6.0.2.0

[https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6459265?
myns=s033&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033-_-OCSTHMCM-_-E](https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6459265?myns=s033&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033-_-OCSTHMCM-_-E)

- **Security Bulletin: Multiple vulnerabilities affect the IBM Elastic Storage Server GUI**

A fix is available for a cross-site scripting vulnerability that exist in IBM Spectrum Scale 5.0.0 through 5.0.5.6 and 5.1.0 through 5.1.0.2. It allows users to embed arbitrary JavaScript code in the Web UI thus altering the intended functionality potentially leading to credentials disclosure within a trusted session.

Affected Products and Versions

IBM Elastic Storage Server 5.3.0 – 5.3.7

[https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6459315?
myns=s033&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033-_-OCSTHMCM-_-E](https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6459315?myns=s033&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033-_-OCSTHMCM-_-E)

Keep safe and catch you in July,
Red, Belisama